

# Parish of Ogbourne St Andrew

## Ogbourne Maizey and Rockley

### Minutes of the Meeting

20 September 2021

Held at Ogbourne St Andrew Church 7 pm

**Present:** Nick Parsons (NP) (Chair)  
Elizabeth Wright (EW) (Clerk)  
Yvonne Parsons (YP)  
John Edmunds (JE)  
Alan Brown (AB)

**Public Attending:** Brian Dean (BD)  
Stuart Williamson (SW)

**Apologies:** John Hetherington (JH)

The meeting should have been held last Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 but it was postponed because, although the agenda was available on the website, it had not been put on the village noticeboards. NP apologised for the change to the Parish meeting due on the 13 September 2021 and will ensure in future the agenda for the Parish meetings are published both online and on the Parish notice boards at least seven days in advance.

**1. Minutes from the last Meeting:** The amended minutes from the AGM on 12 July 2021 were approved.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

NP thanked Allison Holland on behalf of the Parish Council for her administrative support and commitment to the Parish Council and wished her well in her future endeavours.

NP welcomed Liz Wright to the Parish Council as the new Parish Clerk.

NP notified the Parish Council that the funding application to SSE, to cover the cost and installation of three defibrillators had been unsuccessful. This was due to the high number of applications to SSE totalling £500,000, exceeding their £200,000 of funds available. Other funding opportunities will now be investigated.

NP handed out copies of the previously discussed Parish Council Governance Statement and Draft Standing Orders for Parish Councillors prior to publication. Online copies will be made available for parishioners once they are agreed and published.

**3. Update on Community Pub Project.** SW attended to give us the latest information. The community fund raising had exceeded £240,000 therefore an application had been made for Government matched funding. The result of this should be available in mid- October and if successful the pub will be effectively debt free even allowing for essential maintenance. It is expected that the pub will be purchased in late November or early December. The survey has already taken place. In early October SW will be asking for volunteers to help to tidy up the outside of the building. NP has offered the use of the Parish litter picking equipment. It is anticipated that the "Silks on the Downs" should reopen in March 2022.

**4. Newsletter Printing:** Alex Hegarty has provided the Parish Council with a written update concerning a way of offsetting the printing of the Parish newsletter with paid advertisements, which will be directly linked or relevant to the local area. These could be purchased either for a single copy or for the year; the costs are anticipated to start at £7.50 rising to £75 for a full page colour advertisement.

**5. Parish Maintenance.**

**A) Bus stop Repairs:** WCC Highways are aware of the repairs to the roof which are needed on the Swindon direction bus stop along the A346. However, confirmation is being sort from Wiltshire County Council (WCC) regarding the ownership of the bus stops. WCC are moving in the direction of local parish councils taking ownership of their bus shelters and hence a liability for their repairs.

**B) A346 Pavement Obstructions:** WCC are responsible for maintaining the pavement but householders are equally responsible and liable for the area in front of their property to ensure it is free of vegetation or debris that may encroach onto the pavement. Some parishioners may have received a recent letter from WCC to that effect.

**C) Hedge Cutting / Footpaths:** AB has reported to WCC a pavement that is impassable and unsafe to use due to vegetation because WCC have not cut the verges. According to WCC these will be cut in the last two weeks of September. AB to monitor.

**D) Footpath access to Hallam:** NP has confirmed that Will Rahder has acknowledged the public footpath to Hallam across his land. A new stile has been erected where it leaves the byway. WCC have been contacted as there is a need for a public footpath sign to be erected.

**E) Rockley Notice Board:** This is a PCC asset and if not found will have to be replaced. It is presumed that the notice board was broken and subsequently disposed of. NP has contacted Rockley residents for assistance in finding the missing notice board, with little success to date.

**F) Missing 50mph sign:** WCC have been made aware of the missing 50 mph sign which should be in the layby along the S bends on the A346. NP to monitor this.

**G) Swindon and Wiltshire Resilience Forum:** They will be holding an event on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021, with contributions from the Police, Fire Brigade together with Environment Agencies. PCC members interested in attending should contact NP.

**5. Planning.** No planning requests or issues received. (JH)

#### **6. Financial Report:**

Current Account: £5144.12 Savings Account: £5953.55 giving a total £11097.67

A full report was not available due to the change in Parish Clerk. It was agreed that EW should have access to the NS&I account as Parish Clerk and that the paperwork be submitted to change the signatory access; the current account is in hand.

It was noted that a donation of £1600 was made by a parishioner to the Parish Church, however, this was mistakenly paid into the Parish Council account. It has now been refunded to the Parish Church account.

Parish Council members were notified that a Parish Budget for the 21/22 financial year needs to be drawn up.

**7. Correspondence:** None received.

#### **8. AOB.**

**A)** As the Parish Council is short of members, AB proposed that Brian Dean, a long-standing parishioner be co-opted as a councillor; this was seconded by YP and carried unanimously.

**B)** NP then raised his concern that an impartial **Finance Officer** was needed. That person cannot be a finance signatory, thus ensuring no financial irregularities are taking place. BD was asked if he would fill this position, to which he agreed.

**C)** Through CATG-Community Area Transport a request has been submitted for the speed limit through Ogbourne Maizey to be reduced to 20mph. NP brought the following process and costs applicable for this request to the councillors' notice. Traffic flow monitoring strips are free; this is followed by a Traffic Assessment by external moderators (flat rate of £2,500), of which we have already agreed to pay 25%, (£625) this being the minimum contribution in line with other PCs. If the Traffic Assessment agrees the speed limit should be changed, to implement this in law there

is a further charge of £3000. In addition to this physical signs and posts need to be purchased at a minimum cost of at least £1500, depending on the number required for the length of the road. A minimum cost of £4500 in addition to the £625 current liability. NP noted that several emails and letters have been received by both WCC and OSA PCC and he acknowledged the village residents concerns.

Once the Traffic Assessment is received, all options will be considered, in consultation with the residents.

D) Grit bins across the parish are to be checked to see if they require topping up before the winter months. NP will liaise with WCC.

E) YP has offered to take on the maintenance of the parish website.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

The next meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It is planned to hold it at the home of NP and YP.