



**Minutes of the Oving Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020  
in the Reading Room, Bowling Alley, Oving, HP22 4HD**

**Present:** Cllr McGinn (Chairman) Sue Severn (Clerk)  
Cllr Mark Cheetham Cllr Vanessa Wiggins  
Cllr Trish Perkins

**In Attendance:** Chris Palmer Laura Williams (Minutes)  
Trish Ireland Colin and Sally Parrott  
David Midwinter Phil Gomm

**Action**

**1 Apologies**  
No apologies received

**2 Open Forum**  
The following points were raised:

*Tennis Court Floodlighting Application*

David Midwinter requested clarification regarding the Tennis Club planning application for floodlighting the tennis courts: how this was being financed, and who would pay for the electricity for the light. He reminded the Parish Council that the recreation ground was given to the people of Oving, and remarked that whilst it was pleasing to see the recreation ground used, residents should be treated with consideration.

Cllr McGinn clarified that the lighting proposal was a Tennis Club initiative, and would be paid for if it goes ahead by the Tennis Club via a Sport England grant (together with court resurfacing). The Parish Council will not finance the work, and the electricity would be paid for by the Tennis Club. There is a planning application for the lights, for which the Parish Council position is neutral only if there is no objection from the neighbours. However, neighbours object.

Trish Ireland observed that of the many approval letters submitted for the lighting planning application, only 3 were from Oving residents. She felt the lighting would have a detrimental impact on the village and make it look like a more urban environment, noted the particularly close proximity of neighbours for this court, and also felt that the tennis court was underused during daylight hours and so questioned the benefit of lighting in this case.

It was noted that some neighbours had been communicated with and that the planning notice had been correctly displayed. However, there was still feeling in the open forum that the level of consultation with neighbours was not adequate.

Cllr Cheetham will give all of this feedback to the Tennis Club and the Parish Council will recommend to the Tennis Club that it hold an open forum to allow concerns to be discussed.

**MC**

#### *Dog Fouling*

Trish Ireland reported that loose dogs and dog fouling on the recreation ground is an increasing problem. It was noted that many villages have similar problems. Colin Parrott reported that approaching the dog owners concerned resulted in abuse.

Sue Severn will increase the signs informing the public to keep dog on a lead and to clear up dog mess.

**SS**

#### *Footpaths*

Colin Parrott reported that the footpath from the end of Baulk road to Whitchurch was becoming impassable, both from the foliage and from the verge encroaching on the footpath. The Parish Council has now taken on the footpath from New Road as far as the village sign. RTM contractors will begin cutting work in the next few weeks, so it is expected to be cleared.

#### *Ivy on the Recreation Ground*

Colin Parrott reported that ivy on the recreation ground is killing the hedges and going up the trees, and kindly volunteered to stop the ivy on the trees. RTM contractors will be asked to look at the hedges.

**SS**

#### *Parking on the Pavement – Bowling Alley*

Sally Parrott reported that cars parking on the pavement on Bowling Alley is making it difficult for pushchairs and wheelchairs to get by and to get into the recreation ground via the slope. It was noted that it is not illegal to park on pavements here (only in London and Manchester). However, the sloped access by the Reading Room will be improved, and the barrier to the village hall will be modified to allow easy pedestrian and wheelchair access. Work will start shortly.

#### *Manor Road*

Chris Palmer reported that many cars (several per day) try to exit the village down Manor road and get stuck/turn in driveways. Better signage that is not too obtrusive will be looked into. It was also noted that the Baulk road sign has been knocked over again. Sue Severn will contact Highways for these issues.

**SS**

#### *Phil Gomm*

Phil Gomm introduced himself to the meeting as he will be standing for the Conservatives at the forthcoming election, under Greg Smith, and wished to reach out to the community. He expressed his intention to support the Oving community, and has a particular interest in addressing speeding. He was thanked for his attendance.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

**5 Planning**

*Stone View*

**19/03899/ADP Reserved matters approval** for details relating to the height, size, design and external appearance of 8 bungalows and 10 dwelling houses, together with associated parking, a cul-de-sac road and landscaping in accordance with outline consent

**AR/477/59 Land Off Stone View Oving Buckinghamshire**

AVDC is waiting for the legal advice it sought regarding this planning application, expected approximately July-September. OPC has a QC ready if necessary at that time.

*Hill Head Farm*

Sue Severn was unable to get contact from the planning office regarding the planning application at Hillhead Farm, Pitchcott. This will be carried forward to the next meeting.

**SS**

*Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan*

Positive consent is being sought from OPC for the plan. Three residential properties are affected (other land/buildings in the vicinity are commercial, so not covered by the plan). One of the affected residents objects to the plan. However, the properties will remain in Oving and the Parish boundary remains the same. A definite neighbourhood plan for Whitchurch, including a gap between Oving and Whitchurch, is expected to aid resistance to further housing development, and on that basis:

**A resolution was unanimously passed to support the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan as it stands (proposed by Ambrose McGinn, seconded by Trish Perkins).**

Owners of the affected properties will be informed.

**SS**

**6 Recreation Ground/Tennis Club**

Cllr Cheetham will take up the concerns raised from the open forum with the Tennis Club. The Parish Council is not paying for the court resurfacing (or potential lighting), but is supporting the grant application, at no cost to the Parish Council. If the grant is not received, the Tennis Club will fund the resurfacing.

**MC**

**7 Reading Room**

The meeting was held in the newly refurbished reading room. Outside work is due to be started: rust removed with filling and painting, proper accessibility, and flower pots outside that will kindly be looked after by David Barnett.

**SS**

Fire safety provisions are needed, an extinguisher will be purchased.

**SS**

Toilet facilities are needed. See item 9.

**8 Street Lighting**

The loan application for LED street lighting has been submitted. There is no news yet. There are 4 lights in The Pightle that are not suitable for upgrade and will remain as they are. It will be possible to adjust the brightness of the LED lights if necessary to prevent them being a nuisance to residents living near them.

**9 Village Hall**

*Car Park*

The car park lights timer will be changed when the clocks go forward.

**SS**

The sleeping policeman at the entrance to the car park has been found to be a hazard for pedestrians in the dark. It was decided to paint it to increase visibility.

SS

### *Hallmaster*

The new Hallmaster system is live and successfully taking bookings. Two questions to be investigated are, have all the bookings that were made prior to Hallmaster been carried over, and, is the Hallmaster system working well for new bookings. Cllr Winward will follow this up.

MW

### *Building Management*

There were 3 items, that were considered to be in the following order of urgency:

1. There is a safeguarding concern over current access to the toilets from the outside when the hall is in use for children's events. The current arrangement of mixed access is not considered acceptable. Rearrangement of the toilets so that some are accessible from the outside, without having to go into the Hall, and without compromising the fire exit, was discussed. It was agreed that having a toilet accessible from the outside would provide facilities for hirers of the Reading Room, and for the Tennis Club, without raising any safeguarding issue if the hall was being used for children's events. The cost would be approximately £2000. This would be considerably cheaper than adding an external toilet.

2. The hall needs redecorating. This would cost approximately £2000.

3. There is a proposal to address the draughts when the hall door is opened by adding an arrangement to the existing porch to make it enclosed, i.e., glazed. A sympathetic installation of this type would cost approximately £10,000. This is not within the existing budget.

**A resolution was passed by a majority, to prioritise item 1 and go ahead with it subject to checking with the Tennis Club that this arrangement would meet their need. (Proposed Cllr McGinn, seconded Cllr Winward, 3 in favour and 1 abstained).** Cllr Winward will speak to the Tennis Club.

MW

Grant funding for some or all of these potential projects was discussed, and will be pursued.

SS

### *Wi-Fi*

Gigaclear Wi-Fi to replace BT service – SS has had no reply, MW will take this up.

MW

## **10 Highways and Speeding**

Speeding data is not comparable month on month, as the location and the data collected changes. Cllr Winward has been made aware that white roadside village gates are effective in slowing drivers, and installation is possible provided that there are no objections from anyone in the village. Cllr Winward will look at possible sites and will canvas village opinion through the newsletter, online survey, and door to door enquiries.

MW

It was agreed that speeding data is useful but not a solution in itself unless it is acted upon.

A handheld speed camera should be available to Aylesbury North shortly. Volunteers will also be sort for the Sentinel system.

## **11 Meeting with Greg Smith MP**

Parish councillors met with Greg Smith MP on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Report from Cllr McGinn:

Greg readily agreed to the request for our meeting and reiterated that he is available to support our causes and challenges as they arise.

Specifically we raised a number of locally focused issues including:

1. East West Expressway. Greg had spoken directly with the Minister for Transport and was very confident this would NOT be going ahead. This will be formally communicated in due course. Clearly a great outcome.
  2. HS2 is now happening but Greg is keen to make sure that the impacts are mitigated as best as possible e.g. construction traffic impact. He is fighting this corner across his constituency and will be very vocal. Usefully he sits on the Transport Select Committee. We can expect a local visit from the Minister for HS2 in due course too and Greg will ensure our voice is heard.
  3. Greg is supportive of East West Rail and through his contacts in government is pushing this along for all our benefit.
  4. He was very sympathetic to our speeding traffic challenges and offered some practical advice on how best to tackle which we will be taking into account.
  5. Greg shared a perspective on the new Unitary Authority. We will all have to see how this plays out but again he will represent us on issues should we request this.
  6. Planning is a major issue across the Vale and Greg is outspoken in his support of managing new housing growth. Specifically we briefed him on the Stone View application and he was supportive in our opposition to development and will assist in any way he can.
- Overall a very practical and useful meeting. Oving is now clearly established in his mind and we have a relationship we can call on for the benefit of the Oving Community.

## 12 Finance

Payments made outside the meeting were ratified and the payment run was agreed as circulated.

Payee	Detail	PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNT			OVH TRUST ACCOUNT		
		Net £	VAT £	Total £.	Net £	VAT £	Total £
Salaries	Net salaries, expenses & office costs			£558.07			
Mrs Jo Bowden							£192.00
Mrs Linda Nicholls	OVH Bookings & Hallmaster (28 + 10.5 hours)						£385.00
Laura Williams	OVH book keeping				£24.00	£4.80	£28.80
Laura Williams	OPC Minutes	£40.00	£8.00	£48.00			
Lock & Key Aura Security	Key safe for hall						£108.00
D J Lucas	Reading Room interior			£1,500.00			
Aqua Windows							£18.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£40.00</b>	<b>£8.00</b>	<b>£2,106.07</b>	<b>£4.80</b>		<b>£731.80</b>
<b>Budgeted payments made</b>							
Hallmaster Software	Invoice : Re-charge to hall net £550	£524.00	£104.80	£628.80			
LJ Wheeler	Carpentry: Replace Reading Room Door	£385.00		£385.00			
AVDC	Commercial waste bins monthly January				£15.45	£0.00	15.45
	<b>Total payments</b>			<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£15.45</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>15.45</b>
Payee	Detail	PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNT			OVH TRUST ACCOUNT		
		Net £	VAT £	Total £.	Net £	VAT £	Total £
Salaries	Net salaries, expenses & office costs			£ 560.97			
Mrs J Bowden	Cleaning village hall March 2020						£ 216.00
Laura Williams	OVH book keeping and audit				£ 84.00	£ 16.80	£ 100.80
Mrs L Nicholls	OVH booking secretary						£ 280.00
Aqua windows	Window cleaning village hall						£ 18.00
	<b>Total payments</b>			<b>£ 560.97</b>	<b>£ 84.00</b>	<b>£ 16.80</b>	<b>£ 614.80</b>
<b>Budgeted payments made</b>							
The Compete Tennis Court	first stage payment tennis court re-surfacing (money received net of VAT from Tennis Club) approved for payment via email	£6,400.00	£1,163.36	£ 7,563.36			
D J Lucas	Repairs to footpath marston Hill			£ 300.00			
DJ Lucas	Balance internal works to Reading Room			£ 1,500.00			

It was agreed that the Fundraising Account – previously used as a separate running account could be closed and the balance of £431.29 transferred to the Parish Council’s TSB Current Account.

The accounts dated to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 were agreed by councillors.

**13 OPAG**

There is a new gate installed on Pulpit Lane.

Resurfacing is taking place of the Marston hill footpath. The OPAG project is approximately £100 over budget this year.

*Maps and Booklets*

The “Oving and its Footpaths” booklet was felt to be due an update and reprint. Sue Severn to get a quote for 1000 copies. MW to investigate sponsorship.

**SS**  
**MW**

*Manor Road Footpath*

A tree has fallen over the footpath. Chris Palmer and Sue Severn to liaise with RTM contractors.

**CP**  
**SS**

**14 Meetings**

See item 11.

**15 AOB**

An election will be called on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Forms from prospective councillors will need to be submitted by 8<sup>th</sup> April. Notice will be included in the newsletter and online and the Parish Clerk will provide interested candidates with nomination forms.

**SS**

**16 Date of Next Parish Council Meetings**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 7.30pm. he Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.