

**MINUTES of Offenham Parish Council meeting
held at Offenham Village Hall on Monday 8th January 2024**

Parish Councillors: Marc Farmer, Chairman

As per attendance register: Kathleen Henderson Sheila Briers Marcus Taylor
Ian Graham James Moclair Matthew Rea
Samantha Muxworthy

In attendance: Diane Cox (Clerk)
Aaron Powell, District Councillor

23/192 Apologies

County Councillor, Alastair Adams

23/193 To receive Declarations of Interest updates to Members' Register

None

23/194 Open Forum

Appended to the minutes

23/195 Meeting re-opened and the minutes of the previous meeting were considered.

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 4th December 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/196 To be advised of any urgent matters not herewith included (at the Chairman's discretion)

- WDC are consulting on draft Design Codes, dates run until 5th February.
- Cllrs Graham and Moclair advised that they have started to look at the lengthy documents.

23/197 To receive Clerk's report and progress updates on current issues

VAS (Vehicle Activated Signage)

- The Poles are now in place and the VAS has been fitted in Newtown.

Lloyds Bank mandate

- The new mandate has been handed in to the Evesham branch.

Two Shires Greenway previously AAGP.

- The AGM is being held in Salford Priors on the 24th January at 7.15. Cllr Graham is hoping to attend.

Trees in recreation ground

- An additional 2 trees (Swedish Oak and Crab Apple) will be planted in the recreation ground parallel to the boundary of Three Cocks Lane.

WCC Highways

- Road closure notice – To close part of St Milburgh Close from its junction with Main Street to its junction with Myatt Road for footpath reconstruction. The anticipated duration is 16 days between 9th February and 1st March.

Parish Games

- Wychavon Parish Games Assn is holding their AGM at 7.30pm on 24th January in the Civic Centre, Pershore.

H&W Fire and Rescue Service

- A public consultation is currently taking place and will be open until the 4th March, the results and recommendations will be reported in June. There are no proposals to close any of the 25 fire stations or reduce crew and emergency cover

WDC Design Consultation

- WDC are currently consulting on draft design codes. These codes set our requirements for new developments, streets, building and the natural environment which will help to direct what proposals will look like and how they will interact with existing places. The consultation runs until 11.59pm on the 5th February.

23/198 To receive correspondence.

Circulated by email prior to this meeting.

23/199 To receive updates on the hedgerow project.

Cllr Henderson advised that the next planting is to take place on the 21st January; the whips will be received on the 19th and will be delivered to Cllr Briers. Cllr Taylor confirmed that he would bring along a vehicle with warning lights and could supply barriers and signs. It was mentioned that hi-viz jackets should be worn. She added that the hedge line requires preparation; Cllr Farmer had planned to strim the area concerned with the possibility of spraying with weed killer subject to clarification. A request for volunteers would be added to Spotted Offenham. Cllr Henderson will continue to update by email prior to the event.

23/200 To receive update of community speedwatch scheme

Cllr Rea advised the Police co-ordinator had driven around the area to assess viable locations for speed monitoring. All volunteers had now been vetted and are awaiting training.

23/201 To consider update on the proposed MUGA in the recreation ground.

Cllr Moclair and the clerk had looked again at the site and measured the width of the football pitch and found that adequate space was available to turn the pitch so that the goal area would be parallel to the village hall, this would leave sufficient area to position the MUGA alongside the pitch allowing for in excess of a 6 yards run off distance between sports areas. This would be a solution to the sound problem flagged up by WRS in the planning process. The clerk advised that some of the excess soil could be deposited on to the football pitch to remove the dip on the pitch near the Norval Crescent boundary. Councillors approved the changes. Proposed JM Seconded MF.

23/202 To consider the assessment of buildings of interest within the parish.

Defer to next meeting.

23/203 To consider costs for grass cutting and ground care contract for 2024/25**Maurice Parkinson Contracts provided the following prices.**

Rec	£130 from £120
Wharf	£40 from £37
Village Garden	£55 from £50
Footpaths	£125 from £115
Play area checks	£140 from £135
Lengthsman rate	£20 per hour remains unchanged

Councillors agreed to the increases, Proposed SB, Seconded KH.

23/204 To consider possibilities to improve safety due to parking in Main Street.

Various discussions took place after the road traffic accident in Main Street however it was decided that the PC was unable to provide a solution due to highway restrictions regarding agricultural villages.

23/205 To consider inclusions for monthly Parish Magazine.

- Cllr Henderson will report on the hedge planting.
- General updates
- Advise residents that there would be no increase to the precept again this year.

23/206 Member & committee reports:

Report from Footpath Warden – None

Report updates on Rural Communities – None

VHC - Cllr Moclair advised that the energy bills for the village hall had increased by 89% since last year, they were looking into a more efficient and cost effective form of heating. He added that new light weight chairs had been purchased.

Disaster Emergency Plan (only if updates have taken place) – None

23/207 To receive financial update and approve bills for payment etc

At bank:

Current account 0649818	£33721.74	as at 20.12.2023
Deposit account 7277881	£54186.54	as at 20.12.2023

Bills for payment:

<u>V no</u>	<u>Chq no</u>	<u>Payee & reason for payment</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
79	002033	Wychavon District Council	313.78	62.75	376.53
80	002034	Wychavon District Council	183.74	36.75	220.49
81	002035	Broadmark IT Ltd	45.00	9.00	54.00
82	002036	Offenham Village Hall	30.00		30.00
83	002037	Maurice Parkinson Contract Services	175.00	35.00	210.00
84	002038	Diane Cox – Admin	47.78	1.79	747.95
85		- Mileage	28.80		
85		- Salary	669.58		

23/208 To formally approve budget and precept requirement for submission to WDC

The clerk advised that to allow no increase in the precept figure this year, there will be a reduction in spending of £245. The reduction in council tax base is due to increases in council tax discounts, exemptions and council tax support allowances. No significant development has impacted on increasing new council tax income. It was therefore proposed that the precept should be £36920 plus the WDC grant of £2595 totalling £39515. Proposed JM Seconded SB

23/209 To be advised of planning matters including:

Applications:

23/02399/FUL Land at (o/s 0688 4489) Station Rd, Blackminster

New single Gypsy pitch with 2 caravans (one mobile and one touring caravan), together with the formation of hard standing and utility/day centre. – Comment required prior to this meeting.

OPC comment: Whilst we are sympathetic to the family's circumstances, Offenham PC objects to the application on the following grounds:

- Sufficient site allocation already identified in the District Plan.
- Clearly outside the village boundary
- Sited on a blind bend with dangerous egress onto a national speed limit road with no footway. Therefore in an unsuitable location.

23/02530/HP Oak Corner, The Cross, Offenham

Oak orangery to the rear. – Comment required prior to this meeting.

OPC Comment: No objection

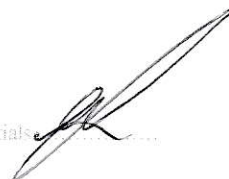
23/02616/LB The Priory, Church Street, Offenham

Replacement of first floor timber framed single glazed casement windows with similar style double glazed timber casement windows to rear part of building.

OPC comment: No objection

Decisions:

None to date



23/210 To advise items for the next meeting.

- MUGA update
- Feedback from Cllr Graham regarding the Two Shires Greenway project.

23/211 To consider date and time for next meeting - Parish Council meeting at 7.30 on Monday 5th February at Offenham Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Signed

Chairman, Offenham Parish Council

Date

05/2/24

Open Forum

Report from District Councillor Aaron Powell.

- Community Legacy grants available from WDC
- Design Code consultation currently underway, should be formally adopted in April.
- WDC is providing a car Park at Honeybourne station; issues regarding crossing the track are being negotiated with Network Rail.
- Laurels Avenue – proposed development consultation should take place on the 29th January in the village hall. Concerns were raised about the lack of time to advertise so that residents could be informed; a request will be made to defer to February.
- The planning application for the development in Three Cocks Lane has been approved but subject to referral to planning. Various compromises have already been made.