



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON
20th APRIL 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllrs A McFarlane (Chair), K Ball, J Coffey, R Coleman, A Fraser (from 288/20), W MacPhee, J Raw, C Seabrook, D Stewart (from 292/20) and P Verdon.

In attendance: Andrea Mann (Parish Clerk) and Sara Jones (Deputy Clerk).

Also present: Hampshire CC Cllr Glen, Hart DC Cllrs Crookes and Kennett and 7 members of the public.

- 280/20 To receive and accept apologies for absence**
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Fraser who was hoping to join the meeting later.
- 281/20 To receive declarations of interests and requests for dispensation relating to any item on the agenda**
None.
- 282/20 Approval of minutes**
RESOLVED
The minutes of the previous full Council meeting held on 30th March were 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 in favour).
- 283/20 Chair's Announcements**
- i) The Chair and Cllr Verdon had attended a meeting earlier the same day where they learned the Rural Exception Site development would be breaking ground June/July and completed April 2022. OPC had been asked to help promote the housing locally.
 - ii) The Chair explained there were no payments presented to the meeting for approval as these had previously been approved by the Finance Committee.
 - iii) The Chair thanked Topsoil UK Odiham Ltd for their kind donation of £1,000 towards The Bridewell project.
- 284/20 Public Session**
A member of the public, speaking on behalf of The Cross Barn, offered advice and support to OPC should OPC agree to accept The Bridewell freehold.

The Chair proposed that The Bridewell Freehold (Item 292/20) be considered next and no objections were raised.



292/20

The Bridewell Freehold

The Chair introduced the agenda report and updated Members on two outstanding matters previously requested to support OPC's decision.

- i) Cost of alternative accommodation - Cllr Coffey provided a summary of his review of commercial rents in Odiham and surrounding areas. His review considered required floorspace for office space and for the Book Exchange and included several assumptions due to unknown variances. Research showed there was only two available properties in Odiham High Street; one was ruled out as it didn't provide wheelchair access and the second was for a serviced office @ £13 per square foot, but this didn't provide space for the Book Exchange. Cllr Coffey concluded that the cost of renting sufficient space for the office and Book Exchange was between £13-20k per annum but current availability in Odiham was limited.
- ii) Community consultation - the Chair updated Members on responses to a recent Survey Monkey consultation. The report had been previously circulated to Councillors and added to OPC's website. A summary of the 378 responses included:
 - a. On a scale of 1-5 (1 low, 5 high), how important is it for The Bridewell to remain as a community asset? The weighted average was 4.52.
 - b. Would you support the decision to take on the Bridewell if it resulted in an increase of 5% - approximately 50p a month for a Band D house - in the Precept (the portion of the Council Tax that goes to the Parish Council)? – 91.01% agreed they would.
 - c. Would you support the decision to take on the Bridewell only if it was cost neutral to the Parish Council? – 41.53% agreed.
 - d. Would you be prepared to join a 'Friends' scheme to support the Book Exchange to ensure it could provide books for the community and run a programme to encourage literacy and support IT literacy? – 75.40% agreed.
 - e. If yes, would you consider a subscription of a minimum of £2 per month – less than the price of one cup of coffee? – 70.66% agreed.
 - f. Responses were received from all age ranges but were skewed to over 65s with 54.67% of respondents in this age range.

The Chair thanked residents for the great number of responses.

Councillors questioned whether it was possible to revise any terms in the Heads of Terms agreement. The Chair confirmed many conversations had taken place with HCC but the current Heads of Terms was not negotiable. It would be possible to start separate discussions with HCC on the curtilage but not as part of the Heads of Terms.



RESOLVED

- i) To sign the HCC Heads of Terms showing intent to take over the freehold.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr MacPhee, 8 in favour, 1 against).
- ii) To sign a Tenancy at Will to allow the Book Exchange and other OPC activities to take place in the Library space until the freehold transfer was complete.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, 8 in favour, 1 abstention).

The next stage was to report the decision to HCC, staff would progress the administration and submit a grant application to HCC for a grant towards building repairs.

285/20 Previous Committee Minutes

RESOLVED

The following minutes of committee meetings were noted and accepted:

- Planning & Development Committee held on 9th March 2021.
- Staffing Committee held on 2nd March 2021.

286/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

The Action Points List presented with the agenda was noted. Cllr Stewart confirmed he had completed the HCC Local Transport Plan consultation.

287/20 Cllr Fraser's appointments to committees

RESOLVED

Cllr Fraser was appointed to the Planning & Development and Traffic & Transport Committees.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Seabrook, all in favour).

288/20 Footpath Improvements, Tunnel Lane

Cllr Stewart introduced his proposal to install logs along the verges in Tunnel Lane near to the swing bridge. The aim of which was to create a physical barrier to moderate parking. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

To agree expenditure up to £500 from the Footpaths Improvements earmarked reserves for installing large logs on verges at the swing bridge end of Tunnel Lane to deter parking on verges in Tunnel Lane.

(Proposed by Cllr Stewart, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

289/20 To agree the date of the next meeting

Councillors considered the Clerk's report, as provided with the agenda, and how to ensure public admission to meetings whilst complying with virtual meeting regulations and the Government's Covid roadmap.



RESOLVED

- i) To move the Annual Council and Amenity Areas Committee meetings from 18th May to 4th May and hold these via Zoom. Cllr Raw agreed to Chair the meetings.
(Proposed by Cllr Seabrook, seconded by Cllr MacPhee, 9 in favour, 1 abstention).
- ii) To defer a decision on the June full Council and Community Committee meetings until the next meeting on 4th May.
(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr MacPhee, all in favour).

290/20 To consider OPC's response to the Government consultation on remote meetings - <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-stewardship/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence/>

RESOLVED

To delegate the consultation response to the Clerk showing support for virtual Council meetings.

291/20 Fleet to Odiham water pipe installation

RESOLVED

The office would keep abreast of any updates and update Councillors as required.

Confidential Matters

293/20 To exclude the public and press to consider confidential matters
Not required.

294/20 Consultancy Fees for Montford Place Public Open Space (POS)
This item was deferred until next meeting. Cllr Crookes offered to help progress this research on behalf of Hart DC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.23pm.

Signed.....

Date.....