



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON
17th NOVEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllrs A McFarlane (Chair), K Ball, J Coffey, R Coleman,
W MacPhee, C Seabrook, D Stewart and P Verdon.

In attendance: Andrea Mann, Parish Clerk and Sara Jones, Interim Deputy Parish Clerk.

Also present: Hants CC Cllr J Glen, Hart DC K Crookes and 6 members of the public.

147/20 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Killick.

148/20 To receive declarations of interests and requests for dispensation relating to any item on the agenda

Cllr D Stewart declared an interest in the RAF Christmas gifts (agenda item 157/20) and Councillors agreed that he would remain in the meeting but not take part in discussions or vote.

149/20 Approval of minutes

RESOLVED

The minutes of the previous full Council meeting held on 20th October were revised to include a minor correction and agreed as a true record of the meeting, to be signed by the Chair at a later date.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, ALL agreed).

150/20 Chair's announcements

The Chair reported that the letter written to the Secretary of State regarding the Mildmay DMMO application was forwarded to two email addresses but had not received an acknowledgement of receipt.

151/20 Public Session

- i) D Downie spoke as a member of the Library working group in support of the proposal to set up a community led, book swap scheme. She referred to HCC user stats, highlighting the benefit to those users with limited access to other libraries and resources and said the reliance on access through the internet did not meet everyone's need. She hoped that, in a year's time, Odiham would have a thriving book exchange which was considered to be a vital part of the community.
- ii) J Liddiard spoke on behalf of the Buryfields School representative on the Library Working Group. She also supported the proposal for the community led, book swap model and asked for the needs of the children to be taken into account. She explained that the children had conducted their own petition to save Odiham Library earlier in the year and the benefits of learning through reading. J Liddiard also detailed



the challenge and cost of travelling to the closest library at the end of the school day.

- iii) H Neophytou addressed the Council, raising concerns on the proposed positioning of the two new bus shelters and current pedestrian crossing, asking Councillors and members of HCC to consider looking at the area more closely with regards to safety. She reported safety concerns from a large number of parents who walked this road as a school route. Specific concerns were raised on the position of traffic lights, poor visibility for the Alton Road traffic, excessive traffic speeds across roundabout (with three reports of cars jumping the lights in the past month), poor pavements and markings. She appealed to Councillors to look closely at the school walking route and consider moving the lights in line with the Recreation Ground.

The Chair proposed to move the related agenda items 155/20 and 159/20 further up the agenda and no objections were raised.

152/20 Previous Committee Minutes

RESOLVED

The minutes of the Planning & Development Committees held on 6th October were noted and accepted.

153/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the agenda and full Council Action Points List

The action list presented with the agenda was noted, no questions were raised.

155/20 Odiham Library Working Group

Councillors considered the recommendations from the Library Working Group to progress plans for a community led, book exchange, fully detailed in the agenda report. The Chair said there was no need to add to the public deputation made at the start of the meeting and asked whether Councillors had any questions they wanted to raise. None were raised and it was

RESOLVED

- i) To agree support for a voluntary, community led, book exchange to be proposed to HCC. (Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Coffey, ALL in favour).
- ii) To lead on the funding application for a transitional grant to form a community led, book swap exchange. (Proposed by Cllr A McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, ALL in favour).

159/20 Bus Shelters, B3349, Alton Road

In response to the public deputation, Cllr Stewart informed the meeting he and HCC had looked at the area in question some time ago, including the traffic lights, which had cemented the location for the pedestrian crossing. He explained that OPC had no powers to enforce a change, he was happy to co-



ordinate, but HCC was the authority who could make decisions on this. He suggested that the Crownfields development may provide a future opportunity to re-look at the area. Cllr Stewart said he would support a lollipop person along this school route during walking times.

HCC Cllr Glen suggested the correct process was for OPC to formally agree this suggestion then refer the decision to HCC, warning that funding may be difficult. Cllr Stewart confirmed he was referring to a volunteer role. There would still be a cost implication for training but this was something which could be researched.

Cllr Stewart proposed, seconded by Cllr McFarlane that OPC agree to support a plea for a lollipop person at the bottom of B3349, Alton Road. ALL Councillors agreed.

Councillors then considered the proposed designs for two new bus shelters on the Alton Road, close to the former Crown Inn.

Concerns were raised over the depth of the pavement and whether the proposed designs would restrict access for pedestrians, wheelchairs and buggies. The Clerk clarified there was a further proposal from HCC to increase the pavement depth on the opposite side to the Crown Inn development.

RESOLVED

That OPC prefers the widest, half side panel design, subject to sufficient space on the pavement which didn't impacting on the space, in black.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Seabrook, ALL in favour)

154/20

OPC's Response to the 2nd Covid Lockdown

The Clerk's summary of actions was noted, as presented with the agenda. The Chair added that she had been contacted by the Hart Voluntary Action group and a local volunteer. She has started writing to all volunteers registered during the first lockdown asking for confirmation they were happy and available to continue supporting vulnerable residents. The Chair expressed concerns there maybe a long-term community need which OPC didn't have the resources to provide, particularly for the extremely vulnerable.

156/20

The Bridewell

The Chair provided a verbal update to formally report OPC's intention to undertake feasibility research for taking over the Bridewell freehold. Full details were to be considered in an exempt discussion later in the agenda due to confidential contractual exemptions. The Chair asked all Councillors for their initial views and gave each Councillor the opportunity to respond.

Initial research showed that running costs could be met by income and the Chair clarified that the running costs provided in library agenda item 155/20



were for running the entire building not just the library. It was noted that a condition survey carried out by HCC had identified several matters for repair and HCC had made available a small grant scheme for this purpose.

The Chair clarified the Library Working Group's recommendation for a community led book swap model was made on the assumption the library space would be available, certainly for the first year, regardless of the freeholder.

Councillors noted the need to understand full details of HCC's offer and the possible outcomes should OPC decide not to proceed.

Councillors agreed this opportunity created:

- many potential benefits to the community
- freedom to promote the building for community use
- this would also support OPC's priority to support the High Street
- flexibility over library space which is un-used for much of the week
- The Bridewell freehold could be considered in association with the Parish Rooms which could be freed up, eg for a history room/museum.

157/20

RAF Christmas Gifts

The Chair reported that Cllr Killick had informed OPC the current number of overseas personnel was in line with 2019. Councillors considered expenditure of the RAF Christmas Gifts budget and

RESOLVED

To purchase £15 Amazon vouchers for each overseas personnel, up to the £2,500 available budget.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, 7 in favour, Cllr Stewart did not vote).

158/20

Scheme of Delegation

RESOLVED

The draft Scheme of Delegation presented with the agenda was adopted.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Stewart, ALL in favour).

160/20

Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee

The Chair explained the background behind this recommendation being that other members of the committee had questioned why OPC was not invited to the committee to oversee OPC's contribution for the management of this SSSI and conservation area. The annual grant was thought to be approximately £4,000, a significant percentage of the precept.

Cllr Stewart, as OPC's representative on the Basingstoke Canal Society, supported the proposal and shared concerns that OPC was not on the committee.



Cllr Glen was asked to contribute to discussions for the purpose of clarification but declined due to his position of Chair of the Committee. However, he did clarify that HCC's priority was to keep the canal safe for its users.

Cllr Crookes was able to clarify the history of the parish contributions for the upkeep of the canal. A calculation had been agreed many years ago which set the level of contribution from each Council adjoining the Canal. For Hart, Hart District Council paid a set sum and the remainder was shared between those parishes adjoining the canal. The Hart Association of Parish & Town Councils was appointed to the committee to represent all the parishes which had agreed to support the canal financially. Some time later, Fleet TC was granted a seat on the committee, setting a precedent. Cllr Crookes confirmed that Hart DC considered the conservation area when considering planning applications adjacent to the canal.

RESOLVED

To request OPC representation on the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee to oversee OPC's budget contribution of approximately £4,000 per annum. Should the request be agreed, Cllr McFarlane would be put forward as OPC's representative.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Stewart, 7 in favour, 1 abstention).

Financial Matters

161/20 November 2020 Payments

RESOLVED

The November payments listing circulated to Councillors before the meeting was approved. Cllrs Coleman and Verdon were appointed to complete the online, payment approval process.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Coleman, ALL in favour).

Councillor Reports

162/20 Meeting reports from Councillors

Cllr Verdon reported from a recent meeting with InOdiham where committee members had been very enthusiastic planning Christmas activities. There would be a Christmas "sing carols on doorstep" event with a recording from the church choir, advent windows along High Street and a "Christmas Crows" trail.

163/20 Reports from other Councillors

Hants CC Cllr Glen - Cllr Glen referred to his written report circulated to Councillors before the meeting (Appendix 1). Further to the written report, Cllr Glen reported that several parishes had received pre-applications from solar panel companies and feared there was a drive to build solar farms across the entire Hart area, including: Long Sutton, a proposal which would surround the parish and Greywell, which may affect Odiham. The Chair responded noting



OPC had already considered an application for Cholsey Farm and Cllr Verdon reported that the Planning & Development Committee would be commenting on the Long Sutton application the following day. Cllr Glen urged OPC to liaise with other parishes and refer to the representation from the Whitewater Valley Preservation Society.

Hart DC K Crookes confirmed that Hart DC was pushing for environmental impact assessments to be carried out for the solar farm proposals. He then referred to his report circulated before the meeting (Appendix 2).

164/20 Date of the next meeting:

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

Confidential Matters

165/20 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 contractual and staffing matters. (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. (Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Stewart, ALL in favour)

Non-OPC members then left the meeting.

166/20 The Bridewell

RESOLVED

To approve the award of contract to The Goddard Partnership for a Condition Survey Review and Forward Planning work (Part 1), subject, to assurance this work included an independent physical inspection of the building.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Coffey, 7 agreed, 1 abstention).

Part 2 of the fee proposal would be considered at a later date, depending on the outcome of Part 1.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.03pm.

Signed.....

Date.....