



**Minutes of the Oving Parish Council Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.15pm via Zoom video conference**

**Present:** Cllr Ambrose McGinn Sue Severn (Clerk)  
Cllr Trish Perkins Cllr Mark Cheetham  
Cllr Matt Winward

**In Attendance:** Agnieszka Alborzpour (Village Hall) Elaine Conway  
Laura Williams (Minutes) Alistair Walker-Smith  
Louise Watson

**Action**

**1 Election of Chairman of the Council**

Cllr McGinn was elected Chairman of the Council (unanimous).  
The Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office immediately after the meeting.

**2 Election of Vice Chairman of the Council**

Cllr Perkins was elected Vice Chairman of the Council (unanimous).  
The Vice Chairman signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office immediately after the meeting.

**3 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**4 Open Forum**

Elaine Conway and Alistair Walker-Smith attended to observe the meeting.  
Louise Watson raised concerns about the villages' blocked drains, which have been clogged for a long time, despite the issue previously being reported, and caused flooding to some houses in the heavy rains.

**SS/AM**

Cllr McGinn acknowledged that there has been a poor response from Bucks County Council to date. The drain at the top of Meadway in particular has been clogged by an ingress of tree roots for a long time, despite being reported multiple times. However, the newly elected District Councillor Phil Gomm has pledged to take up the issue of gully clearance, and Bucks County Council now has a £6M grant from the Government for drain clearing. It was hoped that this will lead to action, and Sue Severn and Cllr McGinn will pass on Louise's feedback to Phil Gomm.

Louise Watson asked what the piece of fenced off land by the football pavilion was for, and what had happened to the Jubilee tree that grew nearby, noting that some villagers

were upset by its removal without consultation. Sue Severn replied that the fenced off land was to prevent balls being kicked against the neighbouring house (which had been a persistent problem), and could be used for occasional storage, and that the Jubilee tree roots were damaging the nearby buildings and the tree was dying. Planting of another tree was suggested.

## 5 Co-option

Applicants for co-option for the single position of Councillor had been privately spoken to by existing councillors prior to this meeting. The decision on whom should be co-opted was taken privately by councillors after the close of this meeting.

## 6 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 7 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 09 March 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

## 8 Planning

The following applications were considered:

*Foxgloves*

**Foxgloves Bowling Alley Oving Buckinghamshire HP22 4HD: 21/01649/ALB** Changing combed wheat thatch to water reed thatch, and front door from glazed to solid oak (amendment to previous listed consent 20/02835/ALB). Full details:

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/online?applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRT9RSCLIED00&prevPage=inTray>

The Parish Council had no objections.

*Stone View*

**Land off Stone View Planning Appeal Reference: APP/J0405/W/20/3255259**

The Planning Inspectorate has turned down the appeal from Rectory Homes.

## 9 Recreation Ground

*Dog Fouling and Off-lead*

Enforcement of the no dogs off-lead policy was discussed. The policy is for the general safety of all recreation ground users. The Recreation ground is privately owned, public amenity land; there is no by-law to enforce. It was felt that sending a letter to those persistently walking their dogs off-lead may help to highlight how seriously the Parish Council takes the issue. Some councillors have received disproportionate verbal abuse for asking owners to put their dogs on a lead. Sue Severn will investigate getting a dog warden or the local policing team involved.

SS

*Tennis Club access to the Village Hall*

Now that the booking system is up and running the Tennis Club can book the use of the Village hall toilet/kitchen. Cllr Cheetham observed that the Tennis Club should not use the hall when there already a hall booking, Cllr Perkins agreed. Sue Severn suggested the Tennis Club could pursue a grant for extending the back of the village hall for an externally

accessed facility for when the hall is in use. Cllr McGinn was supportive of the idea of a self-contained facility, entirely separate rather than an extension. In principle, the Parish Council agreed that Focuss Construction Group, currently working on the village hall at Berryfields, and previously at Oving Village Hall could survey to explore what options might be available, and that those options could then be debated. **SS**

#### *Children's Playground*

Repairs are in progress. Obtaining parts is not straightforward due to the age of the equipment. **SS**

#### *Nursery*

Raised planters for Footsteps nursery are being made wider and further away from the fence.

#### *Old Pavilion*

Cllr McGinn noted the Old Pavilion is the only remaining building on the recreation ground yet to be addressed. Cllr Winward noted that the cladding is now in poor repair and likely to disintegrate in the next winter. The old cladding needs renewing. It was not known if the building is moveable. Louise Watson noted that the old pavilion contains items that may be of historic interest, such as placards objecting to the extra runway, etc. **SS/  
MW/  
TP**  
A feasibility survey is needed. Sue Severn suggested that Focuss Construction Group Ltd could also look at the old pavilion options at the same time as Tennis Club facilities. Cllrs Winward and Perkins will attend. It was noted that the building has a resident barn owl, which will need to be respected.

#### *Fenced area and Jubilee tree*

See 4. Open forum

### **10 Street Lighting**

1 light in The Pightle, 2 opposite the recreation ground on Bowling Alley, and one at the top of Pulpit Lane that have been reported as not bright enough will be upgraded in the next 4-5 weeks. **SS**

Sue Severn will contact UK Power Networks/EDF energy again to urgently pursue the repair of the dead light at the top of Meadway. **SS**

### **11 Village Hall**

#### *Hall reopening*

Agnieszka Alborzpour (current hall manager) attended the meeting to update Parish Councillors on the hall. Some villagers who had concerns about the Footsteps nursery have been to see Tasha (who runs the nursery) who was pleased to show them around and had addressed their concerns to their satisfaction. There has been positive feedback from the Art Group, and Agnieszka has spoken to the leaders of the previously established classes – “officially, everyone is happy”. Agnieszka reiterated that all feedback was welcome.

The booking system is working well. Footsteps is hoping to start in the first week of June; it is not fully booked yet. A deep clean has been done and there are a few small maintenance jobs but no major issues.

Agnieszka left the meeting after her update.

## **12 Highways and Speeding**

Cllr Winward reported that no MVAS stats were available for the meeting. Help still needs to be found for Stuart Nichols.

No HS2 funding is currently available for help with traffic calming measures as Oving is currently not in the right area to be considered inconvenienced by the works – it will be tried again in 6 months' time. Cllr Winward will raise the issue with Phil Gomm; Cllr McGinn suggested we also contact Greg Smith. Cllr Cheetham suggested East/West rail could be approached. Cllr Winward and Sue Severn will pursue.

Elaine Conway left the meeting at 8pm.

**SS/  
MW**

## **13 Finance**

Payments made outside the meeting were ratified and the electronic payment run was approved.

Oving Parish Council accounts to year end March 2021 were agreed as circulated.

Mr Gus Orchard was approved as internal auditor for Oving Parish Council, and Sue Severn's recommendation to increase his fee from £75 to £150 was agreed.

The Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2020/21 was agreed.

The Accounting Statements for 2020/21 were agreed.

The insurance renewal for 2020/21 was agreed.

The asset register was reviewed, adding the shed and dishwasher.

Dates for the Exercise of Public Rights to view the Council's accounts were agreed, noting the comment by external auditors for year ended 31st March 2020 that the dates for Exercise of Public Rights should comply with recommendation.

The Council's Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment & Management Policy & Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed.

## **14 Meetings**

None attended since the last Parish Council meeting. The next Community board meeting is in June.

## **15 Date of Next Parish Council Meetings**

13th July 2021. Phil Gomm will be invited to attend.

14th September 2021

9th November 2021

11th January 2022

8th March 2022. All meetings will be at 7.15pm at the village hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm. Laura Williams, Alistair Walker-Smith, and Louise Watson left the meeting, leaving the Parish councillors and Clerk only to discuss co-option.

Note: As this Annual Parish Council Meeting was conducted online, due to no meeting room large enough in the village being available to safely meet, members arranged to sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office immediately after the meeting., the Annual Report will be published in the Oving and Pitchcott Newsletter and other relevant media.