

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm
in The Old Chapel

Councillors Present

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

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Mills, District Cllr Littlewood and seven villagers

24/17. Apologies for absence

Cllr Storey (personal)

24/18. 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 24/23 as a landowner of site 7. She did not leave the meeting when the item was discussed as it was not a pecuniary interest.

24/19. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2024

Item 24/06 – Line 4 now reads Site 1 (land behind Gilks Lane and Blackford Way) is in the centre of the village and has easy access.

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

24/20. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

Warwickshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Comments are to be made by 7th April 2024. Cllr Connolly to complete on behalf of the Parish Council.

Chippings for Church Orchard – It is a deep area and the soil condition is improving. Cllr Connolly to look at more robust chippings.

24/21. Public Participation Session

From the floor a villager spoke about the survey to extend the footpath to the Sett. The survey cost was £500.00 but the Parish Council had previously said there was no money to pay for it and money was ring fenced to purchase a field. The villager was surprised that £1900.00 had been given to the Village Hall Committee to purchase a projector. The Chair replied that not all money is ring fenced. There is basic expenditure of £5000.00 to find each year. The survey for work to the path is valid for 12 months and the work would cost £18K. The Parish Council do not have that amount of money. They suggested she look for other forms of funding to carry out the work. There may also be underground services which would make the work unviable. The villager stated that she did not know about possible underground services.

Action: The Parish Clerk and Chair to check old minutes.

24/22. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from District Councillor Littlewood included an update on the AD in Tysoe. The Planning Consultant is writing a report. It was reviewed by an Independent consultant. A notice of appeal against the SDC Planning Refusal has been issued for the Travelling Show People site at Pillerton Priors/Hersey. Council tax letters will be received soon. There is an increase of 4.99%.

The Chair asked if other digester applications around the country had been approved. The sites in Scotland have been refused but the local one at Evenley has been approved.

24/23. To receive an update on the Housing Needs Land Assessment survey

Cllr Robertson gave some background. A Housing Needs Survey took place recently and the results were noted at a PC meeting (12th September 2023) and the detail put on the village website. A survey is part of a process to build a planning picture of the village. The local Planning Authority will take note of this information. There is a limited supply of affordable homes in the village with three remaining to purchase when they come to the market. Sarah Brooke-Taylor of Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC) suggested pursuing possible sites. A site visit was conducted with two Councillors. Seven possible sites were identified and a report published (PC Meeting 9th January 2024). Two landowners have now withdrawn their support for the scheme and there are no alternative sites. WRCC have accordingly closed their file.

From the floor a villager noted that this has been on the cards for a while. A scheme has to receive village and Parish Council support. A villager asked for the definition of affordable housing. Market price is 80% and social housing is 60%. A site with less than five properties is a non-starter.

A villager asked why the Chair had not left the room as she had declared an interest in this item. Councillors have to leave the room if it is a pecuniary interest. This is not pecuniary. The villager spoke about the pair of semi-detached houses next to Oak View in Green Lane and said they were not affordable. The Chair joined the conversation as these are next to her property and belong to her. She wrote the planning statement before building work commenced and they were never going to be affordable homes. The villager disputed this and had read they should have been affordable and not built as holiday lets. Both parties agreed to check old paperwork when returning home.

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher confirmed that the Parish Council were not actively looking for housing but a need had been identified through the Housing Needs Survey.

Cllr Mills arrived after attending another meeting.

24/24. To approve the criteria for funding larger cost projects (circulated)

A criteria form for funding larger cost projects had been produced and circulated. It will be completed when new projects arise. It was proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr Robertson to accept the new form.

24/25. To discuss guardianship of the defibrillator

Mr Harbour is the current guardian and was previous Chair of the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk is happy to be guardian if it does not involve being available for maintenance checks as she lives outside the village.

24/26. To discuss blocked and broken drains

There are blocked and broken drains in the village again. The one by the Church is broken and dangerous and needs reporting.

Action: The Parish Clerk to report.

Drains on the Manor field are overflowing. They have been reported to Severn Trent.

Cllr Connolly to report a leak outside Fithers Field.

24/27. To receive an update on planning

Determined

- 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. Granted by SDC.
- 23/03222/FUL, Erection of single storey garage and extension to existing block paving hardstanding and extension to dropped kerb at 14 Leys Field. Granted by SDC.
- 24/00126/TREE, Tree work at 2 Peacock Cottages, Main Street. No objection by SDC.
- 23/02342/FUL and 23/03234/LBC, Proposed ancillary accommodation in existing outbuilding, proposed repair/rebuilding works to existing brick boundary wall at The Old Rectory, Main Street. Granted by SDC.
- 24/00232/TREE, Tree work at Brambles, Back Lane. No objection by PC. No objection by SDC.

24/28. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£552.12 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£138.00 To HMRC

£35.10 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

£346.80 to Shipston Community First Responders (battery for defibrillator)

£54.00 to Shipston Community First Responders (pads for defibrillator)

24/29. To receive the following correspondence

- Tysoe Dementia Café. Details were read out and a notice will be put on the board.
- Shipston Home Nursing, donation request. This will be considered later in the year.
- Free Portrait of His Majesty The King. A portrait will be ordered for the Village Hall.
- Highways, Road Closure of Beech Road 15th March
- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue, Safe and Well letter. A poster will be put on the board.
- WCC, Free Scooter training in Easter holidays. A poster will be put on the board.

24/30. Councillors Reports

The footpath bridge was discussed. The previous bridge was paid for by WCC. There are two different landowners. Another quote will be sought.

Action: The Chair to pass new contact details to Cllr Connolly.

Cllr Littlewood had sent an email to the Parish Clerk about grants. This will be circulated.

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher had passed all the relevant paperwork concerning speeding to Cllr Mills. There is nothing new to report.

Cllr Mills read his report. The report included Devolution in Warwickshire and Investment zone, Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy, Raising awareness of the support available for those who self harm, Love Your Bump, Quit for No Smoking Day, Supporting people with dementia, Warwickshire Connected, Foster Carer case study, Parenting Courses, Help to meet household utility costs. The full report will be put on the village website. The Chair spoke about the Parenting Courses and noted that more are held in the north of the county than the south. This is thought to be possibly due to population density.

24/31. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.30pm

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

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