

OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2023 AT 7.30PM  
IN THE OLD CHAPEL

**Present**

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

Christine Coles - Parish Clerk, District Cllr Malcolm Littlewood and nine villagers

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr Robertson (holiday) and County Cllr Chris Mills (personal)

**2. Report from Parish Council (Cllr Derek Harbour, Chair of Parish Council)**

We have had yet another interesting year with various Planning challenges and many other calls on our time.

- Planning – The Wixey Application (thankfully defeated), The Hogwood Farm Application (still being considered) and others.
- The Anaerobic Digester – The lead was taken, rightly by Tysoe, but we contributed in all manner of ways and wait to see the outcome.
- Voneous – We finally got some representatives to attend a PC meeting.
- We were able to make some donations to good causes like the Christmas Tree outside the Village Hall, some support for the re-building of the Village Hall itself, a donation to the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee celebrations to keep the cost down for all villagers and some support to enable our village Noticeboards to be refurbished.
- We attempted to buy 'Gardner's Field for the village but were unable to agree a price, etc with the Gardner family but there may still be a deal to be done?
- We have continued to be vigilant, within the rules and regulations, about the regrettable speeding situation in the village.
- Footpaths – We have tried to ensure that these stay open and with the help of Chris Mills of Warwickshire are working to replace one of the bridges.
- Finally, I have had the opportunity to serve the village over the last 7 years and have worked with some great people, like the current team, Duncan Harper, Grenville Moore and the irreplaceable Sue Hunt. It does take time and effort to be Parish Councillor for which we should all be grateful that there are people like these who are prepared to do it with the only reward being that we are helping to make Oxhill a great place to live.

**3. Presentation of accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

The draft unaudited accounts were presented by the Parish Clerk. Income was £14.2K and expenditure £9.3K. Balance at year end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was £27.6K.

A villager asked about the donation to the nursing home. The Parish Clerk confirmed the donation was given to Shipston Home Nursing who have helped local residents and families.

#### **4. To receive a report from the County Councillor and District Councillor**

Cllr Littlewood thanked all those who had elected him. There has been a recent ward change. His first Council meeting is tomorrow night and there will be more to report next time. There are two main issues.

1. AD plant at Tysoe – This has gone over the time limitation although its not true in this case. Its an industrial application and a major project. There are different rules and authorities can apply for extensions. There has been no determination yet. It might be at the end of June/middle of July. The application is being looked at by Stratford District Council because the crops are grown for digestion and used to process domestic and human waste. Cllr Littlewood is not on the Planning Committee.
2. Hogwood Farm planning application - A new application has been submitted.

Cllr Littlewood hopes to attend as many meetings as possible and is happy for his contact details to be put on the website.

Cllr Storey asked Cllr Littlewood for his view on the AD plant at Tysoe. He is a member of Tysoe Parish Council and this application does not add up as a green project. He has looked at the validity and sustainability of the application with Tysoe Parish Council. More carbon dioxide will be created with transportation numbers. There will be lots of vehicle movements and no benefit to the local environment. The annual traffic plan is based around seasons and will be condensed into a short period of time. The objection by Tysoe Parish Council is 143 pages.

Cllr Rivers Fletcher asked if other applications had been successful across the country. The one in Scotland was refused.

Cllr Stuart said that local Parish Council's had objected. Cllr Littlewood noted there are three options for the applicant. 1. Forget the application. 2. Appeal on planning grounds. 3. Withdraw and resubmit a revised application. A resubmission would have to be different.

A written report had been received from County Cllr Chris Mills.

2022/23 has also been a challenging year for Warwickshire County Council and the residents of our County. Sudden unexpected expenditures created by the cost of living and the on-going Covid-19 crisis created real challenges for people experiencing financial hardship. Therefore, WCC received many calls asking for assistance. The Council were able to help through the WCC's Household Support Fund who support the most vulnerable residents. £421 million was also made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. The objective of the Household Support Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with expenditures, specifically food, energy and water bills. This phase of the grant runs from 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023. Warwickshire has been allocated £3.47million, which is being distributed through the existing Local Welfare Scheme. Also, since October 2022, WCC have spent £1.81m on vouchers and grants to community groups and charities plus additional grant to Act on Energy's Warm and Well programme which supports residents with boiler repairs, servicing and fuel debt management. The grant and voucher scheme included:  
£569k to children eligible for benefits related free school meals for food support. £926k as part of the November/December utilities promotion  
£250k in grants to community groups and charities. However, the largest spend for WCC is Adult Social Care @£200m per year. Furthermore, WCC paid £2.8m to increase capacity in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

One of the main challenges for the Council has been the displacement of refugees. Warwickshire has a proud history of support for refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and most recently, Ukraine. Several Afghan refugees have been helped by WCC with an Employment Package part of the Fair Chance Employer Program. Similarly, the Council oversaw The Afghan Resettlement Scheme, Afghan relocation Scheme and the Afghan Refugee Scheme. There was a total of 147 refugees who were accommodated at Walton Hall, Wellesbourne. WCC were able to assist with GP registration, school places, benefit claims, housing, and childcare

In summary, Warwickshire County Council rose to the occasion during 2022/23, they were able to assist in supporting the neediest of our residents in these very unsettling times. Even though the number of unexpected problems has created an extra financial burden on Warwickshire County Council, they were nevertheless able to set the Council Tax at 3.94% which is less than the Government have allowed Councils. WCC were not prepared to take more Tax than was needed from our hard-pressed residents. That being, the increase in the Council Tax will generate an extra £3.849m to provide funding to help with the cost-of-living crisis.

**5. Open Forum**

No matters were raised.

Meeting finished 8pm.