

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 9th July 2019 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Councillors Present

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

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, District Cllr John Feilding and one villager

19/43. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hunt (unwell) and County Cllr Chris Williams

19/44. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

There were no interests to declare.

19/45. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 14th May 2019

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved and signed.

19/46. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

There were no matters arising.

19/47. Public Participation Session

A discussion took place around the potential development at Oxfield Farm. Cllr Feilding confirmed it is a brownfield site and available for redevelopment. Some correspondence has been exchanged between an architect and Stratford District Council. The Parish Council will be involved at an appropriate time. The application is in the pre planning consultation stage. SDC are insisting that the developer makes contact with the Parish Council.

19/48. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

County Council Report

Cllr Chris Williams had forwarded a report. The main points included:

Administration – Significant changes have taken place with the management structure at the County Council (WCC) and they have now started on new proposals which set out a clear vision to make Warwickshire forward thinking. The new Director of Highways is Scott Thompkins. With 18 years of experience he joins WCC from Gloucestershire.

Public Health – They await the Governments Green Paper on Health and Social Care. The new Directors of Public Health are working together to highlight the need for healthy living in the community. Dementia, obesity, exercise and mental health are top of the list of long term concerns. Parish Council's are being asked to encourage activities for the young and tackling loneliness by encouraging social activities for single elderly residents.

HS2 – Early works are nearing completion and the contractors are commencing some preparatory works in particular concerned with the tunnel boring machine. There are trials in Wormleighton which are getting underway. Cllr Bob Stevens has been appointed as Cabinet Advisor on HS2 matters and will be working to get better and accurate communications regarding HS2. He is aiming to get the three District Councils who are affected by HS2 to accept their responsibilities and appoint a dedicated Officer as a point of contact.

Grants – There are pockets of money around for small grants for community benefit. Cllr Williams community grant closed on 7th June and he has awarded Oxhill Village Hall £1500 for the refurbishment and extension of the hall and kitchen improvement. All the grant money has now been allocated and there are no further funds available from this source.

District Council Report

Cllr John Feilding gave the following report.

At the Regulatory meeting on 28th June, the committee agreed that no work should be started on any development site until the Construction Management Plan had been agreed. Contractors must have their plans agreed with SDC. This has strengthened the position of the Enforcement department who can now prevent development from starting. The new planning portfolio holder is Sarah Walley-Hoggins.

Action: Cllr Feilding to invite Sarah Walley-Hoggins to a future PC meeting in Oxhill.

Site Allocation Plan - The major concern is not meeting the targets as set out in the Core Strategy. SDC have identified sites around the District to make up the numbers of developments.

Corporate Strategy - The Cabinet and Management Team are working on SDC Corporate Strategy for the next four years.

Police Forum – There have been a number of burglaries and a forum is being arranged on 4th September at Primrose Hill Farm. 2 members and the Clerk can attend the meeting. Further details will follow. The new Inspector is Alison Wiggin.

Action: Cllr Feilding to forward her contact details.

The Chair spoke about enforcement and he had read in a planning magazine that SDC scored very low in their officers making enforcement decisions. Cllr Feilding is concerned and frustrated too.

Action: The Chair to write a letter about the lack of enforcement and copy Cllr Feilding.

19/49. To receive an update on traffic calming

Most of the work has been done as agreed. Speeding is still an issue in the centre of the village. Councillors discussed if anything else can be done. Some villages have flashing speed signs which are costly, when new. There is money in the budget to use for traffic calming.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward details of a company that she has used before to Cllr Rivers-Fletcher.

19/50. To discuss Security Marking and the way forward

The Chair gave an update. 50 kits were ordered and 48 have been sold. The Chair confirmed he has the kits to mark the tools. It was agreed to order an extra 10-15 kits.

Action: The Chair to chase Smartwater to update the signage. The Chair to ask if there is a minimum order. A letter to be written to Mick Shepard.

19/51. To receive an update on planning

New Applications

19/01276/VARY, Changes to land on north side of plot 2, Green Lane. It was agreed to leave the Parish Council objection in place.

Older Applications

Appeal decision (18/02352/FUL), Land off Church Lane – Dismissed.

19/01049/FUL, Change of use of existing building and adjacent land at Church Farm, Whatcote Road. Refused by SDC.

* 19/00865/FUL, Proposed dwelling at Homestead, Main Street.
19/01276/VARY, Changes to Land on north side of Plot 2, Green Lane. Objections by PC.
19/01312/FUL, Demolition of existing pre-fab bungalow. Erection of new four bedroom dwelling.
Objections by PC.
19/01530/FUL, Demolition of sun room and erection of single storey rear extension and new porch at Little Windmill, Whatcote Road. No objections by PC.

* 19/00865/FUL, Proposed dwelling at Homestead, Main Street. The Parish Council had sent no objections but did not know the SDC Conservation Officer had objected. The Parish Council then withdrew their support but this fell outside the 21 day consultation period. The application will not be re-submitted. The Parish Council would like to know in future if the Conservation Officer is objecting to an application.

Action: The Chair to raise this point at the Planning training course in September.

19/52. Financial Report

To review the current budget and forecast to 31st March 2020

The Parish Council are currently working to budget.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£159.23 to Zurich Municipal (insurance)

£394.40 to Tysoe Childrens Group Ltd (copying of newsletter)

£600.00 to Smartwater (Purchase of Smartwater kits)

£40.00 to Information Commissioner (Data Protection Fee Renewal)

£15.00 to WALC (Planning Training for Cllr Stuart)

A deposit of £330.00 was paid into the bank account from the sale of the Smart water kits.

19/53. To receive the following correspondence

The following correspondence had been circulated:

WALC, VE Day 75th Anniversary 8th - 10th May 2020. The early May bank holiday has been moved to the Friday to make a long weekend for international celebrations. It was agreed to put a note in the newsletter.

19/54. To receive Councillors Reports

The Chair asked if there were enough dual purpose bins. There are two, one outside the village hall and pub. It was felt this was enough.

The Chair spoke about the path to the Sett which could be extended. Warwickshire Highways had previously advised they would not fund this work.

Action: The Parish Clerk to get the full cost from Highways.

Councillors spoke about Leys Field and 2 houses which will be put on the market soon.

Action: The Chair to enquire about the prices.

19/55. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 8pm

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.