



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON
18th AUGUST 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllrs K Ball (to item 89/20), J Coffey, R Coleman, M Killick, W MacPhee, J Raw (Vice Chair and meeting Chair), D Stewart and P Verdon.

In attendance: Andrea Mann, Parish Clerk.

Also present: 5 members of the public.

- 80/20 To receive and accept apologies for absence**
Received from Cllr A McFarlane, Cllr C Seabrook, Hart DC Cllr K Crookes and Hants CC Cllr J Glen.
- 81/20 To receive declarations of interests and requests for dispensation relating to any item on the agenda**
Cllr K Ball declared an interest in agenda item 90/20 "Market Fixings".
- 82/20 Approval of minutes**
RESOLVED
The minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st July were approved by Members as a true record of the meeting and would be signed by the Chair in person as soon as practical.
- 83/20 Chair's announcements**
Cllr Raw reported that an application for an Asset of Community Value for the Galleon Marine had been submitted and OPC had received a letter from the owner.
- 84/20 To accept on behalf of the parish three paintings of Odiham donated by Basingstoke Cllr Miller**
The Vice Chair formally accepted three framed paintings of Odiham donated by Basingstoke Cllr Paul Miller. Cllr Miller explained he had bought the paintings some time ago in Heckfield and thought it was fitting for the paintings to be returned to Odiham. Councillors thanked Cllr Miller and said they would be displayed in the Parish Room.
- 85/20 Public Session**
1. The Clerk read a statement provided by Mr Harris, who was unable to attend the meeting, in support of agenda item 91/20. The full statement had been circulated to Members before the meeting. The letter explained the history of the footpath running adjacent with Mildmay Court and the focus of the argument to keep the path open. Following several months of dialogue with Hants CC, Mr Harris presented two options:



- i) To achieve agreement on the rights of way, take all notices down which discourage public access, erect "Public Right of Way" notices and achieve a signed legal accepted document.
- ii) To get the footpath legally corrected by submitting the DMMO 1249 to the Secretary of State requesting Hants CC to progress the DMMO with urgency.

Mr Harris asked OPC to agree and progress the DMMO application process by writing to the Secretary of State.

2. Mr Scullion read a statement relating to agenda item 91/20 and referred to his previous statement in January, suggesting OPC's agreement with Medalstable had unwittingly encouraged Hants CC to defer consideration of the Mildmay footpath. Mr Scullion supported Mr Harris's request of asking OPC to write to the Secretary of State to ask Hants CC to prioritise the DMMO 1249 application. Mr Scullion referred to his previous offer of contacting as many as the 80+ residents as possible who submitted evidence supporting the original DMMO application. Mr Scullion commented that the majority of 80+ residents mentioned above were not ex-Councillors.
3. Mr Harvey said that he had suggested an alternative route to the Mildmay footpath a couple of years ago which had been dismissed without proper consideration. The route ran through the cemetery which raised several issues; no dogs permitted in the cemetery, gravel path and whether a route through the cemetery was appropriate but the decision to dismiss the concept was unsubstantiated.

86/20 Previous Committee Minutes

RESOLVED

The following committee minutes were received and noted:

Minutes of the Planning & Development Committee held on 14th July 2020.

87/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the agenda and full Council Action Points List

The Clerk reported that a meeting was being scheduled to start preparations for the 2020 Remembrance event and rainbow flags would be purchased in time for the 2021 Pride week.

88/20 Notice of Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2020

RESOLVED

The External Auditors review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Odiham Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2020 was accepted and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit noted.



89/20

Odiham Library Closure

Cllr McFarlane's report, as presented with the agenda, was discussed and considered. Councillors agreed for H Fleming to address the meeting who had made deputation to the Hants CC decision meeting on 28th July. H Fleming paid tribute to the members of public who had stepped forward at short notice to speak at the meeting to campaign to save the Odiham library service.

Following the meeting on 28th July, it was evident certain residents wanted to pursue options for an Odiham Community Library to overcome the challenge for 60% of current users getting to the closest Library outside Odiham once Odiham Library closed.

The Clerk reported from a meeting held with Hants CC Library Officers clarifying details in the report:

- A Community Library would not be run by Hampshire Library Services.
- Hants CC was offering a new Odiham Community Library access to the Group Membership scheme, which offered 100 books on loan 4 times per year, and a grant of £10,000 to help towards transitional, set up costs.
- Odiham Library would close at the end of 2020 but Hants CC would be flexible on dates for a new Community Library if a realistic proposal was in the pipeline.

RESOLVED

- i) To set up a working group to research options and feasibility for a Community Library and to continue dialogue with Hants CC. Cllrs Coffey, MacPhee and Verdon were agreed as members of the working group and Cllr Raw accepted membership of the group as Chair, with the intention that Cllr McFarlane would take this position if she was agreeable.
- ii) The Library Working Group terms of reference were agreed.

Cllr K Ball declared an interest in the following agenda item and left the meeting. Due to technical difficulties, she was unable to re-join the meeting.

90/20

Market Fixings

The Parish Clerk's report presented with the agenda was discussed and considered. The Clerk explained the background behind the report which had initiated from InOdiham's grant request and subsequent meeting where InOdiham explained why the fixings were needed for H&S reasons to prevent the market being cancelled during high winds. It was suggested OPC could take a lead on this work as the cost to InOdiham would be higher than to OPC.

Several questions were raised:



- Was this an appropriate use of the Re-energising the High St earmarked reserve?
- Would this expenditure purely benefit commercial traders?
- Was the number of proposed fixings correct? How many traders would benefit?
- Was there any evidence to show that High St businesses benefited from the weekly market?
- How often had the market been cancelled due to high winds?

Further to discussion, Councillors

RESOLVED

- i) Not to take a lead on this project.

As a result, no vote was taken on:

- ii) Should OPC utilise funds from the Re-energising the High Street earmarked reserve.
- iii) Whether to award a contract
- iv) Not to progress the required licence applications.

Instead, Councillors asked for further research:

- Using the High St business Whatsapp group, to establish whether the weekly market benefitted the High St businesses.
- Establish how many times the market had recently been cancelled due to high winds.

91/20

Mildmay Ct Footpath DMMO 1249

Councillors discussed and considered the written request from a resident asking OPC to consider making representation to the Secretary of State requesting expedition of the DMMO application 1249 at Mildmay Court. Councillors had also heard statements from three members of the public at the start of the meeting.

Comments included the view that it was unfortunate the original application had been made by OPC as an application from the community would have been more appropriate. Current Councillors had not had sight of the original DMMO application or “80+ signatures” as OPC had not kept a copy of the DMMO application. Councillors also considered it inappropriate for OPC to be involved in what was effectively a dispute between two groups of residents.

Cllr Verdon read an email from the Hants CC Map Review Manager which clarified questions on the DMMO application process:

- There was no right of appeal to the Secretary of State’s decision.



- The Secretary of State's decision would have no bearing on Hants CC's investigation or outcome, only the speed with which Hants CC would start investigating the application.
- Hants CC would continue to keep the matter of prioritisation under review and would look again at expediting the application should there be a change in circumstances.
- Hants CC noted the path was open, albeit with clear signage the route was not a public right of way.

Councillors voted on the motion presented with the agenda and

RESOLVED

To write to the Secretary of State requesting expedition of the DMMO 1249 application.

92/20

OPC Policy Review

The Parish Clerk's review of policies was noted and it was

RESOLVED

To accept the recommendations within the report, including removing policies:

- Complaints Procedure, June 2019 as this was superseded by the Statement of Commitment to the Parish of Odiham 2019-23.
- Protocol for public and press reporting at meetings as the Openness of Local Council Bodies 2014 takes precedence.

93/20

The Swan, North Warnborough

Councillors were asked to consider the proposal from Cllr McFarlane for OPC to lobby Hart DC to provide at least one social rented, affordable or shared ownership dwellings in the Swan redevelopment. Councillors questioned what Hart DC's plans for the site were to which Councillors responded they were unaware of any agreed plans. Further to discussion, Councillors

RESOLVED

To lobby Hart District Council to provide at least one social rented, affordable or shared ownership dwelling as part of the Swan redevelopment.

94/20

August 2020 Payments

The August payments listing was presented to decision. Councillors queried the SSE payment which appeared to be high considering the Parish Room had not been occupied during the lockdown. The Clerk agreed to look into this.

RESOLVED

The payments listing for August 2020 circulated to Members before the meeting was approved and Cllrs R Coleman and P Verdon were appointed to complete the payment approval process.



95/20

Buryfields School Grant Application

Following consideration of a grant application at the previous meeting to install a running track, the meeting considered whether to release the £1,000 set aside for this project following receipt of further information requested by OPC.

Councillors agreed the response clarified why a running track had been chosen and

RESOLVED

To release £1,000 from the Community Grants budget to Buryfields School towards the cost of installing a running track.

Councillor Reports

96/20

Meeting reports from Councillors

Cllr P Verdon reported from a meeting with Hart DC and a consultant starting the process of updating the Conservation Area Character Appraisals. Hart DC would start the process by briefing the consultant on the way Planning Officers used the Appraisals in considering applications and influencing policy decisions. Then OPC would work with the Consultant to update the Appraisals and Cllr Verdon and H Fleming would start by revising the current Appraisals. Cllr Verdon said the meeting was positive and the work would ultimately provide a more usable planning tool for everyone to reference.

Cllr D Stewart reported from a meeting with a resident of Nursery Terrace who experienced difficulty in accessing her property in a mobility buggy due to parking on the pavement outside Nursery Terrace. Cllr Stewart had asked for this to be added to the full Council agenda and the Clerk clarified that enquiries were in progress and the matter would be added to the next Traffic & Transport Committee agenda.

97/20

Reports from other Councillors

There were no County of District Councillors present.

98/20

To note the date of the next meeting:

The date of the next meeting was noted as 15th September at 7.30pm.

Confidential Matters

99/20

To exclude the public and press to consider confidential matters

ALL Members unanimously AGREED to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press to consider confidential staffing matters.
(Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Non-OPC members then left the meeting.



100/20

Exempt Staff Related Matters

Councillors considered matters arising from an exempt staff related matter.
Refer to exempt minutes for full details.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Signed.....

Date.....