

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm
in The Old Chapel

Councillors Present

Cllr Stuart (Chairperson), Cllr Connolly, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Storey

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Mills, Sarah Brooke-Taylor (WRCC, Rural Housing Enabler) and three villagers

24/01. Apologies for absence

None

24/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Stuart declared an interest in item 24/06 as a landowner of site 7.

24/03. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2023

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

24/04. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

Defibrillator training – The Parish Clerk to ask if a Sunday can be picked in February.

24/05. Public Participation Session

A villager asked if it is viable to pursue houses for 7 people who indicated a need on the Housing Needs Survey. The Chair replied that the average cost of a home is £520K and the village is made up an older generation of people. 78% of the population are retired. Affordable homes will help younger people to live and stay in the village.

A villager reported water in the new noticeboard by the village hall.

24/06. To receive an update on the Housing Needs Land Assessment survey

Sarah Brooke-Taylor (SBT) met two Councillors and they walked around the village looking at sites. 8 sites were identified and there were pros and cons to each. 4 sites will be investigated and 3 were discounted. The last site will be investigated if there are no other available sites.

Site 1 (land behind Gilks Lane and Blackford Way) is in the centre of the village and has easy access. The landowner is keen for this site to be investigated further.

Site 3 (land next to The Old Methodist Church) is harder for road access. The primary interest is having it as a community space.

Site 5 (field off Green Lane/Tysoe Lane) is further out of the village.

Site 7 (land behind Green Lane) sits further away from the village.

Housing is an emotive subject due to the nature of it. The question to ask is do the village believe there is a greater purpose to put housing in for local people.

If landowners show an interest, the land will be looked at and suitable schemes discussed. A public consultation will take place at some stage. Once a site is agreed the process that will be followed is for the Housing Association to put the work out to tender. Local builders are used.

The land owner is paid, not market value but better than agricultural land. The funding is found via charities and Homes England.

It was agreed to continue with Sites 1 and 7. Sites 3 and 5 will be discounted.

Action: The Parish Clerk to pass landowner details to SBT who will approach them with a letter.

24/07. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The main points from the report of County Councillor Mills included:

WCC Financial Position, I need support now, Domestic Abuse, A safe place for children in care, SEND support expanded in Warwickshire, SEND Health Checks, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JNSA), Loneliness, Warm Welcome Hubs, Resourcing to Risk Consultation Events, Stop Smoking, Tuberculosis in England, Arranging COVID-19 vaccination transport, The Near Years Honours recipients for 2024 who live in Warwickshire, Disposing of batteries safely. The full report will be put on the village website www.oxhill.pc.uk.

The report from District Councillor Littlewood included the vision statement and aims of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

24/08. To receive an update on planning

- *23/03243/LBC, Proposed ancillary accommodation in existing outbuilding, proposed repair/rebuilding work to existing brick boundary wall at The Old Rectory, Main Street. No objections by PC.*
- *23/0322/FUL, Erection of single storey garage and extension to existing block paving hardstanding at 14 Leys Field. No comment by PC.*

An additional application had been received after the agenda had been issued.

- *23/03185/FUL, Demolition of existing conservatory to be replaced with a single storey flat roof extension. External alterations to front entrance to create a larger internal porch/hallway at Edenberry, Whatcote Road. It was agreed to say No objections.*

Determined

- *23/02858/TREE, Tree work at Fern Cottage, Main Street. No objection by SDC.*
- *23/02509/LBC and 23/02508/FUL, Proposed single storey rear extension and alterations and refurbishment to main house at Oxhill House, Main Street. Granted by SDC.*

24/09. To discuss the Church Orchard footpath

The path is very muddy again. Previously wood chippings were put on it.

Action: Cllr Connolly to enquire about more wood chippings.

24/10. To discuss the Main Street entrance to Leys Field

The entrance is Highways land but is very muddy. It deteriorated after work was carried out by Voneus.

Action: The Chair to take photos to send to Cllr Mills.

24/11. To discuss the footpath bridge to the Heritages field

There are two bridges near Fithers Field. One has been replaced and the other condemned. Safety tape has been torn down twice. It is a well used bridge. WCC are happy for the work to be done by the parish similar to before.

Action: Cllr Connolly to apply for the grant from the Councillors Delegated Budget in May.

24/12. To discuss blocked drains

The drains opposite the Church are blocked. The ground is shallow and fills up with silt.
Action: It has been reported before. The Parish Clerk to report to Highways.

A villager present noted the dissatisfaction expressed by Councillors in getting issues sorted and asked how he could help. The Chair thanked him and said it was down to a lack of money and resources in Local Government. Villagers can report items on Fix My Street and the Parish Council will continue to report issues. Some success has been seen on previous occasions.

24/13. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £100.00 to SDC (uncontested election charge)
- £600.00 to Oxhill Village Hall (grant)

To consider a grant for the Village Hall to buy a projector

The Village Hall Committee have asked the PC to consider a grant of £2500.00 to buy a projector and ceiling mounts. General usage was discussed. Residents have approached the VHC to run a film club. The garden club could put on lectures and the Local History Society would use it. The Parish Council would benefit when holding meetings and looking at online documents. It's a 21st addition to the hall. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to give a grant of £1900.00. This is in addition to the annual grant enabling the purchase to go ahead.

To set the precept for 2024/25

The Clerk had circulated spreadsheets showing spend and income for the current year and projected spend and income for 2024/25. There are no major projects but money has been put aside to purchase a field for a community space if it becomes available. A number of people attended the meeting to purchase the field and gifts of money were promised if the Parish Council made a contribution. Three Councillors voted to increase the precept by +5% and two Councillors voted against. The precept will be set at £12,155.00 for 2024/25.

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify SDC.

24/14. To receive the following correspondence

- Email re concerns of sewage and drainage issues at Oxhill Manor/Beech Road. This problem happened last year. Sewage is coming up in the field and part of the sewer pipe is near the surface on Beech Road. Highways are aware of the issue and a meeting has been arranged. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

24/15. Councillors Reports

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher reported that PC Speedy was found dumped in a remote field. Highways will not approve the purchase of a VAS.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to send the detail about not being able to buy a VAS to Cllr Mills to follow up.

Cllr Storey spoke about bleed kits for defibrillators which are used in city centres when people are stabbed or for loss of limbs in agricultural accidents. They do need their own cabinet. The Parish Council will not support the need for another cabinet.

Action: Cllr Storey to take it forward.

24/16. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

DRAFT