

ORCHESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT ORCHESTON VILLAGE HALL

ON 20 JULY 2015

Present:

Bryan Wright	Vice Chairman
Carol Cole	Councillor
Maureen Harnett	Councillor
Simon Read	Councillor
Christopher Coats	Councillor

In attendance:

John Badgery	Clerk to the Council
Ian West	Wiltshire Councillor

Apologies:

Sam Shepherd	Chairman
Richard Ceaser	Councillor

COUNCIL IN INFORMAL SESSION

16. Four members of the public were present.

17. Cllr Ian West spoke on three matters. The request for a speed limit in Orcheston had been agreed by the CATG but there is a requirement for Orcheston PC to pay 25% of the £3000 that it will cost to implement the speed limit. The Wessex Community Circus is available for fetes and village events. There is no specific charge but a donation is encouraged. Cllr West will be undertaking a mountain bike ride around the villages in his constituency and would appreciate any sponsorship that could be offered. The proceeds will be given to Day Centres in Shrewton and Steeple Langford.

COUNCIL IN FORMAL SESSION

18. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2015.** The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2015 had been circulated and were signed as a true record.

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

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

21. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman was in hospital and the Vice Chairman had not been apprised of any issues which needed to be discussed under this heading.

22. **Councillors' Reports.** Councillors did not have any specific reports.

23. **Finance** The accounts had been sent for audit. Grant Thornton had acknowledged receipt of the accounts but had not yet reported on them. Two cheques were signed:

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|----|---------|-----------------------|
| a. | £106.08 | Clerk's salary |
| b. | £26.40 | Tax on clerk's salary |

24. Correspondence.

a. Wiltshire Council had confirmed that, in the event that Orcheston needed to hold an election which did not coincide with a County or national election, the likely charge to be borne by the Parish Council would be £1800. (This would have to be considered in January when we decide on the Precept).

b. A request for a donation had been received from the Dementia Advocacy service. It is Parish council policy not to donate to charities.

c. The Transparency Code for smaller councils had been discussed at previous meetings. As the removal of formal audit is phased in all items of expenditure over £100 have to be published on a website. WALC is bidding for money to assist with setting up websites for smaller councils. (More to follow).

d. Questions had been asked about the inclusion of Orcheston in the referendum about the Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan. The explanation from Wiltshire Council Planning Department was:

'A referendum is the last stage in the process and a Neighbourhood Plan has to be approved by the community through this process. Prior to this process the plan has to go through an 'Examination in Public' where an independent inspector will test the plan against certain 'tests of soundness'. Within the report that the examiner will produce, they are required under Regulation 18(1)(c) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 to determine 'whether to extend the area to which the referendum is (or referendums are) to take place'. The Examiner's report will therefore recommend whether or not the referendum area should be extended. It is therefore the independent Inspector's decision as to whether a 'Referendum Area' is wider than the 'Neighbourhood Area'. We are expecting the Chairman of Shrewton Parish council to attend the next PC meeting . (The Clerk is investigating whether any expenditure may be incurred for a referendum).

e. CATG had agreed to our request for a speed limit in Orcheston. A plan had been produced by Atkins. There will be a charge of £750 towards the implementation of this limit. Because this expenditure had not been advertised to the public there is a need to hold an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council so that the public could be heard (there would be an increase in the parish element of the Council Tax) though the decision whether to proceed remains with the Parish Council. The Extraordinary Meeting will be held on 10 August 2015 at 7:00pm.

f. The Clerk had received direction on how R2 money can be spent and expenditure on a new noticeboard is not possible. Cllr West suggested that the Amesbury Area Board could help with funding for a noticeboard.

25. Standing Agenda Items

a. **Planning Applications** – The additional classroom at Appleford School and the pruning of trees at Cozens House had both been approved by Wiltshire Council. There are no current planning issues.

b. **Highways and Byways** –Cllr Coats raised the Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) (Orcheston 7) from Waterlake Farm to the Touring Park bridge. Whilst many councillors think that Byway 7 should be restricted, the stumbling block remained how to change its status. Wiltshire Council were prepared to stop vehicular traffic if it could be shown that the byway was not being used but this was not the case. The status of Orcheston 7 as a BOAT was the decision of a Public Inquiry in 1993, supported by the Parish Council at the time. Any change of legal status would require the presentation of new evidence not considered by the Public Inquiry. Any review would involve considerable expense and it is unlikely that the section from Waterlake Farm to the Touring Park bridge could be considered in isolation. Cllr Harnett is trying to obtain the evidence presented to the Inquiry. Wiltshire Council plans to monitor use of the byway through the winter.

c. **Village Maintenance** – the Clerk had written to the Housing Department regarding untidiness/ overflowing bins reported at the Annual Parish Meeting. There had been no acknowledgement of the letter and subsequent telephone calls had not been answered.

26. **Date of next meeting** 10 August 2015 starting at 7:00pm (Extraordinary Meeting) then 21 September 2015 at 7:30pm.

September 2015

S Shepherd Chairman