



**Minutes of the Oving Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2020
via Zoom video conference**

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

In Attendance: Laura Williams (Minutes)

Action

1 Apologies

None.

2 Open Forum

No representations were made.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

5 Planning

The following applications were considered:

Fernleigh

**20/03631/APP | First floor rear extension and removal of chimney stack | Fernleigh
Whitchurch Lane Oving Buckinghamshire HP22 4EU**

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QIN7HTCLJH200&prevPage=inTray>

The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

Hill Head Farm

Cllr Trish Perkins to follow-up.

TP

Stone View

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

Appeal by: Rectory Homes Ltd

A letter by Chris Welch has been sent to the planning inspectorate describing the continued objection to this planning application.

New Cottage

20/02957/APP | New vehicular Access | New Cottage Bowling Alley Oving Buckinghamshire HP22 4HD

This application is to add another vehicle access through the verge, creating a one-way u-shaped driveway. The Parish Council registered the following comment on the application: *"The PC discussed this at their November meeting, not having met before and would like Highways and the LPA to condition any permission for this access to include not allowing parking within the exit which is solely for access to the property boundary only. This is to ensure safety of pedestrians who would otherwise have nowhere off road to walk."*

6 Recreation Ground

Reading Room

Ratification was sought for the following work that has been completed: removal of the Jubilee tree, whose roots were shown to be interfering with the foundations of the neighbouring house, removal of the storage shed, which was causing damp to the neighbouring house, and installation of a French drain. Total cost: £2800.

Cllr Cheetham raised concerns at the cost, and at the removal of the Jubilee tree and work carried out without it being raised first at a Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Cheetham received apologies from Cllr McGinn and Sue Severn, as the work had been discussed only with a subgroup of Parish Councillors with the intention to ratify the decision at the next (this) Parish Council meeting, but that there had been a misunderstanding with the contractor leading to them carrying out the work rather than just preparing for it. The Jubilee tree will be replaced.

It was noted that the neighbouring property owner is willing to contribute to some planting in the renovated area, Sue Severn and Cllr Wiggins will liaise with them on behalf of the parish.

SS,
VW

Accessibility

The hedge next to the accessibility ramp needs to be cut back and the end of the ramp improved.

Accessibility work needs to be carried out by the car park barrier.

SS

Benches

No update on new benches. Sue Severn hopes to have progress before Christmas.

SS

Dog Fouling and Off-lead

This is a continuing problem. A banner will be obtained (Sue Severn to obtain a price) and prominently displayed by the car park to request dog owners to keep their dogs on lead and pick up after them. Sue Severn suggested trying the pink spray used in other parishes to highlight fouling and noted it is antibacterial. It was agreed to try this, and Sue Severn will order some pink spray and distribute to volunteers.

SS

MacIntyre Trust

Sue Severn noted that the MacIntyre Trust is a group that supports older people with learning difficulties, and they are looking for unpaid work projects such as litter picking and gardening. The Parish Council agreed to consider opportunities in the village.

All

8 Street Lighting

Replacement of bulbs with LED lighting is almost complete. N Power are fixing the power supply to the Meadway light.

SS

Councillors have received comments from approximately 6 village residents that the lights on Bowling Alley and in The Pightle seem dimmer and that it is dark between the lights. It was noted that LED lighting does not diffuse as far as the previous lighting, which reduces light pollution. The village lights are currently on 22 watts, and dim during the reduced traffic hours between midnight and 6am. Other, brighter, bulbs are available that are 39 watts, at a cost of £48.04 per light.

It was noted that the increased wattage would increase electricity consumption and therefore cost. The electricity is a non-metered supply. Cost must be balanced against having lights that meet the needs of the village. It was decided to allow some time for acclimatisation to the new lights, monitor opinions, and in the meantime to obtain cost implication per light for the possible replacement of some bulbs with the brighter ones.

SS

9 Village Hall

Cllr McGinn thanked councillors for their daily village hall inspections. This helps to reduce insurance costs.

Preparation for Re-opening

It was agreed to pursue a quote (obtained in February) for redecorating all rooms of the village hall and to carry out plumbing and preparation for a dishwasher, at a cost of £2700+VAT. The contractor is known and recommended by Sue and has provided this very competitive quote as they are relocating to the area.

SS

It was discussed how to begin opening the hall in 2021, with a view to share a proposal with the Village Hall Committee. Small quiet activities like the baby yoga were put forward as starting options. Also, the benefit of a significant regular booking using the hall daily was discussed, as there is a nursery group known to Sue Severn that is looking for a venue (they would complete the necessary cleaning regime). This would need to be balanced against making the hall available for other users; the previous year's costs and regular bookings will be reviewed. It was noted that the Parish Council must have a risk assessment for the hall and that any group using the hall must have a Health and Safety plan.

It was agreed that specific expertise will be needed to open the hall under Covid rules, and to approach Agnieszka Alborzpour, who has this experience and is currently running local halls, to set up and run the initial use of the village hall. Agnieszka has the capacity to balance bookings across several halls, which was considered advantageous as a reopening must be able to yield sufficient returns. This initial reopening under Agnieszka would then allow time to consider in full post COVID-19 the new requirements for hall management in the future, including recruitment of a specialist hall manager.

It was discussed that a significant social media presence is needed for the hall to encourage usage and Agnieszka has the capacity to do this initially. This could include a video tour of

the hall to assist in publicising and Sue Severn has a low-cost provider for video production locally.

It was agreed to work up a costed business case for reopening based on the considerations above, for presentation to the Parish Council & Village Hall Committee

AM
MW
SS

The electrical safety certificate for the village hall and reading room will be completed this week.

10 Highways and Speeding

MVAS

Cllr Winward reported that September statistics showed a 20% reduction in volume compared to the previous year. October statistics were not yet available.

The ground bolt that needs replacing is no longer manufactured and will need to be machined.

SS

Trees

RTM completed the tree work on Dark Lane with UK Power in attendance. UK Power are returning on 23rd November for more tree work. The sycamores on New Road will be dealt with in November. Village comments on the quality of the tree work will be investigated.

AM
SS

Road Closures

Potential road closures due to HS2 were raised and Cllr Cheetham agreed to find out how dates and locations of road closures could be obtained.

MC

11 Finance

Payments made outside the meeting were ratified.

The payment run was agreed as circulated.

Oving Parish Council accounts to the end of October 2020 were agreed as circulated.

An amount of £1500 was agreed to be drawn down for the PWLB loan for LED lighting. It was noted that there should be no lighting maintenance costs for the rest of the year.

The next budget will need assembling at a working group meeting in December to agree the precept in January.

SS

Sue Severn and Laura Williams will confirm if the village newsletter invoice had been paid.

LW

13 OPAG

No problems reported. Volunteer work remains on hold.

14 Meetings

15 Date of Next Parish Council Meetings

Under the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meetings will not be held until May 2021. (The Parish Council will be re-elected in May 2021 under current conditions and existing councillors will remain in post until the next ordinary election).

Next meeting Tuesday 12th January 2020 at 7.15pm

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.38 pm.