

# Ogbourne St Andrew, Ogbourne Maizey and Rockley Parish Council

## Minutes

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm at Meadowside, Ogbourne St Andrew**

**Present:** Nick Parsons (NP) (Chair)  
Jan Whitehead (JW) (Clerk)  
Alan Brown (AB)  
Brian Dean (BD)  
Nicky Place (NPL)  
Carys Gregory (CG)

**Apologies:** John Hetherington  
John Edmonds

**1) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

An article on parking on pavements has been submitted for the next edition of the Parish Newsletter

The PCC do not support keeping the defibrillator in the church as it is only open for a few hours a month. It is suggested that an alternative accessible position is identified.

No response has been received on spare land for an activity pitch.

WCC have been made aware of the issue with human waste at Bay Bridges and have been out to clear the area. The situation is being monitored.

The Og will be cleared of weeds etc this year.

Parishioners to be asked to ensure that drains adjacent to their properties are kept clear. Drains block on a regular basis.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

**2) Village Precept**

It was proposed that the precept is increased by 4% for 2024/25. This amount was approved unanimously.

**Action: JW to submit precept form to WCC**

**3) Budget**

JW ran through the proposed budget which has a 10% increase across the board for expenditure. The budget was agreed unanimously.

Since the last meeting, the following payments have been made from the current account:

Parish Newsletter	£264
Defibrillator box for Rockley	£540
Clerk expenses April to October	£195
Bus stop alteration	£130

Income since last meeting:

Ford Fuels Rebate £755.27

Current account balance: £4314.20 Savings: £5959.69 Total: £10273.89

JW ran through the NALC Model Finance Requirements for the Parish and these were approved unanimously.

**4) Roads and Footpaths**

The issue with the footpath between Crawlings Piece and the bus stop is due to be discussed at the LHFIG on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

The paths on the opposite side will also be reviewed this year for potential repair.

The bridleway access to Green Lane discussed at the Public Inquiry in October has been approved.

**5) Health and Social**

The Rockley defibrillator is now with Steve Heaven for installation.

**6) Planning**

The application for the Manor House had no objections.

Temple Barn application received. A query was raised about whether this falls in our parish. WCC advised that it does.

**7) Correspondence**

Bus shelter request to create an aperture to see oncoming buses from Marlborough. This was actioned in December.

A request to clear the footpath from Crawlings Piece to the bus stop to enable wheelchair access has been received. The request has been submitted to WCC for discussion and advice on action. JW ran through information received about gully clearance.

JW notified the parish insurers about the accident on the A346 at the entry to the village from Marlborough. They will not take up the case with the driver's insurer. WCC have been contacted to advise whether they will provide a quote to reinstate the sign for the driver's insurance company.

**8) AOB**

The flooding in the village was discussed at length.

2 properties have been flooded, 3 cars written off in the flood water and residents of Sheepridge and the main road into the village are unable to access properties by vehicle unless 4x4. Flood water is still flowing down from the Marlborough Downs at speed and causing the flood water level to remain high. In addition the gully running alongside the fields is blocked, pipes under the road are blocked, drains are not working as many are blocked and sewers are still overflowing.

Cars and larger vehicles using the main entrance/exit from the village onto the A346 during the initial flood caused water to be pushed into the flooded properties due to the bow waves created.

Wet Pits Lane was also blocked with flood water for an extended period although this is now accessible and is being used by those wishing to enter and exit the village. This is causing some concern as it is not a 2 way street and exit and entrance to the road can be dangerous.

No properties adjacent to the River Og were flooded, although gardens were flooded and a number of bridges were washed away.

The 2 tunnels under the bridge at Ogbourne Maizey are also partially blocked thereby reducing the flow and potentially putting property at risk.

A number of ideas were discussed to try to manage the situation better in the future:

- Seek approval to close flooded roads when necessary to reduce impact of bow waves
- Dig out ditches and create concrete culverts
- Clear the Og regularly and ensure gullies and tunnels are kept clear
- Investigate use of fields to pump water into
- Investigate whether re-routing of Og had any impact
- Follow up with Thames Water re contaminated water and keeping sewers clear
- Follow up with Environment Agency about possible ways to alleviate issues
- Deploy sandbags to all "at risk" properties as well as keeping a supply in the container

**Actions:**

**JW to approach WCC re clearing the gully and concreting it and clearing the tunnels in the Og at Ogbourne Maizey bridge**

**BD to approach Marion Blakeney about using fields for spoil and possible pumping out of water**

**JH to follow up with ARK regarding re-routing of the Og.**

**NP to follow up on authorization to close roads**

**Any parishioners who feel their property was at risk, please notify the Parish Clerk at [ogbourneparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ogbourneparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk) to arrange delivery of sandbags**

Ford Fuels pays the parish a commission for all oil ordered from them under the Cygnet Consortium.

**Action: JW to put a reminder the next Parish newsletter**

Questions have been raised about exiting and entering via Wet Pits Lane. It will not be possible to do anything about improving the right turn exiting from Wet Pits – the Parish Council advise turning left and then turning round at Hallam or Ogbourne St George.

A pine tree at Wet Pits has been impacted by the water and is now at an angle.

**Action: NP to investigate ownership of the tree**

The meeting closed at 20:45

Date of next meetings: 04/03/24, 13/05/24 (AGM), 01/07/24, 02/09/24, 04/11/24