

# ORCHESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD AT ORCHESTON VILLAGE HALL

on 15 JANUARY 2018 at 7:00pm

### Present:

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

### In attendance:

John Badgery	Clerk to the Council
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### Apologies:

Richard Ceaser	Councillor
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56. One member of the public was present at the start, another joined later.

### BUDGET MEETING

57. Options for the Precept had been circulated. Expenditure for 2017 – 2018 had been very much as expected. Because we always budget £200 for Contingency there was a small under-spend. Subscription to WALC cost £5.20 more than budgeted and Community First insurance was £7.25 more than budgeted – suitable adjustments to these two “standing charges” have been made in the 2018-2019 precept calculation.

58. The Chairman offered examples of other parishes with similar Band D tax base. These suggested that Orcheston residents were paying well below average. The higher option was a Precept of £2250 (£300 more than in 2017/18); this was to allow for an increase in Clerk’s salary (see Chairman’s report).

59. Following discussion it was proposed that the 2018-2019 Precept should be £2250. This was carried unanimously. The tax base is 107.12 Band D equivalents, therefore the Band D charge would be £21.00.

The Clerk was therefore directed to submit a Precept requirement for £2250 for 2018/19.

### COUNCIL IN INFORMAL SESSION

60. The public had no issues for discussion.

### COUNCIL IN FORMAL SESSION

61. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2017.** The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2017 had been circulated and were signed subject to the comments in the following paragraph.

62. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

**Trees** Cllr Wright felt that paragraph 51 of the previous minutes did not reflect accurately the discussion at the November meeting. He questioned why he had been nominated as the Orcheston point of contact

for the planting of commemorative trees and why the Clerk had approached land-owners when he had already done so. These issues were explained but not to Cllr Wright's satisfaction so he withdrew himself from involvement in the planting of commemorative trees. Cllr Cole will now liaise with Mr Grant about planting trees at the edge of the field west of Whatcombe Brow.

The reference to Byway 31 should have read Bridleway 31. (corrected in manuscript)

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

64. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman outlined a proposal from Wiltshire Council to prevent traffic travelling from Rollestone Camp crossroads west to London Road, Shrewton. There would be a build-out west of the grain store to stop westbound traffic. This is to prevent rat-running through Shrewton High Street. Eastbound traffic would still be permitted. Westbound traffic would be routed south at Rollestone Camp to the Airman's Cross roundabout. The six councillors present were equally split on whether to support the proposal. The Chairman will inform Cllr Henry.

65. The Chairman noted that the Clerk intended to stand down at the end of the financial year. He was grateful for the six years service and thanked him formally; nevertheless he was concerned about any replacement. A new clerk could cost more than at present. The post should be advertised within the village, with WALC newsletter and in Arrowhead. The Clerk would ask the Shrewton Clerk if she was interested.

66. **Councillors' Reports.** Cllr Cole raised the A303 Local Community Forum – to be considered under Correspondence. Cllr Read gave a report on his efforts to source and fund a defibrillator. It was far more complex than he had expected – it remains a work in progress. Cllr Harnett reported that the Shrewton Recreation Club was struggling financially – any grants that were available appeared to exclude expenditure on maintenance and repairs. The football and cricket clubs are concerned; there is to be a meeting on 24 January 2018 to discuss the club's finances.

67. **Finance and Correspondence.**

a. Four cheques were issued – Clerk's salary (£105.88), tax on salary (£26.60), playground repairs (£150) and repayment of website expenses (£109.20).

b. **Police and Crime Commissioner precept** - the PCC was seeking support for an increase in the police precept. Overall the council was not convinced that the police precept was being spent effectively.

c. **General Data Protection Regulations** - the GDPR training planned by WALC was oversubscribed. A further session may be organised (cost £42).

d. **A303 Local Community Forum** – we had registered an interest in being represented on the forum for influencing the spin off from the upgrading of the A303. Cllr Coats would represent Orcheston supported by Cllr Cole.

e. **Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan** The opportunity to contribute to the Salisbury NP was offered.

68. **Standing Agenda Items**

a. **Planning Applications *Trees at Drax House***. The plan associated with proposed thinning of the Drax House wood had been circulated. Mrs Pugh explained that numerous issues had arisen because trees had been planted too close together and they were stifling each other. Some had broken off in the wind. The Council had no comments for Wiltshire Council and would leave it to the experience and judgement of the tree officers.

b. **Highways and Byways**

**Footpath 12** Cllr Wright raised a concern that the area where Footpath 12 exits St George's churchyard on to the road is becoming churned up by heavy machinery

entering/exiting Manor Farm yard. The Clerk was directed to consult Rights of Way as to who was responsible for the area.

**River Till** Branches overhanging the River Till on Elston Lane need to be cut back.

**Voluntary restraint notices** Whilst the voluntary restraint notice at the junction of the C291 and Orcheston BOAT 7 is welcome, there is a need for the font to be much larger if it is to be effective.

c. **Village Maintenance** The Parish Steward is due on 29 Jan 18; priorities remain the same. Dog fouling remains a problem particularly for the Parish Steward using a strimmer.

69. Date of next meeting 19 March 2018.

March 2018

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S Shepherd Chairman