Oldbury on Severn
Parish Council

Clerk/RFO: Mrs Sarah Bodmer
Tele No: 07394376121
oldburyonsevernpc@gmail.com
www.oldburyonsevern.org.uk

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 2 June 2025 @ 7pm at The Pavilion, Westmarsh Lane, Oldbury-on-Severn, Bristol

Present Chairman Cllr Bedford (SRB), Cllr I Knapp (IK), Cllr L Day (LD), Cllr M Riddle (MR), Cllr C Jennings (CJ) Cllr D Heape (DH), Cllr K Griffiths (KG), Cllr R Hayden (RH), Clerk S Bodmer (SB)

19:00 Open the Full Council Meeting

1.Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Evans.

2. Declarations of interest were received from Cllr C Jennings due to his interest in the Oldbury Power Station planning application as he receives an honorarium as Vice Chair of the Site Stakeholder Group. Also received from Cllr M Riddle due to receiving an honorarium from SGC and in respect of a recent planning application where his niece is the applicant.

Concern was raised that councillors were not fully up to speed on 'declarations of interest. It is important that where Councillors have personnel interest in a subject, they should declare an interest and not take part in any communication with fellow councillors. This is important to maintain our impartiality when making decisions.

3. The Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 12 May 2025 were deferred for signing to the 1 July 2025 meeting.

The Clerk confirmed Minutes from the extraordinary meeting held on 19 May 2025 would be circulated.

Council received a request that when Minutes need to be changed, the corrected version should be resubmitted to the next meeting in their complete form for agreement.

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4. Correspondence

4a. The Clerk confirmed a written response would be provided to the email received from Ms A Sorrell, dated 16 May 2025, raising concerns about Busy Bees and support provided by the PC. **ACTION Clerk to circulate the draft response to all Councillors for approval.**

4b. The Clerk will draft a response to the Chair of Busy Bees, following the email dated 18 May 2025, attaching a list of requirements for OPC to include in a lease for the next school year to be circulated by the Clerk once Councillors have reviewed to consider an agreement.

4c. **Noise levels at the Pavilion** Cllr Day reported that the decibel readings taken during a band practice at the Pavilion were below maximum recommended levels, however residents have complained that the vibrations from the bands instruments was causing a disturbance. Cllr Jennings proposed that the hire of the Pavilion by the bands should cease with immediate effect, this was Seconded by Cllr Day and agreed by a majority vote. **ACTION Clerk to contact the band leaders to inform them of the decision and any advance payments refunded.**

5.Matters arising from the previous Minutes not included in this agenda

5a. Parking in the layby on Power Station Road - The vehicle remains in the layby. An email, dated 2 June 2025 has been sent to Rob Evely SGC to highlight the Parish Council concerns and request the vehicle be removed.

5b. Wessex Water The minutes of the February meeting have been sent to Wessex Water and a response is awaited. **ACTION MR to follow up with WW to request details of intended actions over the summer**

5c. Lorry access to Haw Lane and Ham Lane The post has been re-erected in Ham Lane. Additional signage can now be added to show 'don't use a sat nav' **ACTION Cllr Riddle to arrange to add signage**

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6. Public Forum – no members of the public wished to speak at the meeting.

7.Urgent Business.

7a. The necessity of an extraordinary meeting in May was questioned and whether it should have been held in camera. It was generally felt that there had been a breakdown in communications about publishing the meeting.

It was confirmed that decisions to hold a meeting in camera is agreed at the start of a meeting.

Concerns were raised that the 19 May meeting became an open forum.

It was agreed a Busy Bees representative will attend the Playing Fields meetings. It was also agreed that 2 council representatives should attend the Busy Bees meetings to improve communications. Concerns were also raised that the existing office would not remain as part of the new layout.

7b. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations The review will remain as a monthly agenda item until the review of the documents is complete and signed off by Councillors.

8.0 Finance and Procedures

8a. The bank reconciliation and budget analysis for the period

ending 25 May 2025 was presented, agreed and signed.

8b. The May 2025 payments were presented and approved.

8c. The May 2025 receipts were presented and approved.

8d. The bank reconciliation for the period 26 April 2025 to 25 May 2025 was presented and approved by the Chairman Cllr S Bedford, with Finance lead Cllr Evans to approve on 1 July 2025.

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A request was made that as part of the review the daily spend limit should be reconsidered and a section on protection of Councillors added.

A request was made for an assessment of the financial implications of Busy Bees leaving the Pavilion.

9.0. Planning

9a. A list of current and recent planning applications was received.

The PC had held a site visit at Roman Camp cottages. The PC did not object in principle and confirmed that there is sufficient parking but also requested that SGC consider the possibility of overlooking into the neighbouring house and gardens.

9b. An update on the Local Plan was given by MR. The Local Plan deadline has passed. A decision is awaited on the application for safeguarding land for wind turbines. It was noted that a previous application for wind turbines has already been turned down, as being detrimental to the landscape and not in keeping with the area.

10.0. Playing Fields Report

10a. It has been suggested a defibrillator could be sited in the Playing Fields car park. The Clerk has investigated a grant from the British Heart foundation however the Whist group are potentially going to support the costs – **ACTION Clerk to obtain costings of installation and maintenance**

10b. The community event 26 July 2025. IK expressed concerns as the band had agreed to perform free of charge and may no longer wish to do this as they will no longer be practising at the Pavilion.

Oldbury Cricket Club. Invoices for water, electricity and 25% of rent, need to be sent to the Club. **(Action: IK to provide meter readings to the Clerk)**

10c. The monthly Playing Fields checklist has been circulated. It was noted that ROSPA are due to make their annual check in June. Safety concerns

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have been raised about the skateboard ramp. It was agreed that this should be removed. **ACTION IK to undertake this work.**

10d. Refurbishment of the toilet area - The donation for the refurbishment has been agreed & quotations obtained from contractors.

A meeting of available Councillors will be scheduled to review layout plans and to be shared with stakeholders. The preferred contractor will be selected and a final quotation requested. All plans must be finalised for agreement by the July meeting.

10e. The contract for the new cleaner will be circulated to all Councillors following the meeting for any feedback.

11.0. Road Safety Report – Council received the report.

11a. The overgrown bush on the corner of Westend and Camp Road has been logged at SGC.

11b. SGC held a multi-agency meeting on 2/6 regarding the parking issues in Westend, Camp Road and Ham Lane. **ACTION MR to circulate information**

Speeding at The Naite – KG raised concerns on speed of traffic using the Naite. Consideration to be given about having the speed reduced to 30mph rather than 60mph. **ACTION Clerk to draft a letter of support from the PC for KG to send alongside the Highways application for a request for consideration of a reduction in speed limit**

12.0. Communications Report was given by Cllr LD. Changes to the parish website can be provided at an additional cost, with a separate page provided to separate the existing documents. Proposal received from Cllr CJ to spend the quoted £30 per page for each year of Agendas and Minutes to improve the layout of this information, to go back 5 years. Cllr Heape seconded this proposal.

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ACTION Cllr LD to ask Livewire for a cost to add to the front page re the booking process for the Pavilion hire.

12a. Council received a request that the Hall booking form was changed from a PDF version to Word to make it easier to download and fill in.

13.0. New Nuclear Build Council received and agreed the report.

14.0 Drainage Council received the report

15.0 Emergency Planning. No update was presented.

16.0 Village Agent Council received and agreed the report

17.0 Memorial Hall – Council received and agreed the report

17a. The vacancy on the Memorial Hall committee – Cllr K Griffiths confirmed she would join the committee.

18.0 Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) – Council received the report from Cllr Jennings

The funding for 2025/26 is down slightly to around £20 Millon. This has had a knock on effect of delaying some jobs. The National Training centre has been demolished.
Regarding the Turbine hall, there are 12 service connections s left to cut. This will mean the demolition of the Turbine Hall can be put out to tender. The tendering process will go into next year. there is a considerable amount of metal that can be salvaged. Asbestos is the major concern. During the production of electricity and the removal of the nuclear cores there was a fair amount of low level waste generated. These items were stored in Vaults. Before these can be emptied it is important to identify what are in these vaults and how the material can be treated. This is being undertaken by a robot taking a sample of the material so it can be sent away for analysis. There are 5 vaults, one has been completed the others will take around 12 to 18 months before a comprehensive plan can be made.
The third area of activity is lagoon 3 where trails are being undertaken to establish water levels and what kind of 'wetland' will be generated. It is

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important to monitor this over a 12 month period to see any seasonality. There will be a number of planning applications over the next few months.

19.0 Parish Property Report

19a. MR reported that the treatment to the marker stones has been repeated for a third time and the appearance has improved.

19b. MR referenced the tree survey carried out in 2022. **ACTION Cllr MR to contact Phil Dye to obtain a quotation to address the damaged tree. The 2022 survey to be sought for the history on the trees.**

20.0 Any minor matters not requiring a decision or items for the next agenda

Clerk to request the local police attend the 1 July 2025 Annual Parish Meeting

Council received a question about funding for the playing fields to be turned into football pitches and option to apply for Grants to Sports England.

It was noted that the Clerk's letter of response to Ms Nichols was not circulated to all Councillors following sign off by Cllr Evans, until the FCM papers were circulated ahead of the 2 June meeting.

The Annual Parish meeting was discussed. It was agreed that it will be held on Tuesday 1 July 2025 @ 6.30pm when the local police are due to attend. The next Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 July 2025 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed @ 9.15pm