

**Draft Minutes of the Oving Annual Parish Meeting held at The Village Hall, Oving  
on Tuesday 15 July 2014 at 8.00pm**

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**Attendees:** Cllr McGinn (Chair) Cllr Peeters, Cllr Boulton, Cllr Couper, Cllr Myatt, Sue Severn (Clerk), Michelle Jackson (Minute Secretary) plus 25 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence - none.
2. To receive reports: Oving Parish Council:
  - a. Headline review and financials - Chairman Cllr Ambrose McGinn

Good evening everyone.

My name is Ambrose McGinn Chairman of the PC and I will chair the meeting this evening.

Before we start I would like to commemorate the memory of Ellen Brawley. Ellen lived in Windmill Cottages for only a relatively short time but instantly made a very positive impact in the community with many dear and close friends. Ellen also contributed to cleaning and assisting the PC in many practical ways and I would like to formally record the PC's gratitude to Ellen's memory.

Please stand as we remember Ellen in our thoughts for a short while in silence.

Thank you

No apologies for absence have been received.

You will have a copy of last year's minutes available to you at the meeting. Can we all agree they are a record of the meeting and I can now deal with any matters arising from those minutes.

There were no matters arising.

Audited accounts are available for inspection and I have included our financial position in this report.

I think it will be most efficient if you could save any questions until the end of my review.

I am delighted to welcome to our first Annual Parish Meeting to be held in Oving Village Hall - a landmark event by any standards. We delayed the meeting so that we could meet in our new hall and I hope that you find it comfortable. I should thank at this point our great friends at All Saints who have for so many years been our hosts for village meetings. By way of return we will be making the Village Hall available a couple of times a year to the PCC, free of charge, for their own use.

I would like to start by thanking a couple of people for their contribution to the village and Parish Council.

Firstly to my colleagues on the Parish Councillor, Jack Peeters, Andy Boulton, Kit Couper and Maxine Myatt. They provide their time and effort generously to the PC and spend many hours on your behalf dealing with issues and requests from villagers. In addition thanks to our BCC representative Janet Blake and AVDC Councillor Sue Polhill who have supported us very effectively and on several matters in the last year.

Thanks also to our recently outgoing clerk Sue Mordue who provided highly professional advice and guidance over many years. We will miss her and wish her well in a new role as project manager.

I should also thank Michelle Jackson who very efficiently records the minutes of the meetings.

However I can also introduce our new clerk who started about a month ago – Sue Severn. Sue has extensive experience at Watermead Parish Council and has stepped into the clerk's shoes with enthusiasm and professionalism. We welcome Sue at this time which is particularly busy due to our new building opening so recently. Good luck Sue and I know you will want to meet as many villagers as you can tonight.

Turning to a review of the Parish for the last year I have quite a few areas to cover.

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 20th May I was elected chair and Andy Boulton vice chair for the forthcoming year. Jack Peeters continues as Chair of the Recreation Ground Committee. Maxine Myatt represents the PC interests at the Local area Forum (LAF) - from which we have been able to get generous grants in the past which will continue to seek.

We have decided to not actively support the NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) as it just does not appear to add enough value for Oving. We will input any specifics via the LAF or our local PCSO. If anyone in the village would like to represent the PC interests at the NAG they are of course welcome. Oving also subscribes and actively uses BALC – Bucks Association of Local Councils who provide valuable information and advice

## **Finances**

Our income for the year was £20,919 (precept) and £195,986 (other income, largely grants and donations for the village hall which Jack Peeters will report on later). Our total income for the year was £49,178 against a budget of £21,384 which included a grant of £25,000 from AVDC Community Chest, transferred to the funding account for the hall. The balance was reclaimed VAT and other miscellaneous income.

Putting aside the transfer of the grant monies, our expenditure was £23,571 versus our budget of £20,535.

Administration costs including clerk's pay, insurance and audit came to £5597.53 against a budget of £6,352

Grass cutting costs ran at £3,842 against a budget of £3,200 - notwithstanding the weather.

That covers the main items of expenditure.

Last year's accounts have now been audited, approved and submitted to the Audit commission.

For the current financial year 2013/14 and 2014/15 the Parish Council agreed a precept increase in line with AVDC and BCC. Although this appeared on council tax bills as a 5.7% reduction the ACTUAL effect was a 1% increase. The average Band D household in Oving pays parish tax of £101 pounds a year, equivalent to £1.94 per week. I hope you will agree this is good value for money given the amenities and upkeep of our community.

Parishes and town councils are the only tier of local government which receive their income direct. District and County councils are allocated their budget from central government. This allows us to spend carefully on targeted local needs. Our precept for this year is £21,337, last year's was £20,919. We continue to carry forward modest reserves.

The Parish Council took up the Public Works Loan Board facility of £35,000 towards the Village hall - as planned last year. The repayments are covered within the PC budget and prudently do not rely on Hall receipts to fund. The loan is for 10 years and it is our intention to repay the capital earlier should funds allow.

In relation to the Village Hall I will also outline the legal status going forward as this is important. To protect this asset for the community in perpetuity, the PC is setting up a separate legal entity - a charitable trust. The trust will have a single trustee - the Parish Council. The constitution of the Trust will allow the Trust to make donations to the parish, and the PC has a power in place to make grants to the village hall. This arrangement is recommended by the UK's leading expert in the field of parish and other local councils' accounts, from whom we have taken professional advice.

The legal detail is being attended to by BCC legal department and this is by far the most common approach to this situation. The arrangements preserve the financial integrity of each organisation and fulfil our obligations as a PC.

The opening of the Village Hall will be covered in more detail by Jack Peeters shortly however I would like to say how pleased we all are on the PC that this project has come to fruition. It is the result of many years of dedication by many individuals and we had a very successful and well attended opening event just a few weeks ago.

I won't repeat all the thanks I made at that time however I do have a copy of the opening speech available and I would encourage you to take a copy as it very much recognises the huge effort and investment made by so many people across Oving in a landmark community facility.

We have built for ourselves an asset for the village for generations to come and we should all be very proud of that achievement. Interest and bookings are very strong and I am sure it will be an attractive place for everyone in the village to use.

The Village Hall committee is very active and enthusiastic - thanks to everyone on this group who has stepped forward to manage the project into its next phase. We will be publishing full hiring details very shortly.

As you may be aware we have also been working with the Football Club to improve the existing pavilion. Planning permission has been granted for a remodelling and extension to the building

# **OVING**

**Parish Council**

although works have been delayed whilst we finish the Village Hall. We expect the works to start within a couple of weeks from now which is part funded by the football club and the PC.

Once these major building works are finished we will be cleaning up the areas made a bit messy by the process sprucing up around the car park and other areas.

### **Moving into other areas**

The Community Led Plan has made limited progress in recent times due to a lack of available resources to focus on this considerable task. However a villager has come forward to confirm they will lead this initiative and we hope that it will be reinvigorated in the coming months.

Turning to vehicle speeding Oving now has MVAS installed – mobile vehicle activated speed signs and thanks to Andy Boulton for guiding this initiative forward. It acts as a deterrent and whilst it will not stop speeding completely, it does remind drivers of their speed and we hope prevents a serious incident as well as generally slowing down the traffic.

The defibrillator is now installed on the Reading Room and available for all to use. We are awaiting formal training however this is not required to access and operate the equipment. All the instructions are on the front panel of the yellow box and it tells you what to do once you release it!

Our website is changing and we have moved supplier and created more publishing flexibility for ourselves which Sue Severn has achieved very quickly. This will also link to a new Village Hall website where hiring terms conditions and a diary will be available. You can see it at [www.ovingpc.com](http://www.ovingpc.com)

Not everything of course will happen on the Rec and indeed the Church Fete is this coming Saturday 19th at Crossroads Farm on Meadway and I hope we can all make it to this very enjoyable event.

Many people in the village are concerned about the closure of the Black Boy. The PC is taking action on this front as we seek to preserve the unique status of the pub. To that end it will be registered as a community asset under an AVDC sponsored scheme - this gives the village first refusal on the pub in the event that it is sold. Jack and I recently met with the new freeholder. His stated intention is to maintain the Black Boy as a pub restaurant. He is frustrated right now as he works through a legal process with tenants and we are assisting where we can to get the pub open and part of the community again. At the end of the day though it is a privately owned commercial entity so there is only so much we can do on the PC. Having said that we are in close contact and monitoring events - influencing where and when we can.

Finally I should mention the proposed cuts to the Bus Service through Oving. The PC is formally objecting via the BCC feedback channel and we would encourage as many residents to do likewise so that BCC hear the strength of feeling on the issue. It is crucial to maintain this important travel facility for many in the village who choose not to drive by car for their journeys.

Thanks to everyone for your attention - are there any questions before I ask Jack to give a more detailed update on the new Village Hall.

### **Questions Raised by Parishioners on Chairman's Report:**

#### **Village Hall**

**Will the charitable trust (Oving PC) own the hall as an asset for the community?** OPC will be the single trustee and will have legal responsibility.

**What were the terms of the PWLB loan?** A fixed rate capital and interest loan from a government institution for lending to PCs at a favourable rate.

**Would the revenue from the hall be used to pay back the loan?** That is the intention. S106 monies received from the Four Acre development could be used to offset the loan.

**Would the Village Hall be registered as a community asset?** This is not necessary and wouldn't qualify under the scheme for commercial assets.

### **Reading Room**

**Where on the Reading Room was the defibrillator located?** On the outside wall in a coded box. Once 999 is dialled the code will be given to open the box and remove the defibrillator.

### **Footpaths**

**The footpath from Stoneview to the allotments had not been cut.** BCC were in the process of devolving services. The map of grass cutting to be reviewed and the Clerk to ask the grass cutter to cutback the footpath in the meantime.

### **Bus Service**

**Would the PC be responding to the proposed cuts to the bus service?** The PC is formally objecting via the BCC feedback channel and residents were encouraged to do likewise. There is a consultation meeting on 22 July.

### **Pavilion**

**What were the plans and costs for the existing pavilion?** Oving Villagers Cup were contributing £2k and the Football Club £2k, with the remaining £4k from the PC. The PC were hoping to obtain a contribution from the LAF. Work would commence within the next few weeks on the extension.

b. Village Hall - Cllr Jack Peeters

### **Progress with the Village Hall since the last Parish Meeting**

I reported at some length at last year's meeting on the events leading up to the start of construction. I will not repeat any of that except to remind you of one thing, namely that the grant situation has meant that the job has had to be carried out in stages and with different contractors. This has made it much more complicated than it might otherwise have been.

At that time I hoped that we would be open in April this year but events stretched the task for a couple more months into June.

At the time of the last meeting the frame was being erected by Border Oak and they finished their contract in July. We then had a lovely looking shell, with a stunning Oak frame, an attractive roof a set of doors and windows but nothing inside it. The process of specifying the detail of insulation, plumbing, heating, carpentry, electrics, access road and decoration were very time consuming and frankly difficult. There were literally hundreds of choices to make and we could not get realistic quotations from builders without trying to foresee in every detail what the finished building would require. The Design Group met frequently and finally emerged with a series of plans and specifications in November. Five main contractors were asked to quote and three followed up with prices. Messrs Jebech Developments Ltd were appointed by the PC in late January and started in

February. Jebech's main man, Paul Hannington, proved very soon that his firm were up to the job and I had an excellent rapport with him with brief meetings or phone calls every day or even more frequently. Every now and then the Design Group met to discuss important instructions and choose finishes for doors, furniture, light fittings etc. I must thank them for their contributions and to Ambrose and fellow Parish Councillors for showing trust and supporting us every time we felt the need to get higher approval, sometimes at the drop of a hat.

Throughout this past spring the work continued with the main contractors but also with others coming in for specialist jobs like flooring, Photo Voltaic Panels and a lovely kitchen.

At this time we were extremely concerned at the time it took to get water and electricity to the site and I had nightmares about an opening day with no lights, toilets or even a chance to boil a kettle or amplify music. It was not until two weeks before the opening that electricity was switched on and, with only three days to go we had a water meter fitted. Meanwhile the furniture was on its way to Oving Sussex and the tables only arrived here at 4 pm on the day before we opened.

In the week leading up to the opening a small but very hard working group transformed the area from a building site to a place fit for an opening party. I can't thank those faithful friends enough for their contributions.

At the same time another group of stalwarts was organising a brilliant opening day and again we are grateful to them. It would be wrong to pick out names but you know who you are and I think most people here are aware of your efforts.

Many of you were there on the day and may have heard above the noise of teacups, music and children playing the biggest ever sigh of relief coming from yours truly.

Three more things to say briefly: The work that Mary put into the project was immeasurable, so much so that she was a little under the weather on the opening day.

Secondly we have had to work within the constraints of the money available. What you see is what we could afford. There is much more to do, notably a need for curtains, for landscaping for wi-fi connections and other equipment. We are really grateful for those brilliant but anonymous donors of money who have made this Hall a reality but I am not ashamed to say there will be an ongoing need to raise money and we will continue to rely on your support in the future.

Finally, with at least three hundred people's social lives affected to a greater or lesser degree by the outcome I have never had a more challenging yet rewarding year and despite the sleepless nights I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be involved.

Village Hall Costs and Income to be included on the website.

To receive reports from other Village organisations.

### **Oving Tennis Club – Janet Wilson**

Currently has a healthy membership with 69 households registered and 148 individual names as members. Only around 20% of members are from Oving with the remainder from North Marston, Granborough and Aylesbury. Three new Oving families had joined in the last few weeks which was encouraging. Membership was £66 for a family and £33 for an adult. The new Village Hall had already proved an asset to the Tennis Club with players able to have refreshments on the

patio rather than in the car park area on the Open Day. The hall had been hired for club match days. During the summer months club sessions are held on a Wednesday and a Sunday morning. The tournament was on 6 September and it was hoped to have a presentation in the evening in the Village Hall.

**Football Club** – a good start to the season with no problems or discipline issues.

**Oving Villagers Cup** – more interest was needed and committee members in order to continue.

3. Parishioners' Open Forum – opportunity for villagers to raise and discuss matters.

**How many people live in the Village?**

Approximately 500 including children.

**Oving already has issues with broadband, sewage etc. With regards to the housing development at Four Acres, is infrastructure considered by the planning department when looking at applications?**

It would need to be proved that an additional 3/4 houses would have a significant impact.

**What were the plans for the Reading Room?**

It would be maintained and kept as it is. Polling Day would be in the new Village Hall. The Reading Room would still be used as a meeting room when the Village Hall is booked out.

**Will there be a new noticeboard?**

There will be new noticeboards both inside and outside the Village Hall.

4. Date of the next meeting - Thursday 14 May 2015.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.