

# Osmington Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6pm in the village hall.

**Present:** Mrs S Miller (Chair of the Parish Council – in the Chair), Mrs H Ballard, Mrs L Bird, Mr N Ireland, Mr M Johnson, Mr B Kuflik and Mr J Medrecki.

**Also in attendance:** The Clerk, Representatives from local groups/organisations and 12 members of the public.

### 1. Welcome

The Chair of the Parish Council, Mrs S Miller, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

### 3. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

The Chair presented her report for the year 202/26 (attached as the Appendix to these minutes).

### 4. Reports from Local Groups/Organisations

**The Osmington Society** – The aim of the group was to help organise events to support the community and heritage initiatives locally. Support was given to raise funds for a new boiler at the church and the AGM was held in early November 2025.

The society wanted to co-ordinate with other groups to schedule events and bookings for future fundraising initiatives.

Future events would include open gardens in July, Music on the Green in September and Oktoberfest which would hopefully coincide with the AGM.

All funds raised were distributed within the village with 28% going to the village hall, 17% on heritage projects, 30% on digital resources, 11% towards the defibrillator and 9% to events and celebrations.

Mr Kuflik asked if actual costs and expenditure could be shown instead of the percentage of costs allocated. It was noted that all this information was available on the village noticeboards.

Mr Kuflik also pointed out that an event had been cancelled in January and the Osmington Society was welcome to advertise in The Oracle. In response it was noted that it was not always possible to meet the deadlines for the publication of the newsletter.

**Osmington Village Hall** – The new boiler would be installed in May and the hall would be closed for a period of 5 days.

It was reported that a rowan tree would be planted in memory of Mary Kemp and the kind donation she made towards the kitchen upgrade. It was hoped that her niece would be able to attend the planting.

**Osmington Music** – It had been a quiet start to the year although events were planned in September and December.

**Phoenix Fundraisers** – The summer fete would be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and plans were progressing well. All help on the day would be welcome.

It was noted that the noticeboards could become quite full and a request was made for groups and organisations to only post what was needed.

**St. Osmund's Church** – The church wished to thank everyone for the donations and fundraising for the new boiler. Worship was a much warmer affair now. Congratulations was sent to the organist for the birth of her new baby.

The churchyard was looking great and another “tidy up” day would be arranged. Thanks were made to the volunteer gardeners who made this possible.

All were welcome to attend a Hymns and Pimms event on 12<sup>th</sup> July in the rectory garden.

**Community Resilience Group** – Mr Johnson delivered a report that had been prepared by Jeff Little. The resilience plan was moving forward and further liaison would take place with Dorset Council after which a more detailed plan would be published.

A donation to purchase generators had been secured as well as future maintenance of the generators.

In the event of an emergency a liaison hub would be based at the village hall or other location if this became unavailable for any reason. Groups and individuals within the village had been identified to help with certain tasks or to provide equipment.

It was hoped to undergo test scenarios twice a year from which the group could evaluate, learn and develop further.

The group was still looking for volunteers.

**The Osmington Oracle** – The 31<sup>st</sup> edition of The Oracle had been published with each edition running at around 18-20 pages.

The village map had been completed which could help with address locations and house names etc.

Flyers were available at the meeting and residents were encouraged to sign up to keep informed about village information and news.

Businesses and groups were encouraged to provide updates for the newsletter and informed that any updates should be submitted no less than 2 days before publication.

## 5. **Public Discussion Period**

The following items were raised during the public session and responses given: -

A resident wished to congratulate Councillor Liz Bird on her election to the council.

## **Appendix – Chairman's Report**

Ten meetings had been held since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2025, four of which were special meetings. Details of all meetings can be found on the website.

Planning applications were considered including temporary camp sites, stables and the kiosk at Ringstead. All planning applications and decisions can be found on the website.

The council had been fully updated on all planning applications regarding The Sunray pub over the last 4 years and it was fantastic to see it open and looking so beautiful. The Chair wished the pub every success in the future.

The precept was kept low as per the previous year. It was recognised that the council may need to take on additional responsibilities in the future and this would be addressed when necessary.

Most Rights of Way issues that had been identified and reported had been dealt with promptly. There had been some work done to the footpath down to the beach at Ringstead. It was noted that anyone could report a concern on the Dorset Council portal or through a link included on the parish council website. These could be regarding broken stiles, overgrown hedges/footpaths or drain blockages to name a few.

There had been some fairly positive feedback regarding the relocation of the 30mph limit, and it was generally felt that the reminder provided by the Speed Indicator Device was helpful.

The play area and surrounding grounds had some significant money spent on them. The new swings looked great and were welcomed. A grant was a great help for the purchase of the swings and further grants may be available to help with upgrades for the other equipment and fence. The grass had been cut regularly and looked tidy. Some poaching had occurred where the new swings had been installed and this would be resolved once the area was drier.

It was anticipated that the 1100L bin would be sited at Osmington Mills again for the summer as this worked very well in 2025. The Chair thanked those who turned out for the annual spring clean.

The community resilience plan was progressing well, and this would be fronted by Jeff Little.

The council increased their contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard, and this would be reviewed each year.

The updating of the village hall lease was on-going, and further updates would be given when available.

The pinch point for the fire service at Church Lane remained an issue. The fire service was fully aware of the issue and planned to undertake an exercise to test their plans.

The generic email address for the Clerk has been changed and each councillor would move to changing their individual addresses in the near future. The Chair thanked all present for their attendance at the meeting.