

Minutes of the Offley Parish Council Meeting

Incorporating Offley – Cockernhoe – Tea Green – Mangrove Green

Wednesday 7th April 2021 7.30pm

Due to the Government restrictions this meeting was Virtual and held via Zoom

Present: Cllr. Mrs Balfour Lynn
Cllr. Mrs B. Dyer
Cllr. A. Forsyth
Cllr. N. Jay
Cllr. Mrs S Miller
Cllr. S. Patmore
Cllr. R. Piepenstock
Cllr. Mrs N. Roberts

In attendance: Cllr. David Barnard
Cllr. Mrs C Strong
David Sample – Clerk
Members of the Public

Minutes

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Any Councillor required to make a declaration of interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted in March 2021 must declare such interest at the start of the meeting.	ALL
3	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u> It was proposed and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd March 2021 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting. <i>The minutes were approved.</i>	
4	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA</u>	CLERK
5	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</u>	
6	<u>URGENT ITEMS</u>	
7	<u>Public Questions</u>	
8	<u>HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</u> The council was now in purdah due to the forth coming elections on May 6 th .	DB
9	<u>NORTH HERTS DISTRICT</u> Cllr Strong reported that the Local plan was on the Cabinet agenda. This would be followed by a public consultation period.	CS
10	<u>PLANNING</u>	Clerk
10.1	Planning Consultation 21/00829/LBC at 3 Home Farm Court	
10.2	Planning Consultation 21/00231/LBC at 4 Home Farm Court	
10.3	Planning Consultation 21/00526/FPH at 7 John Hall Court	
10.4	Planning Consultation 21/00425/FPH at 6 Claypit Cottages	
10.5	Planning Consultation 20/02577/FP at The Green Man revised	
10.6	Planning Consultation 20/02578/LBC at The Green Man revised	
	<u>Other planning applications - outstanding</u>	
10.7	20/00594/OP at School House Offley	
10.8	Local Plan – see District Council report above.	

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10.9	London Luton Airport	
11	<u>FINANCE</u>	
11.1	Report on Payments and Income All payments are up to date.	RFO
11.2	The clerk reported that the Precept part one was due beginning of April	
11.3	The clerk reported that the funding from Southern Rural had been received.	
12	<u>CURRENT PROJECTS</u>	
12	<u>OFFLEY</u>	
12.1	OFFLEY RECREATION CENTRE (ORC)	
12.2	Offley Green (Village Green) work in progress	Clerk
12.3	Offley Allotment Association (OAA). Cllr N. Jay gave a short presentation on the newly formed OAA. A request was made for support with funding to help get the OAA of the ground. A grant of £500.00 was agreed subject to the OAA meeting the criteria. (Bank Account and Constitution)	
12.4.	<u>COCKERNHOE – MANGROVE – TEA GREEN</u>	Clerk
12.4.1	Dancote Development – on hold pending the local plan outcome	
12.4.2	Dormer Glade – on hold pending the Local plan outcome	
	<u>GENERAL</u>	
12.5	Police Report – Published in the Village Voice	
12.6	Community Library – in the Green Man. Now closed for lockdown	
12.7	Repair of Old Stone Benches The clerk reported that we had found craftsman will to repair the benches. The cost would be £620.00 each. This below the cost of buying new for a similar quality product. The expenditure was approved.	
12.8	Dog Poo in and around the villages. The clerk reported that new signs had been purchased and would be installed over the coming weeks. During the meeting we had a request put forward by a member of the public that the PC should consider offering FREE dog poo bags to all and sundry. This matter was discussed and it was found to be unmanageable. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where to place the dispensers? 2. Who would refill the dispensers? 3. Why should all residents pay for something that the dog owners should provide as a matter of course? The onus is on the dog owner to pick up after the dog has done its business. 4. Is the cost justifiable given the points above? 	
12.9	Stop Mowing parts of the village greens as part of a biodiversity program. A short presentation was made by a member of the public as to why it should be considered. After much debate and discussion, it was agreed that we would not be adopting this request. It was however considered worth investigating further how we could help the biodiversity around Cockernhoe Pond. Reasons why we should not consider at present. <p><i>Unmown areas would need to be cut twice a year and the hay gathered.</i></p> <p><i>Long grass may give off more pollen.</i></p> <p><i>Difficult to see and collect litter and Dog Poo in long grass.</i></p> <p><i>Unightly particularly as the greens have never looked better.</i></p> <p><i>From a straw poll in Cockernhoe and Mangrove the idea was not accepted.</i></p>	
13	<u>HERTS Highways.</u>	
13.1	The A505 Offley off Slip see below	CLERK
13.2	Kings Walden Road to Offley Hoo see below.	

13.3	Harris Lane White Lining. The clerk reported that Cllr Barnard after his meeting with Highways indicated that funding for signs may be available.	
14	RIGHTS OF WAY	
15	Parish Play Areas – The clerk reported that the order for new equipment in Elmtree has been ordered.	CLERK
16	CLERKS REPORT Copy Date for the May 2021 issue of the village voice 15 th April 2021.	
17	ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA none requested	CLERK
18	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 5 th May 2021 at 7.30pm. plus, Annual Parish Meeting This will be another Zoom meeting – details on the Agenda	
19	The zoom meeting closed at 9.10pm	