

ORCHESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT ORCHESTON VILLAGE HALL

ON 18 MAY 2015

Present:

Sam Shepherd	Chairman
Bryan Wright	Vice Chairman
Carol Cole	Councillor
Richard Ceaser	Councillor
Maureen Harnett	Councillor
Simon Read	Councillor
Christopher Coats	Councillor

In attendance:

John Badgery	Clerk to the Council
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Apologies:

Ian West	Wiltshire Councillor
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COUNCIL IN INFORMAL SESSION

1. Cllr Ian West was unable to attend the meeting but sent a resume of Highways issues currently being discussed at Wiltshire Council level.
 - a. The Highways budget had been reduced from £11m to £6m though the work required remained unaltered. There would have to be changes in the way work was carried out.
 - b. Balfour Beatty has been awarded the contract for the next 3 years. During 2015/16 they would undertake a scheduled gully service; work teams would be pulled off only in the case of an emergency. Grass growing out of gullies is not an emergency.
 - c. Grass cutting will also be on a schedule. There is a map available showing which areas of grass will be cut – if not on the map then it will not be cut. Verges will be cut only once a year but they would concentrate on the A303 and A36.
 - d. Roads will be repaired in order of status. Potholes will be filled according to a set of criteria.
 - e. Litter collection would be limited. If bins are vandalised they would be removed and not replaced. If a damaged bin were replaced by a Parish Council then the Parish would become responsible for removal of rubbish with the implication of Waste Transfer Licence, special transport and its associated (very high) costs.
 - f. Equipment in Children's Playgrounds belonging to Wiltshire Council would not be repaired or replaced when damaged.
 - g. Signage/street plates may not be replaced for up to 12 months.
 - h. Participants in Community Clean Up days are not covered by Wiltshire Council insurance.
 - i. It is essential that problems are reported on the Wiltshire App. If an urgent response is required it must be stipulated otherwise reports go into a queue.
 - j. The department delivers services in compliance with Statutory Guidance which is available on request.

2. A resident was concerned that the tenants of some of the local authority houses were not undertaking their responsibilities to keep the properties tidy and in good condition. Bins were not being

emptied and were overflowing causing a health hazard and attracting vermin. Apart from the unsightliness such a situation was not fair on neighbours who did keep their properties in good condition. The Clerk is to write to Wiltshire Council. A resident of the Cleeve asked for reassurance that the field between GUL and the Cleeve (S209) was not available for development. The Clerk had been told verbally that the field would be removed from the SHLAA and would ask for written confirmation.

COUNCIL IN FORMAL SESSION

3. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.** Sam Shepherd was elected as Chairman without opposition. Bryan Wright was elected as Vice Chairman without opposition.

4. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Councillors were reminded to complete the on-line registration of interests. Councillors finding difficulty accessing on-line registration can call Anna Browne (Democratic Services) on 01225 718454.

5. **Councillors with Special Responsibilities.** Special responsibilities were confirmed as below:

Planning	the extant system (extraordinary meeting of the PC following receipt of an application)	
Shrewton Rec Committee liaison		Cllr Harnett
Emergency Planning		Cllr Cole
Highways and Byways/Rights of way		Cllr Wright
Speeding/Community Area Transport Group		Cllr Coats
Liaison with MoD		Clerk

6. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2015.** The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2015 had been circulated and were signed as a true record.

7. **Matters arising from the Minutes.** Nil

8. **Declaration of interests.** No councillors declared any interests.

9. **Dates and times of meetings for the coming year.** Meetings would normally start at 1930 hrs. Dates were agreed as follows:

Mon 20 Jul 2015

Mon 21 Sep 2015

Mon 16 Nov 2015

Mon 18 Jan 2016 (at 1900 hrs – Precept setting meeting)

Mon 21 Mar 2016

Mon 16 May 2016 (following the Annual Parish Meeting)

10. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman had been involved in the debate over the change of weight limit on the road from Rollestone Camp to Shrewton. In short the 2 ton limit is no longer valid and has to be replaced by 7.5 tonnes. The Community Area Manager is investigating what has happened to the speed limit review for Elston Lane and within the village, authorised in January 2014, with a budget of £4,000. The designation of the Shrewton Neighbourhood Area has been approved by Wiltshire Council. The next stage will be the submission of a sustainability report to Wiltshire Council.

11. **Councillors' Reports** Cllr Read had completed the tidying up of the bus shelter and was thanked by the Chairman.

12. **Finance** The Clerk had distributed a copy of the Income and Expenditure for the whole year. The accounts balanced with the bank statements. At the end of the financial year the balance was £1278 and we had now received £1500 as the precept for FY 15/16. Cheques were issued for:

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| a. | Community First for insurance | £195.48 |
| b. | Wiltshire Assn of Local Councils | £94.36 (signed after the meeting) |
| c. | Clerk's salary | £106.08 |
| d. | Clerk's tax | £26.40 |

The Chairman read out the questions on the annual governance statement. The Council approved the Statement of Accounts and the Governance Statement. They were signed by the Chairman. The Parish Council had been advised that, in future, when it is necessary to run a contested election, (as opposed to Co- option) which does not coincide with a Wiltshire Council election, the costs would be passed to the Parish Council. The Clerk would continue to research the matter because it would become a factor to be considered when calculating the Precept in January.

13. **Correspondence.**

a. Wiltshire Council Weather Team had formalised the distribution of salt (for ice) and sand etc (for floods). The scheme is known as the Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme (PEAS). Orcheston will sign up for the scheme but is already in possession of both sand and salt.

b. The s106 statement had been received. The Clerk is to research what the money (£2235) can be spent on.

14. **Standing Agenda Items**

a. **Planning Applications** – one had been received in respect of a modular block at Appleford School. Councillors will review it over the coming week. Response to Wiltshire Council by 12 June 2015.

b. **Highways and Byways** –Most footpaths need cutting back. Cllr Coats (as a private citizen) is raising with the local MP the issue of 4x4 traffic on the Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) (Orcheston 7) from Waterlake Farm to the Touring Park bridge.

c. **Village Maintenance** – assistance from Wiltshire Council is likely to reduce so it becomes more important that villagers self-help as much as they can.

15. Date of next meeting 20 July 2015 starting at 7:30pm.

July 2015

B Wright Vice Chairman