

OUTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting (the 358th), of the Council, commenced on Tuesday 7th February 2023, at 7pm at Outwell Village Hall.

Chairman Mr. Fred Keer presided the meeting.

Attending:-

Councillor's Mr. John Wake, Mr. Dale. Boyce, Mrs Tara Rust, Ms Sarah Arden, Ms Donna Semmens, Mr. Matt Titmarsh, Mrs. Jill Gooch, Mrs. Jane Sutton, Mr. John Watts and Mr Paul Brenchley., .
Borough Councillor Mr. Harry Humphrey and Mr. Chris Crofts

1 Member of Public.

1.1 Apologies accepted for absence: -

County Councillor Mr. Chris Dawson and Borough Councillor Mr Harry Humphrey.

1.2. Councillors' Declaration of Interest in tonight's Agenda items.

Please indicate whether the interest is a personal one only or one which is also prejudicial. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of a personal interest, the member may speak and vote on the matter. If a prejudicial interest is declared the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

1.3. Public Forum:

No one spoke.

1.4 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 were distributed before this meeting.

They were accepted on a proposal by Cllr Tara Rust and seconded by Cllr Dale Boyce.

These were duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.

1.5 **Council Procedures:** The complaint made to the External monitoring officer is now with Borough Council's solicitor. Still Awaiting outcome.

2.1 To report matters arising from the minutes from the Meeting held 6th December 2022

2.1.1. New Cemetery Working party – no further discussions.

2.1.2 Precis of Allotments was presented to Councillors- on a proposal by Councillor Dale Boyce that the land rents go up 10%, this was seconded by Councillor Matt Titmarsh. The was agreed unanimously.

2.1.3 Council are not willing to let or sell any part of the Recreation ground to Mr. Lee as he requested. The Council have given him 28 days to move his fence back to the boundary as was requested previously.

2.1.4 Meeting with Elizabeth Truss is May 12th provisional time 4pm at the Crown Lodge. It was suggested due to the fact that there will have been an election before then, that those interested Councillors present who are not on the newly elected Council are able to attend.

2.2. MATTERS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION AND/OR DECISIONS: -

2.2.1. Safer Crossings- Waiting to hear if Bid is successful.

2.2.2 PARISH PARTNERSHIP – 2023/24.

Waiting to hear if bid is successful.

Chairman asked at the beginning of the meeting that section 3 be changed with section 4. He was leaving the meeting early. The Vice-chairman had agreed to take over the meeting from him.

3. FINANCE –

Payments for January 2023 to be Authorised					
Payee	Goods	VAT	Total	Ref	Supplier/ Service
Debbie Newton	551.48	0.00	551.48	DD	Clerk Wages
Mr Ellington	275.50	0.00	275.50	Jan01/23	Village cleaner 29hrs @£9.50
Plusnet	27.23	0.00	27.23	Jan02/23	BT Telephone/broadband January
K & M Lighting	105.15	21.03	126.18	Jan03/23	Jan Streetlighting maintenance
BulleyDavey	54.00	10.80	64.80	Jan04/23	Payroll service ending December
PWLB	732.01	0.00	732.01	DD	Loan for village Hall
Drax Elec	229.58	44.35	273.93	DD	Electricity December
Totals	1974.95	76.18	2051.13		
Payments for February 2023 to be Authorised					
Payee	Goods	VAT	Total	Ref	Supplier/ Service
Debbie Newton	551.48	0.00	551.48	DD	Clerk Wages
Mr Ellington	299.25	0.00	299.25	Feb01/23	Village cleaner 29hrs @£9.50
Plusnet	30.18	0.00	30.18	Feb02/23	BT Telephone/broadband February
K & M Lighting	105.15	21.03	126.18	Feb03/23	Feb Streetlighting maintenance
Viking	90.18	18.04	108.22	Feb04/23	Inks and Bin liners
PWLB	55.48	0.00	55.48	DD	Loan for allotment land
Drax Elec	229.58	44.35	263.93	DD	Electricity January
Totals	1361.30	83.42	1434.72		

3.1 Decisions/action

3.1.1 Council formerly approved November and December Accounts.

3.1.2. Council approved payments for January and December payment- copies of payments to be made are attached to this agenda.

3.1.3 . November and December Actual versus Budget was explained by the Chairman. He then went onto discuss the budget which then led onto the next section.

3.1.4 Council discussed lengthily about the cost of the new contracts available and the possibility that streetlights might have to be switched off. The contract with Drax finishes in March and their new quotes were extortionately high. Another company presenting quotes was SSE Business Energy. They Quoted £6,070.94 for a one year contract and for a two year contract £12,180.20. On a proposal by Councillor John Watts, he said he thought the best proposal was to accept the 2year contract, this was seconded by Councillor Donna Semmens. A vote was then taken- 8 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstained. This motion was passed. Chairman thanked Councillor Sutton for doing the research to get various quotes.

3.2 For information

3.2.1 BulleyDavy are the accountants that ensure the Clerk's salary is accounted for.

3.2.2 Invoices to NCC for Infilled Canal and Playing field committee for PWLB.

The Chairman left the meeting at 7.45pm and the Vice Chairman continued the meeting.

2.2.3. Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May 2023. -The Playing field committee are holding a Coronation Raft Race on May 7th – details to follow. Borough Councillor Chris Crofts informed the Council that he and Borough Councillor Mr. Harry Humphrey have £450.00 each to give to a community group in the Parish, they have already notified the Playing field committee their money is for them.

The Council to write to the Church PCC to see if they are interested in possibly having an afternoon tea or something similar in the churchyard on the day of the Raft Race.

Clerk to find out prices of Coins and mugs for the children of the local school. County Councillor Mr. Chris Dawson will contribute £100.00 for a commemorative memento for the children.

2.2.4 Email received from Michelle Sieley – Jackson- requesting permission to place two memorial benches in the boat Basin on behalf of her Grandparents- this was agreed.

2.2.5 Email from Mike Lowe- asking if Parish Council have any street names, they would like to suggest for the New Development on Land West of the Tikka Chef- it was suggested 'Kings Charles Close'.

2.2.6 MATTERS OF INFORMATION NOT REQUIRING ANY ACTION: -

2.2.6.1 Notification of New Property address-1 The Cottage, Basin Road.

2.2.6.2 Notification of new Street names- and numbering Oakley Way and Wenn's Close.

2.2.6.3 Councillor Donna Semmens has notified the Council about the potential development in Cottons Head. Borough and District Council have been informed- Borough Councillor Mr Chris Crofts informed the Council although there was already an injunction on this piece of land- they have issued another for this date.

2.2.6.4. Clerk has received information for the forthcoming local election that are to be held Thursday 4th May. She will email all current Councillors with the information and inform Parishioners on social media that potential candidates are required. It was agreed at this time that Council are to move their 2nd May Meeting and AGM to the following week the 9th May. Clerk to change all dates on relevant notices.

4. REPORTS-

4.1 To receive monthly Police Updates sent via email. All relevant emails sent to the Councillor's.

4.2 To receive the report from the School Liaison Officer – Councillor Mrs Tara Rust reported that parking is still an issue. The school remained open during the last strike but potentially might strike next month. She informed the Council that the teachers are more upset with lack of money for the school itself for general running and much needed resources for the children.

4.3 To receive the report from the OLD Cemetery working party. - It was reported that the pollarding of the Lime trees hadn't been done last month. Clerk to get in touch with CGM.

4.4 To receive the report from the Playing field and Village Hall Committee – Councillor Mr. Paul Brenchley reported that the New Years Eve event was successful. At the AGM it was agreed that Tracey Brenchley is the treasurer. Their next meeting is 8.2.23 to plan upcoming events. They are filling in grants that are available for the Hall extension, play equipment and the Car Park.

4.5 To receive the report from the Planning working party – report attached to the agenda.

4.6 To receive the report from the Allotment Working Party- rent raise discussed earlier.

4.7 To receive the report from the Village and Highways Working Party-

4.7.1. Streetlights reported as and when.

4.7.2. Please report any highway issues to Councillor Jane Sutton.

4.8. County Councillor Chris Dawson sent a report via Councillor Jane Sutton-

1). he has asked Highways to get the potholes repaired asap at the top of Beaupre Avenue due to the fact that houses at the top of the road are suffering increased road noise.

2). The Safety team have said its not worth putting the signs back up on the A1101 roundabout, he is arguing that they are an important safety measure to prevent accidents.

3). Highways want a rolling roadblock for clearing rubbish on the bypass where the vegetation has been cut back, Borough Council have refused and said there needs to be a road stoppage. County Councillor Mr Chris Dawson is going to ask again for a rolling roadblock and he along with volunteers will bag up the rubbish.

4). Business signage on Infilled Canal- he is looking for an amicable conclusion. He is hoping for a compromise where Businesses are able to have signage, they can put it out in the morning and removed at the end of the day.

5). In Back lane- a paddock and fence has been erected. Highways are checking into this, and it might be referred back to Borough Council for planning. If OPC receive any complaints, then he requests they are reported to him. The Street scene inspectors are visiting the village in March- there were many issues reported. These have been sent to the Highways.

Councillor Mr. Matt Titmarsh reported the unsightly rubbish bins that are left outside Rising Sun Flats. Borough Councillor Mr. Chris Crofts for inform Freebridge on behalf of OPC.

4.9 To receive the Norfolk County Councillor Report -Mr. Chris Dawson has sent all updates via Email.

4.10 To receive Borough Councillor Mr Harry Humphries/ Mr. Chris Crofts report. Councillor Chris Crofts quickly reported on the reasons why the Council Tax has gone up for each household. It's not due to the Borough Council putting up their Precept, but others. Borough Council is the collective authority. They have increased their support for lower income families.

4.11 Outwell Parish Council Web Site is updated monthly-

4.12 To consider agenda items for the next meeting 01.03.2023.

4.13 Date of next scheduled meeting – Tuesday 7th March 2023 at the Village Hall, Outwell, after the Parish Assembly at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....