

ORCHESTON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON 22ND APRIL 2023

AT ORCHESTON VILLAGE HALL

at 10.30 am

1. The Chairman welcomed 25 members of the public (including Councillors) to the meeting. [The Chairman had received apologies from Bryan Wright, Chris Coats, Susie McClintock and Amanda Bay]. He advised that in order to assist our speakers he would be amending the order of the agenda previously published.
2. Judith Moore from St John's Ambulance gave a short presentation to the meeting on the benefit of Defibrillators in rural villages. They save lives everyday all round the world. The costs are coming down, now a good machine is around £800. In addition one would need a secure, heated cabinet at around £600. If the village obtains one, Judith would come and give a course in use. There would need to be a person within the village who takes responsibility for checking that the machine is working at regular intervals (Judith checks the two in Tilshead once a month). The Chairman confirmed that the Village Hall committee had confirmed that they would allow a cabinet to be attached to the Hall and be connected to the electricity supply to heat the cabinet. Judith highlighted the importance of telephoning the ambulance service first if someone appears to have had a heart attack and follow their instructions.
3. James Dwyer from GUL talked on the history and current activities of GUL. They are an outdoor therapy charity based at Riverside Elston and at the Bustard. They also have two sites in Wales. They provide horse based therapy for a very diverse client base aged from one to 87. Their clients have a range of physical and mental issues that benefit from the therapies offered. A team of 11 at Riverside provide a range of professions to support the therapies. At the Bustard they provide supported living for a small number of people to enable them to reintegrate into the wider society.
4. Ewart Grant from Rookery Farm read an amusing poem "A bit of Binder Twine" that has been on his desk for the last 50 years. Ewart then gave a brief history of his family's farming in Orcheston, and a few current statistics such as the working day running from 2 am to 10 pm, 365 days a year, in all weathers. 1,800 cattle in total, including two dairy herds of 260 cows each.
5. All the speakers answered questions, and all were warmly appreciated by the meeting.
6. The Chairman read the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2022. These were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
7. The Chairman then gave his report for the Parish Council for the year 2022 – 2023.

During the year the Council met six times. The Council has complied with its legal and financial obligations.

We have commented on a number of Planning Applications for properties within the Parish. We have also considered and commented on two applications for Certificates of Lawful Use/Development. We also gave consideration to a number of Tree notifications.

The Council have looked after common property including the Village Play Area, the planted "Triangle" and the Bus Shelter. After issuing a questionnaire to villagers the Council decided

there was no support for the Play Area and, given the annual cost of maintenance, the lease of the land was given up. The Parish Noticeboard was replaced. The Council has liaised with Wiltshire Council Parish Steward over minor works in the village. The Council has been represented on relevant committees including attending the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) and keeping abreast of the Shrewton Recreational Charity. At the start of the year Councillor Sally Franklin resigned. Ashley Young was co-opted to the Council.

The Council agreed with the organiser of cycling events to avoid using Bridleway 10 for their one-day events.

The LHFIG carried out a traffic speed survey in the village at a cost of £625 to the Parish Council. Average speeds were between 15.8 mph and 18.6 mph (85%tile 18.5 & 22.0). The survey "recommended that this location can be considered for a 20 mph speed limit". The LHFIG agreed to support the application subject to Orcheston PC paying a further 25% of cost estimated at £7,000 and so £1,750 to Orcheston PC. The Parish Council voted against supporting the reduction in speed. The Council did agree that one of the Councillors could investigate other means of fund raising to pay the Parish share of the cost. The LHFIG confirmed that the funds will remain available.

Judith Moore from St John's Ambulance gave a talk to the Council about the acquisition and use of Defibrillators. Currently one at the shop in the campsite but no provision for the southern end of the village. The cost would be approximately £1,100 for defibrillator and £600 for a secure, heated cabinet. On top would be small annual running costs. The Village Hall Committee confirmed they would allow a cabinet to be attached to the outside of the Village Hall if the Parish Council assumed responsibility and paid any additional electrical costs, and costs of installation. The Parish Council agreed to allocate up to £700 towards the cost of a defibrillator from existing funds.

The Council responded to proposed change to the Parliamentary Boundary by stating that Orcheston is more closely aligned with Salisbury rather than any of the commercial centres in the new proposed constituency.

My thanks to all Councillors who have served the parish over the last year.

My thanks to our Parish Clerk, John Badgery, for ensuring the smooth running of the Council over the last year, and indeed over the previous eleven years. John has retired from the role of Clerk. We would welcome any appropriate volunteer for the role. Please contact me for more information.

8. Members of the public were then invited to raise issues.
9. A member of the public questioned the Chairman as to why he had at a Parish Council meeting said he was not prepared to hear the same matters related to cycling as raised at previous meetings. He said that he had been in contact with senior officers at Wiltshire Council about use

of Bridleway 10 by cyclists. The Chairman said that neither he or the Clerk had heard from Wiltshire Council.

A member of the public asked why the Council did not publish details of expenditure. The Chairman reported that all expenditure is recorded in minutes of meetings and that the annual accounts are open for inspection in the normal manner after they have been approved.

A member of the public asked if the agendas and minutes of meetings could be published in some other format. The Chairman said that they are published as required by law on the Parish noticeboard. They are also published on the Parish website. He apologised that on occasion the records on the website are not always posted promptly.

There was a short discussion on lowering the speed limit to 20 mph. The Chairman said that as Chris Coats was leading on this issue, we would have to await an update from him at the next Parish Council.

10. The Chairman told the meeting how issues may be included on the agenda of Parish Council meetings. To have an item put onto the agenda for a Parish Council meeting a Parish Councillor must add the item to the agenda. Therefore if a member of public wishes the Councillors to discuss an issue in the meeting, they need to ask a Councillor to add the issue to the agenda.

Only issues listed on the agenda may then be subject to a vote.

Members of the public may address a Parish Council meeting only at the discretion of the Chairman. In Orcheston, we permit members of the public to speak in an informal session at the start of the Parish Council meeting. It is the chairman's discretion for how long someone may speak but this should in most situation be limited to 1 ½ minutes, and in most circumstances all topics should be limited to a total of fifteen minutes.

11. The Chairman had researched grants for defibrillators:

Dept of Health and Social Care announced scheme on 29th December 2022 to provide £1 million to provide 1,000 community defibrillators, but no further information – I have emailed DHSC for more information.

British Heart Foundation – no current funds but may have new funds later in summer.

London Hearts – may provide grants of £300 but may have to accept their machines.

AEDonate provide minimum £400 towards community defibrillators but again may have to accept their machines – again I can investigate further.

12. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. He thanked Jenny Pugh for organising the meeting and for arranging the speakers. All at the meeting agreed that holding the Annual Parish Meeting on a Saturday morning was better than a weekday evening.

Signed _____ S Shepherd, Chairman

Date _____