

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON
TUESDAY 21st JULY 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllrs A McFarlane (Chair), K Ball, J Coffey, R Coleman, M Killick, W MacPhee, J Raw, C Seabrook (from 60/20) and P Verdon.

In attendance: Andrea Mann – Parish Clerk.

Also present: Hampshire CC Cllr J Glen, Hart DC Cllr C Dorn and 4 members of the public.

56/20 Apologies for Absence
Received from Cllr D Stewart.

57/20 Declarations of Interest
None

58/20 Approval of Minutes
RESOLVED
The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th June were approved by Members as a true record of the meeting and would be signed by the Chair in person as soon as practical.

Action:
Clerk to add to website.

59/20 Chair's Announcements
The Chair asked Councillors to note that, whilst OPC continued to operate as normal, both Hants CC and Hart DC were working with restricted numbers, some of which had been deployed to work on the Covid response. It was also proving difficult to source quotes from contractors. The Chair noted that, whilst it was frustrating, the Council was learning to live with a slower pace.

60/20 Public session
Councillors heard from four members of the public who spoke on behalf of their relevant organisations:

- i) John Lancashire spoke on behalf of Hook & Odiham Lions in support of the Community Grant funding application explaining the history of Spooktacula and the purpose of the grant request.
- ii) Simon Lloyd spoke as Chairman of the Odiham & District RBL Branch on agenda item 69/20 explaining the history of Odiham Remembrance services and asked OPC to formally acknowledge its role as lead organiser. Mr Lloyd said that he was happy to continue supporting the event as OPC's agent.
Hart DC Cllr Dorn said that Hart DC were striving to ensure civic event administration was responded to, taking into account new safety measures relating to Covid, and offered to ask Hart DC whether the road closure application would be free of charge.
- iii) Natalie Stamp spoke on behalf of Leapfrogs explaining the purpose and benefits to their Community Grant funding application to enhance their outdoor play area.
- iv) Piers Beach spoke as Chairman of North Warnborough Village Hall explaining the purpose of the Community Grant funding application which was required to support refurbishment works. Mr Beach further explained the impact Covid 19 had had on the Hall's income.

Hants CC Glen stated that funding applications could also be made to the Hampshire Councillor's devolved budget.

61/20 Update on local response to Covid-19

The Chair reported that the OPC managed telephone support service had been suspended following a decrease in demand and the increased capacity of other support services.

The Clerk reported that all playgrounds were now open following implementation of the Government Secure Guidelines where possible.

62/20 Previous Committee Minutes

RESOLVED

The following committee minutes were received and noted:

Minutes of the Planning & Development Committee held on 2nd and 23rd June 2020.

63/20 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda and review of the Full Council Action Points list

The action list included with the agenda was noted. No further matters were raised.

64/20 Local Government Association Consultation on a Draft Model Code of Conduct <https://www.local.gov.uk/code-conduct-consultation-2020>

RESOLVED

OPC would not submit a full Council response.

Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation as individual Councillors if they had not already done so.

65/20 Hampshire Libraries

Members considered the report on the future of Odiham Library and HCC's report which had been published on 20th July. HCC's report included the recommendation to close Odiham Library at the end of 2020 which would be decided by the Hants CC Recreation and Heritage Decision Day meeting on 28th July.

OPC's report asked Councillors to agree a deputation to the Hants CC meeting on 28th July but OPC had since been advised that an elected Councillor was not permitted to make a deputation. Since finding out this rule, OPC had asked the Odiham U3A and Odiham Society whether they would like to make a deputation on behalf of the parish.

The Chair reported from a meeting with the Head of Libraries which had taken place earlier that day and explained the rationale behind HCC's recommendation to save Chineham and Emsworth libraries, noting the case for Odiham Library was weaker. The Chair said that the future of the Odiham Library building was unknown but OPC had an interest in the building as a tenant, suggesting that OPC should also start to look at ways of preserving the building for community use.

Further to discussion it was

RESOLVED

To pursue discussions with Hants CC to seek options to:

- i) Make the best use of the Odiham Library building for community use.
- ii) Provides Odiham & North Warnborough residents with access to a supply of books.

Action:
Pursue discussions with Hants CC.

Councillors agreed for Hants CC Glen to speak on this agenda item.

Cllr Glen explained that the case for Odiham was weak and said he was seeking flexibility and leniency on the proposed closure date to allow time to explore options which would continue to provide books to residents.

It was noted that a voluntary run service would have to be independent of the Hampshire Library service.

66/20 OPC Strategic Priorities

The Parish Clerk's report on Strategic Priorities was considered which included a summary of OPC Strategic Priorities and projects, as drawn up by Councillors at a Strategy Working Group meeting on 9th July.

The plan was designed to summarise OPC's Strategic Priorities, identify projects and report progress to the community on an annual basis. A full version of the plan also recorded actions and progress on a quarterly basis. This provided a useful working document for Councillors and Staff and each relevant committee would take ownership of its section of the plan.

RESOLVED

To approve Odiham Parish Council's Strategic Plan 2019-23 for publication.

Action:
Publish Plan on website.

67/20 Flags on the High Street

The Parish Clerk's report provided with the agenda provided a background on the history and purpose of the flagpole fittings attached to some of the High Street properties.

The recommendations within the agenda report, proposed by Cllrs McFarlane and Verdon, were discussed and considered:

RESOLVED

- i) That OPE offers to fund the cost of inspecting, repairing and insuring the current fixings @ £30 per inspection.
- ii) OPC writes to properties without flagpole fixings and asks if they are interested in having a fixing on their property @ £45 per unit cost.
- iii) OPC writes to all property owners with flagpole fixings and asks for the flags to be display two weeks before and one week after the following events:
 - a) St Georges day
 - b) Queen's official birthday
 - c) Armed Forces Day
 - d) VJ Day (for 2020) – and any particular such anniversary in a given year
 - e) Remembrance Sunday

Cllr McFarlane clarified that OPC would arrange for the display of flags & bunting to remove the risk of a piecemeal display.

- iv) A vote was held on the proposal to purchase a full set of rainbow flags in support of Pride but this vote was not carried. A further motion was put forward and seconded to purchase 2 rainbow flags in time for 2021 Pride and this proposal was agreed.

Action:

Write to High Street properties.

Arrange for flags & bunting to be displayed for VJ Day.

Purchase 2 x rainbow flags.

- 68/20 Galleon Marine, Odiham Nomination for an Asset of Community Value**
The Chair introduced her proposal to nominate the Galleon Marine Boatyard, Odiham, as an Asset of Community Value aiming to offer some protection for the future. The Chair confirmed that the Galleon Marine tenants were aware of and supported the proposal.
- RESOLVED
To agree the Galleon Marine Boatyard, Odiham as a nomination for an Asset of Community Value.
- The Chair to forward the draft application to the Basingstoke Canal Society Chairs and Councillor members.
- 69/20 Remembrance**
Councillors considered the request from the local RBL asking OPC to formally recognise its role as lead organiser of the Odiham Remembrance services and the Clerk's recommendation that a Remembrance Working Group be set up to liaise with the relevant parties and start planning for the 2020 Remembrance parade and ceremony.
- RESOLVED
- i) OPC formally recognised its role as lead organiser of Odiham Remembrance services.
 - ii) OPC would make contact with the relevant partners to start planning the 2020 event.
- Action:
OPC to contact appropriate community organisations and start planning for the 2020 event.
- 70/20 Hampshire Pension Fund**
The email provided with the agenda, seeking support to Hampshire Climate Action Network's call to divest from fossil fuel industries, was discussed and considered. Several questions were raised directly to Hants CC Cllr Glen asking whether Hants CC was already doing what it should to avoid fossil fuel investments and whether there was a mechanism for putting the question directly to Hants CC's Select Committee?
- Cllr Glen was invited to respond and said that he is a member of the Hants CC Select Committee whose remit included ensuring Hants CC adhered to the Council's Climate Change declaration. He said that the investments adhered to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) guidelines and the issue of fossil fuel investments was raised from time to time. Cllr Glen said he would raise the matter at the following Select Committee meeting.
- A vote was taken on whether OPC should support Hampshire Climate Action Network's request but did not receive a majority vote.
- 71/20 Update on Mildmay Boundary Agreement**
The Chair introduced the report included with the agenda explaining the steps OPC had taken to implement OPC's previous agreement to register the Mildmay Court Head of Terms boundary agreement with the Land Registry. On recommendation it was
- RESOLVED
That OPC has, to its best endeavours, attempted to comply with the agreement made on 14th January and now considers the matter closed, taking no further action.
- That a letter would be drafted to Mildmay residents informing them of the current situation.

72/20 Flooding at Mill Corner

Further to discussion at the previous meeting, Councillors noted the response from Thames Water relating to the flooding at Mill Corner. The Chair suggested that the solution lay partly with landowners and partly with Hants CC Highways. Councillors voted on the motion included with the agenda and

RESOLVED

- i) That OPC would ask Hampshire CC to escalate this matter and identify a Major Flood Alleviation Scheme to be included in the Hampshire Strategic Development Statement.
- ii) Accept the invitation to meet with Thames Water, inviting Hart DC S Hope and Councillors Glen and Crooks.

Action:

Write to Hants CC.

Arrange meeting with Thames Water.

Councillors Reports

73/20 Meetings reports from OPC Councillors

Cllr P Verdon reported from the Canal Basin Working Group meeting. The meeting noted several points which would need to be clarified with Hart DC as part of the Canal Basin research.

Cllr P Verdon also reported she was trying to arrange a Zoom meeting with Leapfrogs to understand their plans to extend the Leapfrogs building.

74/20 Reports from other Councils

Hants CC Cllr Glen referred to his end of year report from the Basingstoke Canal Authority. His term of Chair was due to come to an end in November when a member of Surrey County Council would take over the position.

Hart DC Dorn reported:

- Car parking charges in Hart would resume on 1st August despite Councillors' efforts to delay the decision, in response to retailers' opinion this didn't allow enough time for customers to return.
- Plans for a Fleet pedestrianisation scheme were generating diverse opinions.
- A legal challenge to the Hart Local Plan Policy NEB1 had been dismissed by the Judge, thus removing the right of appeal. OPC was reminded to refer to the new policies when considering planning applications.

75/20 Date of the net meeting

Members noted the date of the next full Council meeting as Tuesday 18th August at 7.30pm.

Confidential Matters

76/20 Exclusion of the Public and Press

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.

77/20 Community Grants

Councillors reviewed the applications received and considered the Clerk's evaluation which had evaluated applications against OPC's agreed criteria.

RESOLVED

To award Community Grants under the General Power of Competence, as follows:

- i) Buryfields Infant School - £1,000 was reserved for this purpose but OPC first wanted to know why a running track had been chosen for infant age pupils rather than an all-weather surface. The decision would be referred to the following meeting following receipt of Buryfield's response.
- ii) Odiham Community Pre-School (Leapfrogs) - £250 was awarded towards enhancing the outdoor play area.
- iii) North Warnborough Village Hall - £2,500 was awarded specifically towards the costs of replacing gas heaters.
- iv) Fleet Phoenix towards – Councillors agreed that no grant should be awarded on this occasion.
- v) Hook & Odiham Lions – Councillors concluded that the application for funding towards the cost of running Spooktacula should be considered outside the scope of Community Grants and agreed to invite the Lions to a meeting to discuss Spooktacula and other events.
- vi) North Warnborough Community Football Support Association - £500 was awarded for replacement goals.

Action:
Write to applicants informing the decisions and arrange payments where required.

78/20 Parish Room Redecoration

Councillors considered a suggestion from the Parish Clerk to re-decorate The Parish Room in 2020, one year earlier than scheduled, when the room was not being used for face-to-face Council meetings. The Clerk provided a separate quote for the floor to treat water damaged areas and seal the entire floor including work to treat the damp.

Action:
Award contracts and arrange works as required.

RESOLVED

- i) To award a contract to Ian Garforth for external re-decoration in the value of £2,400.
- ii) To award a contract to Franks Floors Only to treat and seal the floor in the value of £720.

79/20 Staff Related Matters

The Clerk reported that the Bridewell Caretaker had been asked to take on the Parish Room cleaning for 2 hours per month @ £15 per hour. This would be paid directly to the Caretaker's business and he would not become an employee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed..... Date.....