Ogwell Parish Council Meeting January 8th 2024

Present : Chair S Reynolds, Parish Councillors M Lant, P Wynter, P Martin and T Carey. Also attending 5 Parishioners

Apologies – Cllrs K Farrell-Wright, T Flower, R Daws and P Parker

Declarations - Members to declare any interests in matters for discussion

Minutes The Minutes of the December Parish Council Meeting approved and signed by the Chairman.

Reports from County and District Councillors –
The Clerk advised Cllr Parker-Khan regarding road markings off Ogwell Road which need replacing following patching and this has been sent to Highways for action.
Since both District Councillors gave their apologies we have no report from them.

Planning – 23/02167/OUT - Barncroft, Croft Road, Ogwell – New Dwelling – Approval sought for access
This application was not received in time for the Agenda but it was agreed to deal with it as a matter of urgency to meet the deadline for responses. Access to the proposed new property will be a shared access with the existing property but is on a narrow part of Croft Road. It was agreed that we would make this comment to Teignbridge mentioning that it is for Highways to decide if the access is dangerous.
Clerk to pass comments to Teignbridge Planning Dept.

Play Areas – To confirm minor repairs to the Play Area on the Green
This is still in hand as Cllr. Flower is on holiday and the recent weather has prevented completion of the work.

To consider updates from Ogwild and other working parties
Ogwild –Wassailing event at Dawes Close on February 3rd 2024. This event is to be funded by the Fair Committee and the Parish Council agreed that the area would be closed off for the event, a Risk Assessment would be provided and matting or wood chip would be put in the entrance as needed.
Shop Project – On going discussions are taking place with the owners of the Shop in Abbotsridge Drive and also the idea of a shop/café at the old Skittle Alley at the Jolly Sailor is still to be discussed at a separate meeting. Both projects will need substantial funding if they are to progress.
Memorial Hall –It was agreed that we would cover the cost of repairs amounting to £246.00 to the WiFi System we originally had installed at the Memorial Hall.

Toilet Block – To receive update on work to replace Guttering and Barge boards
Cllr. Flower will be looking to carry out this work in the next few weeks as weather permits.

To consider Electronic Traffic calming measures in the Parish It was mentioned that Teigngrace have installed an electronic device to monitor traffic speeds and warn Motorists if they exceed the limit. It was agreed that we would look into the possibilities of a similar measure for Ogwell but the comment was made that to admonish Motorists for excess speed when they are within a legal limit would be counter-productive.

To consider update on Pond Meadow re possible Community Protection Warning
Inspector James Johnson has advised that he put this matter to Teignbridge and they promised to contact the Clerk regarding a possible CPW. The problem is that the land is privately owned and there is no additional issue apart from the state of the property, except the nuisance value to close neighbours.
Still waiting for Teignbridge to get in touch and the Clerk will chase.

Paths and Highways – Update –Cllr Lant advised that he is still waiting to be told who will take Ros Davies place at DCC. The annual inspection of Paths Report will be required by February.

Grit Bin to be moved from Barton Cottages to Metley Cross, West Ogwell Scott Riddell from Devon Highways has confirmed that the Grit Bin will be moved but has not yet confirmed that this has been done. The Grit Bins around the Parish have been checked and are mostly full.

Communications –To consider any feedback on move to 365 Backup System
It was agreed that the Clerk would start to put copies of the Minutes on the new system.
The Chairman offered to give some help if needed.

Finance Report -BACS payments made and agreed since last Meeting – J Turner £350.00 - Cleaning Toilet Block, R Hannaford £1,132.50 – Clerk's Stipend, HMRC £283.20 Tax on Stipend, SW Water £29.97 Re Toilet Block, M Sessions £94.06 Ogwild Expenses, P Chapman £126.07 Ogwild Expenses.
Direct Debit £122.40 Pulse8 re 365 Backup system.
We have received further payments for Adverts in the Parish Magazine – total now received £4,171.50
Clerk's Pay –A backdated award of pay increases has been made by the National Association of Local Councils which will increase the Clerk's pay to £4,942.80 from April 2023 - an increase of £360.00 per annum based on 30 hours per month. The December pay has been adjusted to take this increase into account.

Confirmation that Precept of £48,000 for 2024-2025 has been applied for from Teignbridge
The Clerk will be making this application by the end of January
Following on from this decision, we have been notified by Teignbridge that in future they intend to charge us for the 2 Bins on Dawes Close Play Area at an annual cost of over £1,500. As we have not budgeted for this extra cost it was agreed that we should add this to the Precept and ask for £50,000

Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman
1. Damaged Sign on the Green – The signpost for Denbury has been damaged following the storm and needs replacing – to be reported to Devon County Council for action.

2. Clean-up of Notice Boards – Cllr. Flower has pointed out that the Notice Boards are in need of a clean, which the Clerk can confirm. It was agreed by Councillors that they would have a look and clean as necessary.
3. Shop in Skittle Alley at Jolly Sailor It was agreed to set up a meeting to discuss this further.

Date of Next Meeting
The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday February 12th 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

Chairman
12th February 2024