

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 12TH March 2019 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Harbour (Chairperson), Cllr Harper, Cllr Moore and Cllr Stuart

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, District Cllr Jon Feilding and three villagers

Before the meeting began the Chair noted that this would be the last meeting for Cllr Grenville Moore and Cllr Duncan Harper. He gave a vote of thanks to them both for all their work over the years.

19/14. Apologies for absence were received from
County Cllr Chris Williams and Cllr Hunt

19/15. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda
There were no interests to declare.

19/16. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2019
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

19/17. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only
The Chair noted that he has received written confirmation from Cllr Chris Williams that he will give a grant of £3K for the traffic calming project.

Land outside pub – It was agreed for Cllr Moore to purchase the planters for this area. Cllr Moore had previously sold paving slabs and it was agreed at the time that this money would be ring fenced for this area. The quote for the bus shelter has been put on hold but is still on a wish list.

The Chair has written to the CEO of Piper Homes about problems with the new development. He has not received a reply. Another villager wrote and got a reply but no action has been taken. Cllr Feilding agreed to take it up with SDC Enforcement if necessary.

19/18. Public Participation Session

For the benefit of the villagers, the Chair explained the precept. It is the Parish Council's share of the Council tax. It has always been the 2nd lowest in the District. It was not increased for many years as there was no need but now parishes are expected to do more. The precept has been increased over the last two years so that traffic calming measures can be considered.

19/19. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor
Cllr Feilding gave a report.

Broadband – Most villages have fibre but the outlying parishes seem to have problems. He is hoping to bring the ward together to discuss the problems and work with the District. Avon Dassett Parish Council have written to Cllr Feilding about setting up a meeting with the PCC to discuss rural crime. Smaller parishes have a lot of expense and it would be beneficial to talk together than individually. Discussions are ongoing with SDC about planting on Leys Field. There is county money available to fill potholes. The Parish Council are to contact Cllr Chris Williams. Gilks Lane was reported but there has been no update from Highways.

The main points from Cllr Williams's report included:

Administration – December and January were quiet at the County Council. There is a sufficient stock of salt if any bad weather arrives. Warwickshire's Youth Service has undergone an inspection which was rated as Good and some areas as Outstanding.

Budget – The budget was set by full council on 7th February. The economy in Warwickshire is strong and now recognised to be the fastest growing region in the country. Warwickshire will receive a one off Social Care grant of £6M plus £1.2M for vulnerable pupils. With the principle of protecting the most vulnerable in the community, the Council Tax was increased by 3% and an additional Social Care precept of 2%. The County Council are about to start the third year of a three year plan to delivery services to high standards and make savings of £67M. To date they have achieved this target.

Buses – Stagecoach have revised their timetable.

Highways – Major works including HS2, particularly on the A423 will create major disruptions over the next few weeks.

19/20. To consider the report on traffic calming

The Chair has spoken to Jo Edwards of Warwickshire Traffic. She has agreed to a junction sign being placed on the Whatcote Road near Heritage Farm and the word 'SLOW' being painted on the road near Green Lane. The cost to move the 30mph sign in Green Lane is £8K and this is based on costs that are required by law. The Parish Council would have to pay for this work and there is no money in the budget. Village gates have not been included in the scheme as only one supplier can be used. The scheme will now be re-costed. A design cost of £200.00 has already been paid which will be deducted from the final cost.

19/21. To discuss a litter pick

One request has been received to hold a litter pick. It was agreed to hold one on Saturday 6th April and provide refreshments in the village hall afterwards. Cllr Feilding noted that SDC can provide extra litter pickers if needed.

Action: The Chair to draft a note for the newsletter.

Cllr Harper noted that he had seen dog mess whilst walking the Manor routes recently.

19/22. To discuss security marking in Oxhill

There have been recent examples of white vans being broken into recently. One way to prevent this is by better marking of goods and there are three main security marking techniques available. There will be a presentation in the village hall on 8th May where a coded bottle of liquid from the SmartWater treatment can be purchased for £10. There is no need to re-register. Advice will be given on special marker pens. A note will be placed in the April and May edition of the Oxhill News.

The Chair used the opportunity whilst talking to Shipston Police about security marking to ask for more police presence in the village and in particular with speeding.

19/23. To receive an update on planning

New Applications

- 18/03436/FUL and 18/0347/LBC, Refurbishment and change of use of existing stables and barn into office space at Oxhill Manor, Main Street. No objections with observations.
- 19/00068/TREE, Tree work at Grove Cottage, Gilks Lane. No objection.
- 19/00168/TREE, Reduce height of silver birch at Blackford House, Main Street. No objection.

Older Applications

- 19/00080/FUL, Erection of a 3 bedroom detached dwelling with off road car turning and car parking for two cars at Land adjacent to Oxbourne House, Whatcote Road. No objections with observations. Application withdrawn.
- 19/03449/FUL, New garden room at rear of dwelling at Oxfield Farm, Whatcote Road. Application withdrawn.
- 18/03684/FUL and 18/03685/LBC, Proposed fencing and gates to the perimeter of the site (retrospective) at Homestead, Main Street. No objections. Granted.
- 18/018877/FUL, Proposed dwelling at Homestead, Main Street. Application withdrawn.
- 18/02352/FUL, Construction of one new dwelling and all associated works at Land off Church Lane. An appeal has been made against the decision of SDC. PC response given.

19/24. Financial Report

To review the current budget and forecast to 31st March 2019

The Parish Council are currently working to budget.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£17.00 to Mr D Harbour, printing of Speeding leaflets

£480.00 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£120.00 to HMRC

£19.71 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

£34.20 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

£600.00 to Oxhill PCC (Churchyard mowing/maintenance)

19/25. To receive the following correspondence

The following correspondence had been circulated:

- WALC, Hospital to Home Settling. This is a new service provided by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue. The pilot scheme started in August 2018. The aim is to prevent unnecessary admission for adults who are well enough to go home following their treatment within A&E but require immediate transport and support in settling when they get back home.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the email to Cllr Feilding.

19/26. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Moore spoke about the planning application for Church Orchard which is going to appeal. There is an ongoing debate with Enforcement at SDC about the felling of 12 trees on site. A site meeting will be arranged with the Enforcement Officer and Parish Council.

Cllr Moore spoke about Leys Field. He has had a meeting with SDC. The whole area will become a public owned space. The mature tree planting has been discussed. There can be a variation with planning as long as large trees are replaced with something smaller. The developer will not have to make a decision until 50% of the houses on public land are sold. A company will be appointed to maintain the area. They will form a company with the residents including a Board of Directors and a Parish Councillor who will look after the public open space.

A meeting has been held about the welcome pack. Cllr Moore is to write a couple more pieces.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.