

# ORCHESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT ORCHESTON VILLAGE HALL

ON 24 May 2021

### Present:

Sam Shepherd	Chairman
Bryan Wright	Vice Chairman
Christopher Coats	Councillor
Maureen Harnett	Councillor
Tim O'Keefe	Councillor

### In attendance:

John Badgery	Clerk to the Council
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### COUNCIL IN INFORMAL SESSION

1. No members of the public were present.

### COUNCIL IN FORMAL SESSION

*This was the first meeting of councillors who had taken office following the uncontested election on 6 May 2021. The Chairman from the previous council chaired the meeting. A Covid risk assessment for the meeting had been prepared by the Clerk.*

2. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.** Sam Shepherd was elected as Chairman unopposed. Bryan Wright was elected as Vice Chairman unopposed.
3. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** All Councillors signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
4. **Co-option of councillors to vacant positions.** Because there were only five candidates for the seven vacancies on the council it was necessary to co-opt two additional councillors. Four residents had offered to serve as councillors. In a secret ballot of the five councillors Jenny Pugh and Sally Franklin were co-opted as Parish Councillors.
5. **Councillors with Special Responsibilities.** Special responsibilities were confirmed as below:

Planning	the extant system (if necessary an extraordinary meeting of the PC will be called following receipt of an application)
Emergency Planning	Cllr O'Keefe
Highways /Rights of way/Parish Steward	Cllr Wright
Traffic/A303	Cllr Coats
Shrewton Recreational Charity	Cllr Harnett
MoD liaison	Cllr Coats
6. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2020.** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2020 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 19 Jul 2021

Mon 20 Sep 2021

Mon 15 Nov 2021

Mon 17 Jan 2022 (at 1915 hrs – Precept setting meeting)

Mon 21 Mar 2022

Mon 16 May 2022 (following the Annual Parish Meeting)

10. **Chairman's Report.**

- a. The Chairman paid tribute to the late Richard Ceaser who had died in March. He had been a son of Orcheston having been born here and spent the whole of his working life at the farm. He had served as a councillor for many years and had provided much useful historical context on village matters. He was universally respected and viewed as a genuinely good man.
- b. The Chairman also recorded his thanks to Carol Cole who had served as a councillor for eight years.
- c. The Chairman then opened a discussion on how the Council might spend the CIL money received from Wiltshire Council. It must be spent for the benefit of the community. Cllr Wright felt this was an inappropriate charge and should be returned to the donor. CIL money could be used for a new noticeboard. The Clerk was directed to investigate where Tilshead PC had sourced their noticeboard.
- d. There was discussion of research into a 20 mph speed limit and this is reported under Councillors' Reports.
- e. There followed discussion of residents' opinions of potential future use of the St George's school room. Responsibility for the school room rests with the Parochial Church Council but any proposals would have added weight if they had the backing of the village in general.

11. **Councillors' Reports.** Cllr Coats spoke in support of Wiltshire Council conducting research to see if a 20 mph speed limit would be appropriate according to extant criteria. Normally if research shows that the average speed is over 24 mph then a 20 mph limit would not be imposed. The main issue was how it would be policed. Cllr O'Keefe suggested that we should try to encourage good behaviour by other means. A major difficulty is that there are upwards of a dozen delivery drivers (not the same people) in the village every day and they are all on a tight time schedule. The use of Gibb's Hill/Elston Lane as a rat run would remain a problem. Cllr Wright proposed that the PC should vote on whether to ask Wiltshire Council Highways to conduct research into whether a 20 mph speed limit would be appropriate. Councillors voted against the motion.

12. **Finance** The Clerk had distributed a copy of the Income and Expenditure for the whole year. The accounts agreed with the bank statements.

13. The Annual Internal Audit Report was received and noted.

14. The Chairman read out the questions on the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21. The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement.

15. The Chairman read through the Accounting Statements 2020/21 and the Council approved the Accounting Statements.

16. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council qualified as "Exempt from External Audit" because neither the Annual Income nor the Annual Expenditure exceeded £25,000. The Chairman signed the Certificate of Exemption.

17. At the end of the financial year the balance was £4973.48 and we had now received £2200 as the precept for FY 2020/21. Expenditure was approved:

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|----|----------------------------------|---------|
| a. | Community First for insurance    | £206.38 |
| b. | Wiltshire Assn of Local Councils | £107.41 |
| c. | Clerk's salary                   | £160.00 |
| d. | Clerk's tax                      | £40.00  |

18. The Clerk would announce the Exercise of Public Rights on 1 June 2021. The period for the Exercise of Public Rights would be: Commence 3 June 2021, end 14 July 2021.

19. **Correspondence.**

Any Briefing Notes received had been distributed.

20. **Standing Agenda Items**

a. **Planning Applications**

(i) Appleford School had applied for a classroom/meeting room. The application acknowledged that the school had used up all of the permitted development. It was noted that the building had no toilet/hand washing facilities. Given that the number of pupils had been capped, the need for additional teaching space was hard to understand. The appearance of the building was not sympathetic to or in keeping with that of the listed building. The PC did not support the application and have forwarded comments.

(ii) There were no objections to reducing the height of the trees at Cozens House.

(iii) There were no objections to the management of the trees at the Cattery.

b. **Highways and Byways** – Cllr Coats suggested that we ask Wiltshire Council to re-surface the roads throughout the village in particular at the crossroads and around Peeko.

c. **Village Maintenance** – the Parish Steward had cleared some grips and filled some potholes..

21. Date of next meeting 19 July 2021 starting at 7:30pm.

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July 2021

S Shepherd Chairman