

Ogwell Parish Council Meeting July 8th 2024

Present : Chair S Reynolds, Deputy Chair T Flower, Parish Councillors P Martin, M Lant, S Harrison and T Carey. Also attending District Councillor P Parker together with 4 Parishioners

Apologies – Cllrs P Wynter, R Daws and S Parker-Khan

Declarations - Members to declare any interests in matters for discussion. None declared.

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

Reports from County and District Councillors

A report from Cllr. Parker-Khan updating us on work in Devon to repair potholes and mentioning significant road works in Newton Abbot, of which we are very aware as we contemplate the closure of Totnes Road from July 22nd to August 9th according to the latest signs. She also enlarges on the Bus strategy for Devon with aims to grow bus patronage across Devon by improving the network and consulting with Bus users on a regular basis. Cllr. Parker pointed out that the Ambrook District of Teignbridge gets far less funding for provision of toilet facilities and ground maintenance than other Districts and, to save money, they would like to reduce this funding across the board. He mentioned the Teignbridge Art Project Fund and we understand that the Memorial Hall have made a bid in connection with the relocating of the Pre School into the main hall freeing up the Jubilee Suite for more art classes etc.

Planning – 24/00947/FUL – Rydon Farm Ogwell – Proposed new dwelling to replace Class Q prior Approval Ref 23/01606/NPA

This is the second application for this property with a different style of dwelling. We approved the original Application but are equally happy with the amended style.

Clerk to pass comments to Teignbridge.

Play Areas – To consider update on repairs to MUGA

Cllr. Farrell-Wright reported that a further visit by the AGI Rep will take place to consider a claim under the Warranty re the MUGA.

To consider updates from Ogwild and other working parties

Rectory Field Open day celebrating 50 years with the Woodland Trust will take place on July 27th 2024.

Cllr. Parker reported on the increased species count on the Little Green from 43 when Ogwild started their project, to 103 species this year. Limestone grassland is a fairly rare environment and therefore especially important.

Anemone Village – A suggestion has been made that we plant anemones around the village to complement the anemones on the roundabout, planted many years ago. It was agreed that we need an idea of areas contemplated and whether there is support from residents. Ogwild will undertake some research.

Climate ACT The Arts festival in aid of Climate awareness has now finished and considered a great success with many art projects and exhibitions in the Newton Abbot area. Thanks to Cllr. Wynter who was involved in organising this event.

To consider request from Memorial Hall Committee for additional funding to carry out replacement to Kitchen Roof

We have a request for an additional Grant of £7,000 in 2025 to go towards the cost of a replacement Kitchen Roof, costing approx. £12,000 and also utilising the existing grant of £5,000. If we can agree this now, the Committee will be able to book the work in for 2025. After discussion it was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr. Flower that we allocate a further £5,000, from the 2025/26 budget, matching this year's available grant. With one abstention the Council agreed. The Hall Committee Chair thanked the council for their ongoing support and mentioned the recent 150th anniversary of the Hall which served as the Village School until 1957. This was well attended, involving Canada Hill School choir as well as the Church Choir.

To receive update on a Speed Indication Device for Canada Hill The results of a Speed Test were made available and show that average speeds were within the limit on Canada Hill (30mph). After considering these figures it was decided that a Speed Indication Device would not be necessary at this time. Cllr. Carey was thanked for putting in the work to get these results to the Council.

To further consider setting up a Sub - Committee to carry out the Biodiversity Policy for the Parish

Having adopted a Biodiversity Policy Plan it was agreed at an earlier Meeting that a sub-committee be formed to consider the Plan and updates going forward. Cllr. Wynter agreed to set up the sub-committee and as she is away, this will be considered further at the next meeting.

To consider the Shop Project An update has been sent to Shareholders showing that the project has nearly 300 shareholders with shares purchased just under £30,000. The Grant Application will go ahead as soon as the Fund is re-opened to applications after the Election and other sources are being looked at. There remains a possible Loan via the Parish Council once the main funding has been obtained. Cllr. Martin expressed thanks to Ian Barnard, who was present at the meeting, for his work on the project.

To consider response to letter to John Turner re Toilet Block

The Clerk has written to John Turner and the present position is that he wishes to continue. He has promised to provide Invoices to cover cleaning and materials but no payments will be made until these are received. After some discussion it was agreed that we need to set out more clearly our requirements and get his agreement to our terms. Cllrs. Farrell-Wright and Flower agreed to visit the Toilet Block and prepare a list of what needs to be done, how often and how checked.

Cllrs Farrell-Wright and Flower to report back to the Council following their visit.

To consider request from a resident concerning the verges on Larksmead Way

We have a request that the verges are cut less frequently and that this area could do more towards encouraging wild flowers. It was agreed that we firstly need to know what the residents of Larksmead think about the use of this area. Cllr. Martin will liaise with Ian Barnard, who raised this matter to consider an approach to the residents before a further approach to the Parish Council.

Paths and Highways – Update – Cllr Lant reported the overgrown footpath leading from Canada Hill but as no action has yet been taken, will repeat his request.

Communications – To receive updates on Communications systems

The Chair advised that he had been approached with a request that the Magazine be produced on a monthly basis as previously but it was agreed that this would be too costly as printing costs have risen greatly and also too onerous for the Editor Cllr. Wynter.

Finance Report -BACS payments made and agreed since last Meeting – Wotton Printers £294.00 printing re D Day Garden Maps and letter to residents, Wotton Printers £375.00 and £678.00 Printing in relation to Shop Project, Lee Accounting £186.00 Internal Audit, Compucare £30.00 re Ogwild, Simon Jones £595.00 Grass-cutting, S Aylett £19.11 re Shop Project, R Hannaford £988.70 Three Months Stipend, HMRC £247.00 Tax on Stipend, Technique Properties Ltd £240.00 Hire of Toilet facilities for D Day celebrations, SW Water £42.53 Re Toilet Block, A Serman £504.00 re Shop Project.

Direct Debits £167.88 - Pulse8 re 365 Backup system (Sharepoint) and Annual Web Hosting and Magazine, British Gas £17.68 - Electricity at Toilet Block. We have received £4.00 from Teignlottery re Ogwild

The Internal Audit has been completed satisfactorily and copy AGAR documents and notice of exercise of public rights published on Web site and main Notice Board.

The Audit Documents have been sent to the External Auditors PKF Littlejohn for approval.

Quarterly Figures These have been produced covering the period from 1st April to 30th June 2024. The Balance forward was £30,876.15, total receipts £25,875.15 including 6 months Precept and expenditure £17,017.69 leaving a balance of £39,733.71. One-off items such as Dog bin emptying £2,659.20 and Insurance £1,653.42 plus Summer Fair costs £2,504.00 have increased expenditure and the interim figures as presented by the Clerk were approved.

Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman

1. 80th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 2025

Along the lines of the 80th Anniversary of D Day – a national celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe is planned. It was agreed in principle that we will have an event on the Green to celebrate.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday August 12th 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

Chairman
12th August 2024