

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.30pm
in The Old Chapel

Councillors Present

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

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, Cllr Littlewood and three villagers

23/51. Apologies for absence

Cllr Connolly (personal)

23/52. Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Rivers-Fletcher that Cllr Robertson be Vice-Chair.

23/53. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

23/54. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd May 2023

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

23/55. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

Housing Needs Survey – 7 responses have been received, one online and six in the post. The online survey will close on 14th July. There were more responses last time but the questions were more specific this time.

23/56. Public Participation Session

Nothing was raised.

23/57. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

District Councillor Littlewood had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The main points include the financial position, planning applications which dominate his workload, the Anaerobic Digester plant in Tysoe which has not been decided yet and the Concessionary parking scheme. The full report will be put on the village website.

23/58. To receive an update on the proposal to extend the Whatcote Road pavement to the Sett

The Parish Clerk had contacted Highways and Cllr Mills had also spoken to them. The cost in 2019 was £3K - £4K. The new estimated cost is in the region of £16-£18K. Costs have gone up considerably since 2019. There is no funding from the County and the survey is £500.00 which is non refundable if the work does not go ahead. Highways have confirmed the path would be 1.5 wide and 16m long. There is a fire hydrant and other utilities which may present an additional cost or prevent it from being constructed. The survey will last for one year.

The Parish Council have reserves but these have been built up over a number of years. A public meeting was held in 2022, attended by 14 people and the village surveyed. The opinion was that if the Chapel field was for sale the Parish Council should try and purchase it for the security of the village.

There is a Councillor Priority Fund which the Parish Council have been fortunate to benefit from before. The closing date was 18th June 2023.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask WALC about funding sources and Cllr Mills about the Cllr Priority Fund.

23/59. To receive an update on work to the notice-boards

The Parish Council received funding (£600.00) from Cllr C Mills to upgrade the existing notice-boards in November 2022. The Parish Clerk has spoken to Ian Lauchlan and the one by the pub has been repaired. Another new board has been made to go by the village hall.

23/60. To receive an update on Chapel Field

There is no further news. Previously Derek Harbour (former Chair of the Parish Council) was negotiating with the family. Mr Harbour is no longer on the Parish Council and it was agreed that Cllr Robertson will take over new negotiations.

23/61. To discuss canvassing the view of villagers about future projects

The Parish Council would like to ask villagers what projects are important to them. An article could be put in the next newsletter. Facebook will be used to promote and raise awareness of the idea. Not everyone uses the website or Facebook. This is a good starting point. Cllr Storey noted that in Mr Harbours report read out at the APM he said 'Oxhill was a great place to live'. The Parish Council are here to serve the residents and everyone has one thing in common.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to draft an article.

23/62. To receive an update on planning

One new application had been received.

- 23/01461/DDT, T1 Larch Fell (Dead. Replacement planting required) at St Lawrences Church, Main Street. For information only.

An update was given on an older application.

- 23/01520/FUL, Demolition of existing storage building and erection of a replacement storage (B8) building at Windmill Farm, Red Horse Vale Ltd, Banbury Road. Supported by PC.

23/63. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £30.00 to J McKail (internal audit)

23/64. Councillors Reports

Green Lane has been resurfaced. Councillors noted a good job had been done and the work finished quickly. However the 30mph painted roundels are missing.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email Highways and copy Cllr Chris Mills.

The Chair will borrow litter pick equipment for the litter pick on 14th October 2023.

Councillors briefly discussed the Concessionary Parking Scheme for those of state pension age being reinstated referred to in the report from Cllr Littlewood. The reason given for the change in policy is to support charity shop workers. It is thought there are three charity shops in Stratford. Is it appropriate and how many workers would benefit?

Action: Cllr Littlewood to obtain more information.

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher asked if Wellesbourne Airfield is a big issue? Cllr Littlewood replied that there are signed contracts for 4 years. They have agreed not to build houses. It is an important aviation centre with many aviation engineers working there. One company has already moved to High Wycombe with the loss of 12 local jobs.

23/65. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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