

Ogwell Parish Council Meeting January 13th 2025

Present : Chair S Reynolds, Deputy Chair T Flower, Parish Councillors P Martin, M Lant, P Wynter, S Harrison and T Carey. Also attending District Councillor P Parker together with 3 parishioners.

Apologies – Cllrs. R Daws and K Farrell-Wright

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

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

Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Parker updated us on meetings regarding the changes to local authority representation in Devon. As yet there are no decisions made and Cllr. Parker felt that for his part he would have preferred more consultation with the Public than is presently taking place. Following the Meeting the Clerk received an email from Cllr. Parker-Khan which also set out details of the various options with regard to this matter. Cllr. Parker also updated us on two new Community Buses which will operate in the Newton Abbot area.

Planning – 24/02097/FUL – Metley Farm West Ogwell – Erection of Multi-purpose Agricultural Barn associated works to create access and hardstanding – This is a fairly remote farmstead in West Ogwell and from the application we understand that an old metal barn near the Grade II listed Farmhouse is to be demolished and the new barn erected to replace it. The Council had no adverse comments on the application.
Clerk to pass any remarks to Teignbridge

Play Areas – To receive update on repairs to MUGA

In the absence of Cllr. Farrell-Wright this was deferred to the next Meeting.

To consider updates from Ogwild and other working parties

Ogwild Cllr. Martin reported on the youngsters who have been carrying out litter picking around the Parish as part of a Duke of Edinburgh award and requested the Clerk to write to the three young parishioners taking part commending them on their efforts.

Rectory Field – The agreement with the Woodland Trust runs out in March 2025 so we need to get in touch with them to arrange a new agreement. Cllr. Martin confirmed that he will chase this up.

To receive an update on repairs to the Bus Shelter

The Chairman advised the Meeting that he has the promise of a Grant up to £1,000 to cover the work to repair the Bus Shelter which was agreed at the last Meeting. Cllr. Flower advised that following the repair work he will repaint the walls of the Shelter.

To confirm receipt of Grant and completion of work

To receive an update on possible re-positioning of 30mph Speed Limit on Ogwell/Rectory Road

It was agreed that we would carry out an exercise to see whether we meet the criteria of number of properties along the stretch of road in question to re-position the 30mph Speed Limit signs.

It seems that in a 600 metre stretch we have 21 properties which just meets the criteria so we should now be able to progress this matter further.

To receive an update on the Shop Project

Cllr. Martin reported on a meeting held on January 9th at Canada Hill School with a very good turnout and several options discussed following the withdrawal of Government funding to progress the shop at Abbotsridge Drive. There are options including a Mobile facility, a Portacabin in the School grounds and of course, the Jolly Sailor once re-building and refurbishment takes place. An email to all Shareholders with a multiple choice on what they would like to see will be collated in due course. Cllr. Martin described the present situation as being freer for the Community in that there are now choices to consider.

To consider updates re the Toilet Block

A list of duties is being completed by Cllrs. Flower and Farrell-Wright and will be emailed to John Turner for acceptance. This is still on-going as a list has not yet been sent to Mr. Turner, who continues to clean the Toilets in the meantime.

Paths and Highways – Update – Cllr. Lant advised that he will be contacting DCC regarding the Annual Return on footpaths which has not yet been requested.

Following the spell of icy weather, Grit Bins are being re-filled as necessary.

Hedging placed at the end of Ogwell End Drive off Larksmead Way. A query regarding this hedging was made to a Councillor and discussed as the land in question appears to be open land adjacent to a verge. It was discovered that the land in question is in private ownership, having been acquired from the Developers some years ago and therefore no further action is considered necessary.

Communications – To receive updates on Communications systems

To consider increased use of Parish Online and Website

We still have two vacancies on the Parish Council and it was mooted by Cllr. Martin whether we could try to recruit Councillors with the specific aim of having them take over responsibility for increasing the amount of information on the Website.

Finance Report -BACS payments made and agreed since last Meeting – Simon Jones £180.00 for strimming, Imperative Training Ltd £360.00 Battery for Defibrillator, T Flower £12.60 and P Chapman £59.98 re Ogwild, Ian Barnard Architect £1,872.00 re advice and help with Shop Project, R Hannaford £1,124.60 Stipend and HMRC £281.20 Tax on Stipend, Ogwell Memorial Hall £51.00 Hire of Hall for Meetings, SW Water £28.75 and £23.87 Water at Toilet Block

Direct Debits £74.88 - Pulse8 re 365 Backup system (Sharepoint) and Magazine, British Gas £18.95 - Electricity at Toilet Block, EDF Energy £20.35 Electricity on the Green We have received £5.00 from Teignlottery and £80.00 from Tonia Prowse for Ogwild.

To consider Annual Budget for 2025-26

The Proposed Budget was discussed and agreed as set out

Office Expenses	£7,500
Clerk's Stipend	£5,500
Maintenance	£12,000
Play Areas	£5,000
Grants	£6,000
S137 Payments	£3,500
Toilet Block	£8,000
Grant Memorial Hall	£5,500
Grant Shop Project	£2,000
TOTAL	£55,000

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Martin and all present agreed that an increase of 10% is reasonable given the areas of support we now have to consider, including the Toilet Block, Magazine, Ogwild and the Shop Project. The Clerk will request the Precept of £55,000 from Teignbridge by the end of January 2025.

Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman

1.Pond Meadow – We are aware the owner wishes to sell and is looking for £90,000. A survey was carried out by Cllr. Carey among residents living near Pond Meadow and they would all like to see it in new ownership and tidied up and perhaps available for public use. Unfortunately the amount required is beyond the Council's means and would in any case need the support of a majority of residents, so the matter is at present, unresolved.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday February 10th 2025 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

Chairman
10th February 2025