



ORLETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Orleton Parish Council
Held on Thursday 20th June 2024
at 6pm
in the Village Hall
Millbrook Way, Orleton**

PRESENT: Councillors – Colin Mitchell (chair), Veronica Bishop, David Lane, Ron Gittins, Barry Rogers (acting minutes secretary) and Mark Simmons.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Dan Hurcomb (Bircher Ward) – Hereford Council and 3 members of the general public.

MINUTES

1. To receive apologies of absence.

None were received. Cllr Simmons arrived at 6.30 pm.

2. To consider any declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation on agenda items.

Cllr Lane **DECLARED** a personal interest in item 8.2. and confirmed that whilst speaking on this subject he would not take part in any formal votes that may arise.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2024.

The minutes were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Open session (limited to 10 minutes)

To receive views of local residents on items set out in the agenda and other parish matters proposed for inclusion in future agendas.

- A local resident has complained about the state of the hedge separating Ashley Walk from Millbrook Way.
- This matter was considered to be the responsibility of Balfour Beatty who will be contacted with a request to cut the hedge.
- Consideration was given to various over-grown hedges in the parish which are clearly the responsibility of the landowners and it was agreed that the chairman will use the Parish Council website to make a 'gentle' reminder to landowners of their obligations.

5. Finance.

1. To note the bank balance on the 31st May 2024
NOTED £36,572. 60
2. Leo Pest Control, May 2024 - £85.00 – **APPROVED**
3.
 1. Clerk's salary for May 2024 – **APPROVED**
 2. Government debt office (OVH car park) loan £1096.07 – **APPROVED**
 3. Refund of VAT - £3884.98 – **ACKNOWLEDGED**
 4. Refund of clerk's training from Colwall PC - £470.00 – **ACKNOWLEDGED**
 5. To approve the appointment of Olena Hayward to continue banking arrangements for the Parish Council until a new clerk has been recruited – **APPROVED.**

6. Highways SIDS

Cllr Bishop reported that the delivery of the equipment could be expected by the end of July. The Parish Council should expect to buy the posts. The supply of other essential components is in progress.

7. Green Lane Road sign purchase

The supply and installation of road signs are the responsibility of the County Council. Cllr Dan Hurcomb reported that this was the business of the Locality Steward at Balfour Beatty, whom he offered to contact on our behalf.

8. Flood resilience – Orleton Flood Management Scheme

Cllr Lane reported that a micro-drainage modelling exercise has been promised by the Highway Authority. This should provide a very accurate profile of the defects in the highway drainage system. However at the moment we still await a timetable for commencement and subsequent review.

Initial estimates by Ed Bradford (Head of Highways) suggest the proposed redirection of flows from the Maidenhead junction around the village, proposed by the Parish Council, might cost £60-70k.

Cllr Lane has received correspondence from a resident in Green Lane, who complains about the flooding of their property due to a blocked field drain and culvert. The landowner is to be contacted and informed of his duty to maintain existing drainage systems.

9. Update and reports

- a. **Village Hall** – Cllr Gittins reported that Mr Mackay was completing the PAT testing of VH equipment. The installation of the new boiler and oil tank will commence on the 15th of July. On October 19th October, Ludlow Male Voice choir will perform in the hall. St Georges day celebrations were a success and will be repeated next year. The spraying of the car park with weed killer is to be carried out next month by the Lengthsman.

- b. **ORA** – Cllr Powell reported that resident teenagers have created a cycle track in the wooded area of the recreation ground. Retrospective approval had been given with the clear understanding that no insurance cover is provided and that this activity is carried out at the cyclist's own risk.
The fete, held on the field and in the village hall was a great success. Orleton & District Junior Football Club (O&DJFC) had recently held, over a weekend, a successful football tournament. Whilst not making a firm commitment, a member of the committee believed it was likely that following their AGM in July the ODJFC could make donations to the VH and Rec.
- c. **Highways** – In addition to item 6 of the agenda, Cllr Bishop reported that, due to a shortage of tarmac the re-surfacing of the Kings Road was to be delayed.
- d. **Land Drainage Group** – Cllr Lane reported that the County Council Flood Wardens were now fully equipped and ready to deal with road closures during a flood. In such an eventuality the roads would not be opened until any resulting debris was removed. Three of the seven flood wardens had now been trained with the rest to follow. Silt, under the bridge at Millbrook Way had once again been cleared. Some riparian owners had expressed their thanks for the clearing of vegetation on their brook banks. Property Flood Resistance measures are to be provided by Hereford Council with central government funding of £4500 - £5000 per property. In Orleton there are a number of properties at risk which will benefit from the scheme.
- e. **Footpaths** – Cllr Gittins reported that repair to the bridge, near the sewage plant is to be carried out. CC Cllr Dan Hurcomb advised caution when repairing bridges and suggested we liaise with the PROW (Public Rights of Way) dept. This line of action was already well in hand. Mr Martin Bradford, footpaths officer, had been awarded £700 from a local Rotary club. The money will be used to purchase an industrial hedge cutter.

10. Update from HC Bircher Ward, Cllr Dan Hurcomb

A wide-ranging review of Council issues was given. A detailed copy of which will be forwarded to the PC. Of particular interest was the advice to extend our footpath funding, Cllr Hurcomb would assist. Hedges are being cut by the CC. Farmer Rob Harris to be thanked by the Chairman for his work in making the splays in the vicinity of the Ashley Moor Road junction safer. The local drainage fund is under intense demand from PCs around the county. The current CC financial deficit stands at £8.7 million – the council's finance is predicted to break even next year. Cllr Hurcomb had been pleased to attend the many village events held in the last month.

11. Correspondence from the Parochial church Council

1. Following a satisfactory report from the PCC it was proposed by Cllr Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Lane and unanimously agreed that the conditions of the grant award to the PCC for maintenance of the churchyard had been met.
2. Cllr Mitchell explained the PC position regarding the footpath and 'Kissing Gate'. The PC could no further enter into discussions over this matter. CC Cllr Hurcomb offered help to the PCC if required.

12. Employment

The appointment of a Parish Council clerk will continue next week when Cllrs Mitchell and Rogers will interview a candidate for the post.

13. The letter from the Green Lane residence

Dealt with in item 8

14. Next meeting

There were no matters suggested for the next meeting which will be at 6pm on the 18th July 2024

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Signed – Chairman of the Council ...