

# Ogbourne St Andrew, Ogbourne Maizey and Rockley Parish Council

## Minutes

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm at The Haven, Ogbourne Maizey**

**Present:** John Hetherington (JH) (Chair)  
Jan Whitehead (JW) (Clerk)  
Alan Brown (AB)  
Brian Dean (BD)  
Nicky Place (NPL)  
Carys Gregory (CG)  
John Edmonds (JE)  
David Kinnaird (Marlborough Town Council Flood Working Group)  
Ian Davis (Parishioner)  
Jeff Mason (Parishioner)  
Sharon Priest (Parishioner)

### **Apologies:**

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

CG will attend the next LHFIG meeting to discuss the footpath between Crawlings Piece and the bus stop

SID claim is now with the driver's insurance company.

The minutes were approved.

#### **2) Village Maintenance**

##### **a) Flooding/Emergency Plan Working Group**

David Kinnaird ran through the plan for Marlborough – Flood working group set up. Sewage was the biggest issue for residents and caused more damage and longer periods where residents will be unable to inhabit their properties.

**Action: DK to forward copy of action plan to JW.**

Thames Water do have a plan for groundwater which was written in 2020. OSA, OM and Rockley are named in that plan along with Marlborough. 25% of the pipes sit under groundwater level permanently. 15 pipes are high risk – they are old and joints are not sealed. During storm surges Thames Water are allowed to discharge into rivers. After around 3 days this permit ceases to exist. Less than 3% of the high risk pipes have been surveyed recently. Sewage treatment works are being upgraded. Thames Water's Annual Management Plan cannot be delivered.

Rockley has a bore hole which measures groundwater levels.

Marlborough have invited Thames Water to their next public meeting.

Tankering is the only option Thames Water have so villagers must report to Thames Water every time there is an issue.

Jeff Mason is meeting with Danny Kruger on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April to discuss the flooding and sewage issues further. He will also speak to Robert Buckland. He outlined several suggestions:

The OSA action plan should have several strands – political pressure, a method to record issues raised with Thames Water and also to take action ourselves. Structural changes will not take place.

The long gully opposite Crowlynch, Southview and Meadowview down to the river needs to be turned into a French drain, initially from the bridge to the field gate. We also need to apply for permission to put a gully under the road from The Willows to the new French drain. Drains need to be cleared regularly, however WCC will not clear them whilst there is contaminated water in the road.

Request kerbstones are laid up to the corner outside The Forge and add a drain from the Forge to the gate.

Place a gauge at the side of the road outside Sheepridge to indicate how deep the water is. The bridleway up to the Downs was capped with cold tarmac. The broken down tarmac has flowed down from the Downs and blocked the drains.

**Action: JW to request the owner of the bridleway keeps the run offs down the bridleway cleared at least once a year.**

Further investigation of the re-routing of the Og as the river is now flowing very fast under the bridge at Wet Pits.

**Action: Full plan to be developed. Drainage consultant to be contacted for the long ditch. Identify contractor to clear the drains twice a year – after harvest and during the winter. There are also 3 drains in Maizey which need to be unblocked. Jeff Mason will liaise with JW.**

Environment Agency has been requested to attend to look at the river. Storm drains also need to be cleared on the left by the bridge.

**Action: BD to liaise with Sharon on this issue.**

Continued pressure needs to be applied to Thames Water to improve the situation with the sewers.

The heavy lorries and farm machinery are also causing damage to the road surface and verges.

#### b) Noticeboards

It was agreed that a new board is purchased to replace the broken board by the bridge in OSA. JW to liaise with Nikki Rickman regarding requirement for a noticeboard in Rockley.

### 3) Parish Councillor Vacancy

WCC have been contacted and the vacancy is now advertised on noticeboards and on the website. Parishioners have until 25<sup>th</sup> April to request an election. If no election we will be able to co-opt.

#### a) Police Liaison

JH will take this on until a replacement councillor is found.

### 4) Roads and Footpaths

#### a) Footpath Bridge in St Andrew

A quote has been received to replace the footpath bridge, however work needs to be delayed until the ditch is cleared. As this quote also exceeds the threshold, additional quotes are required.

**Action: JW to contact Rights of Way warden to see if they can assist with bridge and seek additional quotes**

5) Health and Social

a) Defibrillator Update

This will be erected in Rockley in the next few weeks.

b) Best Kept Village Competition

It was decided not to apply for this.

6) Planning

Temple Barn application was approved.

A large garden shed has been erected in the field by the church.

Additionally the accommodation lodge still does not have planning.

**Action: CG to investigate.**

7) Financial Report

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

Parish Newsletter	£158.40
Clerk expenses October to February	£287.50
Parish laptop and back up	£566.98

Income since last meeting:

WCC CIL	£687.64
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Current account balance: £3988.96      Savings: £5959.69      Total: £9948.65

a) Appointment of Independent Reviewer

Carol Davis has agreed to carry this out and this was approved unanimously. Thanks to Carol for volunteering again

8) Correspondence

WCC have advised of a road closure on A346 between the OSA War Memorial and Wet Pits Lane. This will operate from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April between 7pm and 11pm. Impacted residents will receive a letter

9) AOB

Another issue has been raised about the width of the footpath from Maizey to St Andrew along the A346. This is partly due to vegetation and silt from the road being washed onto paths.

**Action: JW to raise issue with WCC**

The meeting closed at 20:30

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