

ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL
UN-APPROVED MINUTES OF ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Orwell Parish Council was held in the back room of the Village Hall on
18th November 2015 at 7.30pm (19.30hrs)

Present: Mr W Talbot – Chairman (**WT**), Mr C Hoptroff – Vice-Chairman (**CH**), Mr A Pulham (**AP**), Mrs D Kennedy (**DK**), Mr N Hamilton (**NH**), Mrs M Lawton (**ML**), Mr D Rees (**DR**) and Mr N Szembel (**NS**)

In Attendance: Mrs S Walmesley – **Covering Clerk**, Cllr S Kindersley – **SK** (CCC) and Cllr A Van de Weyer - **AvdW** (SCDC)Mrs A Turnbull (Alison Turnbull Associates)

Guest Speaker; Alison Turnbull –S106 Grant Money

The Chairman introduced Ms Turnbull (Alison Turnbull Associates) and invited her to address the meeting.

Ms Turnbull advised that she had helped Teversham and Histon and Impington parishes with works of art in their villages. As SCDC had shed a lot of staff, who in the past would have been able to guide the Parish Council with their project, finding the right artist was essential. Ms Turnbull advised Councillors on how the S106 money could be spent which included temporary installations, performance related projects and sculptures. It was important to obtain community engagement in any project. WT asked the best way to find an artist. Ms Turnbull advised that the Parish Council could advertise on line, or in the press, but warned the council that they could become overwhelmed. The Council also had to make sure that the funds did not get eaten into by the cost of expenses. Ms Turnbull presented some photographs of artwork that she had been involved with.

ML asked if planters in the village could be classed as artwork. Ms Turnbull confirmed that they could providing they were designed by an artist and relevant to the village.

The Chairman thanked Ms Turnbull for her presentation adding that the Parish Council needed to decide how they were going to progress this.

172/11/15 Apologies for Absence:

Mrs J Damant (Clerk) and Mr M Clarke

173/11/15 Councillors to disclose any Pecuniary Interests (disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) include interests held by a member's spouse, civil partner or similar)) listed on the Agenda:

There were no interests declared.

174/11/15 Public participation: for up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

175/11/15 Minutes of the last meeting 21st October 2015:

The minutes were proposed by ML and seconded by CH. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

176/11/15 SCDC Report

AvdW advised that the consultation on the South Cambridgeshire Boundary review would be soon.

An update had been received on the LDP, in response to the Inspector questions, with the demand for housing around the same as the original recommendation. It was confirmed that no new sites were needed. Issues relating to the green belt and sustainability of proposed new settlements had also been addressed. SCDC now needed to carry out a consultation followed by a submission to the Inspector. It was hoped that the plan would be agreed and adopted during 2016.

It had been agreed at the Planning Portfolio holder meeting on the 17th November to delay the decision on the planning application referrals for at least six months. So the current system would remain in place.

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The SCDC property company were going to invest a further £100m in purchasing property. This contributed towards a regular income for SCDC to counteract the fall in the Government grant.

A discussion took place on the land which was already allocated for additional housing in the draft plan. It was noted that Northstowe had not yet been able to sell any of the land there. SK added that with the non adoption of the plan it gave a green light to speculative developers which was not only happening in South Cambridgeshire.

A discussion then took place on the 70%/30% split on affordable rented/shared equity housing. It was stated that this should be the same for speculative developments. The difficulty finding people to take on the shared housing was reiterated with reference made to homes on the Oatlands development.

The Chairman thanked AvdW for his report.

177/11/15 CCC Report

SK reported that the budget process was extremely challenging. The Council were currently holding a consultation asking for views on where £41m savings could be made in 2016/17. This was in addition to the £218m savings since 2009. £100m would be needed over the next five years. He added that the call on the budget was expanding all the time with the very old and young costing a lot. There would need to be cuts including reduced care support, withdrawal of the subsidy for post 16 education transport and mobile library services. The County Council had been trying to encourage the Parish Councils to take more control of local services as there were no caps on their precept. He reminded the meeting that the County and District Councils were capped at 2%.

NS asked for examples of how the County budget cuts would affect the villages. SK replied that services such as hedge cutting and sign cleaning would no longer be carried out routinely. He added that the County Council adopted policy was 'Spend to Save' but there just was not the money to do that. CH stated that cuts to the County vulnerable services would be seen as letting people down and ultimately adding to more pressure for the NHS.

WT stated that the Parish Council had put some steps in place with funding the Mobile Warden Scheme and Youth Club. Other ideas would be considered through the precept discussions for 2016/17.

ML referred to the lack of pothole filling and asked why there was a new cycle path on the A10. AvdW stated that the path was funded from an entirely different pot of Government money and was not from the County Council funds. He explained how the bids for the path were submitted.

CH pointed out that the Parish Council application for registration under the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch initiative could not go ahead as this scheme was only geared to householders and the Parish Council were classed as a business. He added that the word 'Community' was misleading.

The Chairman thanked SK for his report.

178/11/15 Article 4 Directions to remove permitted development rights from public houses:

The Chairman confirmed that he was hoping to follow this up within the next week.

Action: WT

179/11/15 Village Email System:

ML advised that she had spoken to Mrs Whiteoak as discussed at the last meeting. Mrs Whiteoak had confirmed that she was willing to carry on as best she could and agreed to let the Parish Council know if she needed any help.

180/11/15 Inter-Village Planning Issues;

CH reported that he had attended a meeting with neighbouring Parish Councils on the 17th November. Speculative planning applications were the key discussion. Foxton PC was leading this with an application for development refused by SCDC now going to appeal in February 2016. The result of the appeal would give other parishes an idea of what to expect. Foxton had recommended that Orwell appoint a Planning Lawyer and allow at least £600 in the precept to cover the legal agreement.

Shepreth, Harston and Melbourn representatives, who had additional new houses,

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had expressed their concern over the lack of consultation at the planning stage with local Doctor Surgeries. CH was aware that the Clerk had been in informal discussion with the local GP surgery for Orwell where she was advised they had the capacity to accept new patients. CH suggested that if a planning application for a large number of homes was received the Parish Council should seek a formal response from the surgery in writing.

The parishes gave an update on the stage they were at with their Neighbourhood Plans. They offered to let Orwell Councillors take guidance from them if needed. It was noted that at the present time Councillors were watching how the plans progressed before committing themselves.

CH concluded that all the parishes were embarrassed over the number of vacant shared equity homes in their villages. It was believed that there was a clause in the agreement that if the properties were not filled within a fixed time SDCD could enforce that the homes be put out to rent. AvdW agreed to clarify with SCDC.

The Chairman thanked CH for attending the meeting.

- 181/11/15 Planning: WT, CH, AP, MC and DK** (*Town and Country Planning Act 1990 schedule 1, paragraph 8*) (**Full planning minutes with comments are available from the Clerk**).
The Chairman reported that a planning meeting had been held before this Parish Council meeting. The following items were discussed –
S/2621/15/FL -55 Hillside –Single storey rear and side extension –Recommendation No Objection
Request for Deed of Easement for access off Meadowcroft Way –No objection as it was felt this would reduce the amount of heavy farm vehicles going through the village.
S/1934/15/FL Bramleys –SCDC had advised that planning permission had been refused for the erection of a detached garage and garden store.
- 182/11/15 Development Proposal on Hurdleditch Road (next to the primary school)**
Planning Advisor –NS reported that he had arranged a meeting with the land agenda for the 23rd November. He would ask views on whether some land could be sold to the Parish Council to extend the recreation area.
S106 Officer Meeting – NS then advised that a useful meeting had been held with the SCDC S106 Officer, James Fisher, who had advised a list of issues for reference. One issue that had been established was that Orwell was under provision with their recreational land. SCDC had a schedule on how much land villages should have for this purpose. It was noted that the village had over provision of open space due to the clunch pit.
Mr Fisher had advised that there were separate pots of S106 funding available and just because an allocation had been made from one did not prohibit a further allocation from another. NS added that at the right time the Parish Council should be able to come up with a requirement. AvdW offered to forward a copy of the Barrington CEMEX Section 106 to Councillors for reference.
DK suggested that consideration could be given to selling the existing recreation area for building and establishing a new recreation ground on the edge of the village. The issue of covenants on the existing ground was raised where it was confirmed that the ground could only be used as playing fields.
Councillors agreed that a meeting with the developer would not be sought at this stage.
The Chairman thanked NS and CH for the time and effort that they had put into this to date. He added that he felt progress was being made.
- 183/11/15 Cambridgeshire County Council's Corporate Communications:**
CH had advised the County Council of his dissatisfaction with the eligibility for Cambridgeshire Energy Switch.
- 184/11/15 Website:**
The Clerk advised that a website had been created www.orwellparishcouncil.btck.co.uk and had a sample of information posted on it. She added that for a small charge a more user friendly domain name could be purchased. The Chairman asked Councillors to look at the website for further discussion at the next meeting.

**Action: Cllrs
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185/11/15 Financial Matters:

1. Financial Statements for November 2015

2. Payments and Additional payments for November 2015

Local Government Act (LGA); Public Health Act (PHA); Open Space Act (OSA)

Company	Amount	Vat	Purpose	Power
Salaries s112	£ 615.78	0	salary	LGA 1972
Inland Revenue s112	£ 145.91	0	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972
MPC	£ 90.00	0	office rent	LGA 1972 s111
Eon	£ 14.13	0.93	electric for pavilion	LGA 1972 s111
Eon	£ 40.96	1.63	electric for pavilion	LGA 1972 s111
Mission Computers	£ 39.00		Youth Club leaflets	
Herts & Cambs	£ 198.00	33.00	Rec/BG grasscutting	OSA 1906
The British Legion	£17.00		Poppy Wreath	S137

3. Deposits:

Newlings of Royston £170.00 Burial Fees

Payments were proposed by WT, seconded by CH all in favour.

The Chairman advised that payment for the Youth Club leaflets had been raised by the club and would not be coming out of the precept.

186/11/15 Precept 2016/17

CH had circulated a draft proposal for the precept to Councillors to commence discussions. The Chairman explained the process and the proposed breakdown of figures. NS suggested that following on from the County report the Parish Council might consider employing a 'Handyman' to cover some of the jobs that the County Council would no longer carry out. It was agreed that the suggestion would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

CH asked Councillors for their feedback and ideas for further discussion on the Budget/Precept requirement at the next meeting. **Action: Cllrs**

187/11/15 Oatlands:

The concerns relating to the vacant shared equity ownership homes had been raised under the SCDC report.

188/11/15 Solar Farm (Community Benefit Money)

In the absence of AP at the last meeting this item had been deferred. On a proposal by AP, seconded by DR, the Strategy for Development which was the process for the community to apply for grants, was adopted with all Councillors in agreement. It was agreed that bids would be considered by Councillors as they were received. The Chairman agreed to include details in his Parish Council notes for the Bulletin.

Action:WT

189/11/15 Recreation Ground;

Play Equipment Monthly Inspection –In working order

Bench near the play equipment –There was no update on this particular bench. AP advised that he was aware parents would like a fixed picnic bench which he would include in the specification for replacement play equipment.

Discussion on new play equipment –AP reported that he had received three examples of items, to replace existing, as a result of the consultation carried out. The cost would be around the agreed £12,500. He would aim to get three quotations and bring back to the Parish Council. ML advised that she had been looking at a cycle trail but this was no longer available.

Public Art Grant –A presentation had been made by Alison Turnbull (Alison Turnbull Associates) at the beginning of the meeting.

190/11/15 Redevelopment of the Recreation Ground:

The Chairman advised that he had been approached by some parishioners interested in looking at options for the relocation of the recreation area. He would set up a date for a meeting to include CH and AP. Potential dates would be circulated. **Action: WT, CH, AP**

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- 191/11/15 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
A report was not available for the meeting.
- 192/11/15 Village Maintenance;**
Mulberry Tree Pruning and maintenance of wall
The Clerk asked whether a partial or full pruning of the tree was required. This would then be progressed. Councillors agreed a partial pruning was needed. The cost of this would need to be agreed. **Action: Clerk**
- 193/11/15 Bulletin:**
It was noted that Jenny Burrow was helping out with the production of the current edition.
- 194/11/15 Councillors' Reports and Areas of Responsibility:**
Burial Ground –ML expressed concern over the overgrown hedges in the Burial Ground and asked for a copy of the maintenance specification which the Clerk agreed to forward. The Clerk advised that the grasscutting contractor had been given the go ahead for an additional cut of the grass. ML asked to be advised when this was likely to take place. **Action : Clerk**
Colbatch & Hooper–The Chairman explained that the history of the Trust was to support young people of the village with their education. He added that there were a lot of happy parents.
Youth Club – The Chairman reported that the club had started up again with all local youngsters. It was hoped that a new committee would be formed in the new year.
Car Park Lights – CH confirmed that he had reported the lights, which were not working, to Cambridgeshire County Council. He had received an acknowledgement.
Community Speedwatch – NS had received notification that Speedwatch was now operational in the village. An appeal had been put out for volunteers. It was assumed that there would be a notification in the Bulletin.
Footpath from Town Green Road to Cross Lane Close (footpath 7) – DR confirmed that the County Council had agreed to repair the path between Town Green Road and Cross Lane Close. DR raised concern over a self seeded tree on the path which was not the County Council responsibility. Adjacent landowners did not acknowledge ownership either. Councillors agreed that due to the size of the tree it needed to be removed professionally as a safety issue. It was agreed that DR would obtain quotations for the removal of the tree for discussion as an agenda item at the next meeting. **Action: DR**
SCDC Tree –NH expressed concern over a tree located in a dyke which belonged to South Cambridgeshire District Council who had carried out work on the tree in the past. He added that the tree appeared to be unsafe. It was suggested that NH contact SCDC directly, as a resident, expressing concern over the tree copying in AvdW. **Action:NH**
- 195/11/15 Agenda items for the next meeting:**
-Employment of a village 'Handyman'
-Quotations for removal of Tree (Town Green Road footpath)
-Celebration of HM Queens 90th Birthday
-TV Licence for Pavilion
-Standing agenda item for Community Grant Requests

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40. The next meeting will be held on 16th December 2015 in the back room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Chairman

Date

For the avoidance of doubt the only legally acceptable version of the Minutes of Orwell Parish Council are those signed in Public Meetings by the Chairman. They are available for public inspection from the Clerk.

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