

ORCHESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD AT ORCHESTON VILLAGE HALL

on 16 JANUARY 2023 at 7:15pm

Present:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Sam Shepherd | Chairman |
| Bryan Wright | Vice Chairman |
| Jenny Pugh | Councillor |
| Christopher Coats | Councillor |
| Tim O'Keefe | Councillor |

In attendance:

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| John Badgery | Clerk to the Council |
|--------------|----------------------|

Apologies:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Maureen Harnett | Councillor (apology received after the meeting) |
| Ashley Young | Councillor |

BUDGET MEETING

54. A potential Precept had been circulated. Expenditure for 2022 - 2023 had been largely as expected but the website was £30 more than budgeted. Savings arose from nil expenditure on playground maintenance and grass cutting.

55. The overall projected spend for this year will leave us with a surplus of around £480. This is explained by £200 in Contingency; £125 was allowed for grass cutting but this was done on a voluntary basis at no cost. Bank charges this year amount to around £70.

56. Following discussion, it was proposed that the 2023 - 2024 Precept should be £2215. This included £100 to be set aside as a reserve to be paid to Wiltshire Council for the administration of elections. This was carried unanimously. The tax base is 106.68 Band D equivalents; therefore, the Band D charge would be £20.76 (For 2022/2023 it was £21.58).

The Clerk was therefore directed to submit a Precept requirement for £2215 for 2023/2024. (Submitted 17 Jan 2023).

COUNCIL IN INFORMAL SESSION

57. Two members of the public were present. They did not raise any issues.

COUNCIL IN FORMAL SESSION

58. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2022.** Cllr Coats opined that, although the overall result of the vote on the 20 mph speed limit was accurate, there should be more information included re the debate that took place and the Minutes should reflect that those, who voted against the 20 mph limit, were motivated by the cost of implementation even though the safety case was sound. Councillor Coats will provide a form of words to add to the Minute.

59. **Matters arising from the Minutes.** The Clerk was to include an additional sentence in paragraph 49 of the previous minutes and ask LFHIG for a timeframe by which a decision must be made. Would it be lawful, regular or appropriate for residents to be invited to make donations towards the cost of

implementing a 20 mph speed limit? Within a general discussion on finances it was decided that we should begin a hypothecated election fund of £100 each year. [Wiltshire Council had advised that from 2024/2025 Parish and Town Councils would have to pay for all elections].

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

61. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman led a discussion on a defibrillator. It was decided to commit up to £700 towards the defibrillator once we have some idea of what can be raised from grants and fund raising. The Village Hall committee would accept the Defibrillator and Cabinet being attached to the outside of the Hall as long as the Parish council are responsible for any costs involved mounting the cabinet and for subsequent maintenance including electric charge for running the cabinet.

62. **Councillors' Reports.** No specific reports were raised.

63. **Finance and Correspondence.**

- a. Two cheques were issued – Clerk's salary (£160.00), tax on salary (£40.00).
- b. **Briefing Notes** - there had been no Briefing Notes since the November meeting..
- c. Councillors had received a copy of the intention of Wiltshire Council to charge for all elections (even uncontested ones).
- d. With the closure of the playground the Fixed Asset Register had been amended removing the value of the basketball stand, the swings and the wooden bench.
- e. The claim for VAT paid on the Noticeboard was still awaited.

64. **Standing Agenda Items**

- a. **Planning Applications** There are no current planning applications.
- b. **Highways and Byways** The Parish Steward will attend to potholes when the weather improves. We will ask for drains to be cleared.
- c. **Village Maintenance** Nothing to report.

65. Date of next meeting 20 March 2023.

66. The Clerk informed the meeting that he would be standing down for health reasons. An advertisement for a replacement would be sent for publication on the WALC website. The Chairman and Councillors expressed their thanks to the Clerk for all he has contributed to the running of the Parish Council over his ten years of service. The Chairman went on to point out that it may be difficult to find a new Clerk quickly and may involve additional cost for the Council.

March 2023

S Shepherd Chairman