

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.30pm
in The Old Chapel

Councillors Present

Cllr Harbour, Cllr Connolly, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Stuart

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Chris Mills, District Cllr John Feilding, Sarah Brooke-Taylor of WRCC, Mr Kelly and Mr Page from Voneus and eight villagers

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.

23/17. Apologies for absence

None

23/18. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

23/19. Sarah Brooke-Taylor, Housing Needs Survey

Sarah Brooke-Taylor (SBT) is a Rural Housing Enabler for WRCC which is a charity. She works with Stratford District Council and rural villages. The last survey was carried out in 2016 and there was a request for four homes for local people. There are currently three households on the SDC waiting list. Up until last November, six households with a local address were on the housing waiting list. The form is the same as before but there is the option to complete online. An up to date evidence of need can help question new planning applications that come through. It is a good starting point. SBT confirmed a local address is one within Oxhill. The complete pack will be supplied by SDC and can be distributed with the newsletter. It was agreed to do this in June, after the May elections.

The Chair thanked SBT for attending the meeting and she left.

23/20. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2023

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

23/21. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

Broken road sign on Whatcote Road – It has not been fixed. The Parish Clerk to report to Highways.

23/22. Public Participation Session

Members of the public were at the meeting to listen to concerns about Voneus.

23/23. Voneus – To discuss recent works in the village and hear concerns

Cllr Rivers Fletcher spoke about many complaints that have been made. Voneus have dug up roads and served some properties overhead if they are unable to deliver via poles. The work has been very inconvenient and disruptive. Verges have been disturbed. Some have been relaid but not with grass seed. On Whatcote Road, the excavation length was excessive and prevented normal use of the road. Traffic management was lacking. Car drivers were directed by the Voneus workforce to drive on verges. It was unsafe and not properly managed. A lot of kerbstones were damaged, this was put on the village Facebook page. A villager sent a complaint email to the PC about Rouse Lane. This was passed to Voneus at the meeting.

A villager asked if Voneus would be digging up Green Lane. The answer was no and they would be using Open Reach poles.

The Voneus representatives confirmed that most work is done. The fibre is not live yet. They would normally send a permit to the Council. Letter drops would be sent out to the village. Voneus would sit with Highways and advise what is going to be done. This did not happen and the village did not know they were planning to work in the village.

Voneus advised they have a complaints team although villagers have found them very hard to get hold of. Mr Page agreed to forward an email address. Overall it has not been a happy experience for the village.

Cllr Stuart referred to footpaths with barricades at the end. All paths should have access.

Mr Page spoke about a free connection being offered by Voneus to a community building for 2 years. Mrs Collings has received phone calls on behalf of the VHC but would like a written email.

23/24. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from Cllr Chris Mills had been circulated. The main points included:

New fund launched to give Warwickshire Economy a £40M boost, Businesses looking to grow or relocate now have access to £40M of financial support, Council Tax/Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner/Parish Councils – SDC increase of 3.24%, WCC increase of 3.94%, WPCC increase of 5.33% and Town and Parish Councils increase of 4.81%. Voter ID – Legislation has changed and everyone wishing to vote at a polling station from 4th May 2023 must show an accepted form of ID. Household Support Scheme – The Government has recently announced details of the Household Support Scheme for 2023-24. Warwickshire will receive £6.9M. Residents struggling to pay utility bills – Warwickshire residents can look to the County Council for support, UK Says No More to Domestic Abuse 2023 – this is part of a national campaign, Women’s Tour 2023 – Warwickshire will welcome back the Women’s Tour, Warwickshire welcomes extension to £2 bus fare cap – Bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months. The full report is on the village website.

Cllr John Feilding announced this would be his last meeting as his ward will not exist. He has helped the village including the flooding on Leys Field. He apologised for offending anyone over the years.

23/25. To discuss forthcoming Parish Council Elections

The current four year term comes to an end in May 2023. There is an election notice on the website and notice-board. The Parish Clerk has nomination forms which have to be completed and returned to SDC by 4pm on Tuesday 4th April 2023. The new four year term of office begins on Tuesday 9th May 2023.

23/26. To discuss the replacement of the footpath bridge over the brook between Fithers Field and Syfreds Field

Cllr Mills has agreed to fund the replacement and installation of the replacement footpath bridge. The matter has now been passed back to Richard Barnard who works for the footpaths department. Mr Barnard has contacted the two landowners but needs to contact Paul Heritage who owns Fithers Field.

23/27. To discuss the plans for the Coronation of King Charles III/community activity day

A village family picnic will be held on Sunday 7th May 2023 on Leys Field. A courtesy letter to be sent to the developer as the land has not been passed over yet.

23/28. To receive an update on Orchard Field

Mrs Gardner is 100 years old on 26th March and she did not want the field sold before her party. So negotiations have currently ground to a halt.

23/29. To receive an update on the notice-boards

There are two main notice-boards in the village. One by the bus shelter outside the village hall and one outside the pub. The old one next to the village green is not used. The Parish Council notices tend to be put in the one by the pub. It is leaking and the door does not shut properly. It needs to be lockable.

Action: The Parish Clerk to speak to Ian Lauchlan about improvements he could make as funding was received in 2022 to improve two notice-boards.

23/30. To receive an update on planning

New

23/00576/TREE, Tree work at Little Barn, Church Lane. It was agreed to support the application.

Older

23/00354/TREE, T1 – conifer or leylandii – Fell at The Old Rectory, Main Street. No objection by PC.

23/00364/TREE, T1 cypress – Fell at The Old Rectory, Main Street. No objection by PC.

22/03642/FUL, Conversion of detached garage to 1 bed holiday let at Stablecroft, Green Lane. Granted by SDC.

23/00051/TREE, Fell 1 Horse Chestnut at the Village Hall. No objection by SDC.

23/31. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£92.40 to P Rivers-Fletcher (Cardboard PC Speedy)

£593.04 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£148.20 To HMRC

£35.10 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

To agree the CIL payment of £3899.00 to the VHC

The window work to the village hall has now been completed and it was agreed to pay the outstanding CIL payment to the village hall.

To consider a donation for Shipston Home Nursing

A donation was given last year and this home has helped residents from the village in the past. It was agreed to give another donation of £500.00.

13/32. Councillors Reports

Some footpaths are muddy. The sawdust spread on a recent footpath has helped.

The Chair announced he would not be standing for election again. He thanked his fellow Councillors and Parish Clerk for all their work and support over the years.

23/33. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

DRAFT