

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Councillors Present

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

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, District Cllr John Feilding and eight villagers

20/01. Apologies for absence

Cllr Chris Williams

20/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Stuart declared an interest in the pre-planning consultation in Green Lane. The Chair declared an interest in item 20/10.

20/03. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

20/04. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

There were no matters to discuss.

20/05. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about the post-box on the crossroads which has been knocked down. He asked the Parish Council to write to Royal Mail to ask if it can be moved to the Church.

Action: The Chair to draft a letter.

The verge by Conifers on Whatcote Road was reported as it is in a poor condition.

Action: The Parish Clerk to send a letter. A general note about parking will be put in the next Oxhill News.

It was noted that some villagers are not aware the PC meetings are open to the public. The Clerk replied they have always been public meetings. A note to this effect is on the bottom of the agenda which is put on the notice-board and website.

Action: The Parish Clerk to write a reminder for the newsletter.

A villager reported the setts on the Main Road which require attention. They may have been moved by the street cleaner who was seen in the road.

Action: To be reported to Highways.

Mr Moore spoke about the flooding at Leys Field which was minuted at the last meeting. The SDC Enforcement Officer has phoned Mr Moore a couple of times. The suggestion of a French drain down the fence to the pond will solve the problem. Part of the 106 agreement is that no property or land should flood. SDC were warned about the number of springs but this information was ignored. A Construction Management Plan which should have been in place before work commenced was missing. The Enforcement Officer did visit but some time ago. It was agreed another visit is very overdue.

20/06. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from Cllr Feilding focussed on the new budget for 2020/21 being set by Stratford District Council. Only 40% of its income comes from the Council Tax. The rest comes from Central Government. Central Government will continue to reduce the amount of money it provides to District Councils. The Council Tax is split as follows:

Parish Council's	3.4%
Stratford District Council (SDC)	7.8%
Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)	11.5%
Warwickshire County Council (WCC)	77.3%

The PCC would like a 4.99% increase and are currently consulting with the public until 17th January.

A report was received from Cllr Chris Williams. WCC were named as the UK's top performing council for highway maintenance for the second year in a row. Warwickshire was among 111 highway authorities, including 28 County Councils which looks at satisfaction with highway services. Warwickshire came out top for public satisfaction amongst County Councils for Highway Maintenance dealing with potholes and cold weather gritting.

20/07. To receive an update on Traffic Calming

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher gave the following report. The summary of his approved report to the Parish Council was published in the last Oxhill news to gain reaction from the village. Despite support from various quarters in the village there have been a number of arguments against the proposed trailer scheme. Since it was never intended to go ahead with this without further consultation and approval on a number of fronts, there may have been a misunderstanding of this point. Two aspects now need further consideration – whether the speed of vehicles, particularly down Whatcote Rd, is of real concern to residents, and if so whether the Parish Council need to do anything about this. The proposed solution was considered to be the only possible affordable solution that could be effective within the current finances of the council, and the limited options open to the PC. Since no one has yet volunteered to join a committee to take the discussion further, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher is recommending that the Parish Council continues to further research the village attitude to traffic speed and any further potential solutions.

There are some aspects of the parked trailer idea which are of concern such as liability, the legal side and the amount of horses and children seen around the village. Options to reduce the problem are limited without street lighting. One person questioned the statistics of the last speed survey. The statistics do back up that people speed through the village. WCC are not concerned about speeding unless there is a fatality. The Parish Council recognise that trailers are not a popular option but there is a lack of other suitable and practical ideas.

A villager asked how long the trailers will be parked in one place? Ideally one to two weeks. Another person asked if there is evidence that by putting in calming measures, it will tackle fast speeds? Physical barriers will stop speeding. Flashing signs are another option but expensive.

Cllr Feilding noted that Alison Wiggins has agreed to visit Oxhill and put a camera on the Main Road. Tysoe have a speed camera which could be shared with joint agreement.

Action: The Chair to make contact with Alison Wiggins.

From the floor Mr Shepherd suggested the following:

1. The Parish Council carry out a survey through the newsletter.

2. The figures are publicised for everyone to see.

It was noted that a speed survey was carried out two years ago and there will be a charge for another one to be done.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to consider all options raised at this meeting.

20/08. To receive an update on Assets of Community Value (ACV)

Parish Councils are able to nominate an Asset of Community Value to protect their status. Although the Parish Council believed there were three assets to nominate, there are only two, the village hall and pub. The Village Hall is currently changing status to a CIO. Investigation work took place with the pub and the Parish Council were ready to move forward. An application was submitted to SDC without a full understanding of the potential impact on raising investment capital against properties registered with an ACV. A villager is proposing to buy the pub and they could be advised that an ACV is a constraint. The villager said he would not proceed with the purchase if there was an ACV in place.

Stuart Whittaker, the purchaser of the pub was invited to the meeting to discuss his future plans. He plans to spend money to make the pub better. He is proposing to extend the kitchen and put an extension on the back. He spoke about the field to the right which he would like to lease and turn into a vegetable garden. It was unanimously agreed not to proceed with the ACV on the pub.

Action: The Chair to write to SDC and confirm this decision.

Cllr Feilding spoke about the pub at Avon Dassett. It was purchased and ran down by the owners who then wanted to sell the pub for development. It was listed as an ACV. The village raised £250K and purchased the pub.

Action: Cllr Feilding to arrange a meeting with himself, Oxhill PC, the prospective owner of the Peacock pub and the pub owner in Avon Dassett.

20/09. To receive an update on the Publication of Local Footpaths Map for Residents

Cllr Connolly has agreed to produce a local footpath map for the newsletter and will register for a public sector mapping agreement. Once the footpaths are agreed he will check the detail with local landowners. The accuracy of maps was queried. Definitive maps are 20-30 years old with added diversions which means there are issues with thickness of lines. Ideally it would be useful for someone to walk the footpaths. There is a walking group in the village but they meet informally.

20/10. To receive a proposal to equalise the PC Contribution to the Village Hall and Church

The Chair did not take part in the discussion as he is on the VHC. The Parish Council currently give two donations each year, £600.00 to the PCC and £200.00 to the Village Hall. This is based on grass cutting costs. There is more grass to be cut in the churchyard and the work is complex which is why they receive the higher donation. The additional money for the village hall could be used for ongoing running costs.

Action: The Chair to ask the VHC for a short summary on how they would spend the extra money.

20/11. To receive an update from Councillors on tasks agreed for the next financial year

Cllr Stuart has obtained costings for a new bench for the churchyard, £400.00. The Chair has found a source of sandbags to help with flooding. They can be stored in the village. He will investigate signage and costs for the next meeting. A new bus shelter was briefly discussed. A contractor would need approval from WCC and a license to work on the highway.

Action: Mr Moore to ask Robin Stanford if he can reapply for a license to work on the highway.

20/12. To receive an update on planning

Older Applications

- 19/01049/FUL, Change of use of existing building and adjacent land from mixed B1 and Sui Generis (Specialist sheet housing) to mixed B1 and Sui Generis (light industrial and motor vehicle storage and refurbishment – part retrospective) at Church Farm, Whatcote Road. An appeal has been made. The Parish Council will be submitting new information to support their original objection.
- 19/03160/FUL, Proposed extension to reinstated garage and alterations to rear elevation to include new roof-lights at first floor and new fenestration at ground floor at The Orchard, Rouse Lane. Approved by SDC.
- 19/02884/FUL, Demolition of existing lean-to and construction of single storey extension to 3 sides at the Village Hall. Approved by SDC.

20/13. Financial Report

The following payments were approved:

£80.00 to Tysoe Children's Group (newsletter copying)

£132.00 to Smartwater (kits)

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

The Parish Council are currently working to budget.

To set the precept for 2020/21

Councillors have looked at spend ideas for 2020/21. These were minuted with approximate costs at the last meeting. More emphasis is being put on parishes to be self-sufficient. It was agreed to set the precept for 2020/21 at £11,025.00 (5% increase).

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify SDC.

20/14. To receive the following correspondence

The following correspondence had been circulated:

WALC, Police Precept Consultation 2020/21. The deadline for responses is 17th January.

20/15. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Stuart spoke about the overflow of ditches. The detail and photos will be forwarded to WCC Highways. A complaint has been received about the slurry at the Kineton crossroads. This will be reported.

Cllr Stuart is proposing to submit a pre-planning application for the erection of two, 2 bedroom semi-detached houses on her land where the container is. They will look like farm workers cottages. The plans were circulated at the meeting.

Cllr Stuart would like to draft a country code for the next newsletter. To include items such as opening and shutting gates and the illegal dumping of rubbish.

Action: Cllr Stuart to draft a notice and circulate.

20/16. To confirm meeting dates for 2020

10th March, 13th May, 7th July, 8th September and 10th November.

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

DRAFT