



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Oving held on Tuesday 30th May 2023 at 8.00pm at Oving Village Hall

Present:	Cllr Ambrose McGinn Cllr Alistair Walker-Smith Cllr Matt Winward	Cllr Trish Perkins Sue Severn (Clerk)
In attendance:	Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire) Laura Williams (Minutes) 20 members of the public	Sharon Matheou (Hall Manager) Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sally Parrott, Colin Parrott, Diana Hilton-Jones, John Ireland, Tricia Ireland, and Cllr Cheetham.

Actions

2. Reports

The following reports were presented:

Headline review and financials – presented by Cllr McGinn

The Parish Council has been able to continue to maintain and improve our Oving community assets, with a combination of volunteer time, fundraising, grants and precept income.

- Thanks to all our Parish Councillors who put in a huge amount of unpaid time and effort on behalf of the village.
- Thanks to Sue Severn our Parish Clerk, Agnieszka Alborzpour who managed the hall until recently, now taken over by Sharon Matheou, Laura Williams for expert minute-taking and to our contractors who work closely with us to ensure Oving Parish is maintained as well as possible within our budget.
- Thanks to the Village Hall Management Committee. Particular thanks to John Ireland who manages fire safety, everyone involved in fundraising activities and to and to all on the Committee - their hard work contributes to the hall's value to the village. John's film nights are still popular and very much enjoyed. This year has seen the addition of more comfortable film-night seating.
- Our local Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillor Phil Gomm has been instrumental in getting things done on our behalf. We are grateful for his support. He represents our interests to the Council and the Community Board and is keen to help with local projects.

We are grateful that he has taken up the cudgels on highways issues, roadworks and more.

Income

The precept for 2022/23 is £28,750 (held at the same level as the previous year). A band D (average) house pays £124.01 or £10.33 per month.

The total operating income for 2022/2023 was £49,719. Highlights:

Precept £28,750	Devolved services BCC £975
Village Hall loan repay £3246	VAT reclaimed £3313
Grants £9,904	Transfers from deposit £5622
Gift £50	Oving Cup £100

The Parish Council reserves at 31st March 2023 were £13,723 (approximately half the precept, which is considered best practice).

Expenditure

Total £46,815 including

Staff pay, minutes secretary, insurance, office and legal & professional costs, including audit, website, subscriptions total £14,877 (budget £14,370).

<p>Main routine expenditure included replacement shed in Rec Ground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued playground refurbishment & repairs, rec fences and gates Grass cutting, hedges, spraying and footpaths Street lighting Loan repayments for hall, car park and LED lighting Repairs and maintenance of hall boiler/water systems <p>Loans outstanding: £15,791.43 hall; £7,655.94 car park surface; £6,137.06 LED lights.</p>	<p>Hossil Pond/Butterfly Field £335</p> <p>Loan repayments £4,306 (hall paid this year)</p> <p>Water, RoSPA inspection £137</p> <p>Grass inc. devolved services, footpaths, bridleways, hedges £8367</p> <p>Street lighting energy £771</p> <p>Signs £50</p> <p>Parish newsletter £450</p> <p>Repairs & maintenance £9394</p> <p>Platinum Jubilee £1,934</p> <p>Water £950</p> <p>Fly tipping waste removal included in repairs & maintenance</p>
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Outstanding loans are from the Public Works Loan Board and are at fixed rates.

The 2022/23 accounts are audited internally by Mr Gus Orchard and the external auditors are PKF Littlejohn. The period for the Exercise of Elector's Rights to view the accounts is from 5th June to 14th July inclusive. The appropriate notices will be displayed between these dates.

Facilities

- Oving Village Hall is now fully open post Covid and we welcome Sharon Matheou as our new hall manager. We are grateful to Agnieszka Alborzpour for her work in getting the hall back to normal after lockdown.
- Recreation Ground improved further with improved access by Reading Room, dog bin moved and fence made good.

- Reading Room has been utilised as a warm space and community meeting point during winter, which has been much enjoyed with board games, jigsaws and books swapped and played. [It was noted that the energy tariff for the Reading Room is an old fixed rate tariff].
- The Panto was a great success and raised £131 for MASKS charity and £364 for the Village Hall. Well done Brian Murray and the company!
- The Silver Jubilee tree has been replaced by a kind parishioner, which is much appreciated.
- Playground equipment will continue to be refurbished and grants for replacement/new equipment will be sought. There will discussion in the coming year on what to do next with the playground, which is now showing its age. The original playground installation cost £60,000 – new equipment will now cost substantially more.

Green Areas

- Devolved Services from Buckinghamshire Council were continued with a very modest increase in the amount paid towards the always rising cost of grounds maintenance.
- Grass and verge maintenance a huge commitment for the Parish at £8367. Working with RTM Landscapes we ensure we get best value and deal with additional work wherever possible.
- The Butterfly Field behind The Black Boy supported with benches and equipment for all to enjoy. The field is kept unlocked and the benches were obtained using Community Board funding.
- Jubilee Tree planting (Queen's Green Canopy) a great success with Jessica Boulton a Bucks Young Ambassador and presented to the Lord Lieutenant.
- Benches/grass no-parking posts are to be refurbished in the coming year as required. The hedge/fence alongside recreation ground will also be repaired.

Best Kept Village

The village has entered and villagers are kindly asked to keep their hedges cut and away from footpaths, and let the Parish Council know if anything needs attention. The Judges look at all the gardens and areas to show a community effort.

Oving Village Hall Trust

The village hall is looked after with Parish Councillors as trustees. The trust is overseen by the Charities Commission.

- The hall is 9 years old and is wearing well. Sharon Matheou reported that hirers are always complimentary. The fabric of the building is in good shape following extensive renovation. The hall is regularly cleaned. The outside areas are beautifully kept by volunteers.
- Most of the original equipment is still in good shape. More hirers will mean more wear and the condition of the equipment will be monitored.

- Regular hirings include brownies, exercise classes, band practices, church meetings, Oving Film nights, numerous children’s parties, on-off hirings for meetings. Children’s parties are by far the most popular usage.
- Finance – see summary below. First post-Covid year fully open. Hire receipts up from £5,673 previous year. The village hall made its loan repayment to Parish Council and only had small cancellation hire fee returns. Plans are in place for community sessions and special children's packages.

Oving Village Hall Trust	
Income & expenditure 2022/23	
RECEIPTS £23,342	
Hall hire £22,333, Community events income £85, 50/50 Club £924	
EXPENDITURE £20,876	
Energy £2413.	Insurance £1032
50/50 Club prizes £408	Wifi £1071
Costs repaid to OPC £271	Maintenance £4912
Cleaning £3337	Commercial waste £231
Hall management £3373	Booking software £253
Loan repayment £3180	Hire refunds £395
Income less expenditure £2,466	

- Village hall noise and nuisance (see Open Forum)
 - Evening weekend parties have on occasion caused disturbance which is unacceptable. A balance needs to be maintained between hiring the hall out and managing disturbance.
 - Following a review the following steps are being put in place to mitigate the possibility of this re-occurring:
 - Significant increase / introduction of £ deposit - it will be painful to lose it!
 - Review of closing times
 - Considerably enhanced communication to hirers of the T and C’s and their obligations.
 - Investigating power cut off at specified time or decibel level.
 - Weekend parties will be carefully monitored for Noise Nuisance and further review / action taken as required.
 - If disturbance cannot be managed then the sorts of hirings than create the disturbance will need to be stopped. The planned strategy at the time of the meeting is to redouble efforts to contain disturbance.
 - Party groups are being informed not to park on the pavement.

OPC

Vandalism

- Recent graffiti on road signs has plagued Oving and nearby villages.
- OPC has taken a zero-tolerance approach and has cleaned signs - but this is ongoing
- We have had incidences of vandalism on the Rec - again Oving Parish Council will operate a zero tolerance policy - please let us know if you see any vandalism.
- More recently we have issues with aggressive and unpleasant youth behaviour at the Rec. Again, Zero tolerance from Oving Parish Council.
- In the event you come across this behaviour you MUST call the Police on 101 and report the matter - only then can we create an audit trail of issues which the Police can then be held account to.

All Saint's Church, Oving

Cllr McGinn attended the annual Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting.

- Recent PCC Annual Meeting identified a serious existential challenge.
- Low levels of regular support threaten the existence of the religious community and the buildings use.
- Rev Steve Flashman concerned post his tenure we may not get another vicar and the building may close.
- The Parochial Church Council are considering a way forward and will share this in due course.
- Oving Parish Council is very keen to support the continued use of the Church as an important historical asset in the village. There will be more news in the future on this important topic.

Councillor Vacancy

- Matt Winward has resigned due to personal commitments.
- Oving Parish Council wishes to record our thanks to Matt for his diligent and helpful involvement.
- This vacancy requires filling, and the process will commence shortly.
- Election or co-option dependent on interest (10 candidates needed for an election. At the last vacancy, 4 people put themselves forward and a candidate was co-opted.

Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm

Phil Gomm reported that he is "here to serve". He sits on multiple committees and currently chairs the Winslow and District Community Board. He thanked Oving Parish Council for their work in the past year.

- Completed so far: fixing the Meadway "lake" and drainage. Village drains are a priority. Some village drains look as though they are full up but in fact these are not connected to the drainage network. The drain sucker will return.

- Potholes. Phil Gomm said these are a major issue. Road tax money goes mainly into the county's major road structure. However, the pothole machine is travelling around making repairs. Oving will not be a priority as worse areas will be done first.
- Planning: Phil Gomm remarked that there was little enforcement to be done due to the great monitoring work of Oving Parish Council.
- Butterfly field: the community board will help with funding for fencing if possible(see Annual Parish Council meeting minutes).
- Nitrous oxide: use of nitrous oxide is linked to antisocial behaviour, parishioners are asked let the Parish Council know if nitrous oxide cannisters are found.
- Antisocial behaviour: Phil Gomm is approaching those behaving antisocially to find out what they need. Ideas for destination venues for youth are in the early stages of discussion. Funding could be found via the Community Board. A member of the public asked about safety for young parishioners at potential meeting places, and was encouraged by Phil Gomm to volunteer to help.
- Phil Gomm thanked the "wombles" – a group combining litter picking across villages.
- The boundaries of the wards are changing. Oving is in the Great Brickhill ward. The ward is divided into Quainton (including Quainton, Oving, North Marston, and Granborough), which will have 1 councillor, and Newton Longville, which will have 2.

Oving Tennis Club – report by Peter Dowcra, presented by Cllr McGinn

- Membership stable at around 100 – around two thirds adults and one third juniors.
- Encouraging influx of new, younger members attracted by free adult coaching early in the year. This has revitalised club nights and brought new energy to the club.
- Financially stable with the 'sinking fund' to recover the courts in around ten years on track – fees increase for 2023 less than inflation and fees well below average for the area.
- First full year with floodlights – a great success enabling Wednesday evening club nights throughout the year.
- Four teams in the local leagues in 2022 – 2 Men's, 1 Women's and 1 mixed. Summer league results pretty good – Winter league not so much.
- Early in 2022 the PC agreed to our having our own toilet, with the conversion work being jointly funded – this was ready for use by June and is much appreciated.
- Saturday children's coaching and holiday summer camps still popular - 22 children introduced to tennis.
- Two internal tournaments held and a couple of social/fundraising evenings Issues for 2023.
- Could do with another 20-30 new members to keep the momentum going.
- Currently operating without a Chair – need to get younger members involved in running the club.
- Difficulties in finding enough players for league matches.
- "But overall we're doing fine".

Oving Football Club – report by James Hann, presented by Cllr McGinn

On the pitch – it was our first season in a higher division. What started as a really promising season faded out for the First Team as a few poor results in March cost us the chance of promotion. Although the league table would suggest otherwise, for a first season for the Reserve Team, we are pleased with how it went. Every fixture was completed without any risk of postponement. A good platform going into 2023/24.

Off the pitch - A season of firsts... it was our first season in partnership with Moogies (Black Boy) as one of our club sponsors. It was our first season using the Veo system - a state of the art video recording system, enabling us to record/ live stream matches. One of our goals went viral with 750,000 views! We launched our website and YouTube channel We started an initiative to support Aylesbury Foodbank and made 2 large deliveries since Christmas.

What's next? –

- A new kit for both teams.
- Launch of the '1887 Club' (50/50 draw).
- Look at ways to encourage more supporters on matchday.
- Explore further sponsorship opportunities.
- Continue to support the Aylesbury Foodbank.
- Continue to engage with the local community.

Oving Jubilee and Coronation event – presented by Alistair Walker-Smith

- In 2022 and this year we had two Royal events celebrated at Oving Recreation Ground.
- Both well attended by villages and those from surrounding areas (circa 400 people for Jubilee, 450).
- Great commitment from many volunteers (both returning and new), vendors and partners – pulling together to make two great events.
- Amazing live music.
- **Jubilee** – Raised **£748** for DEC Ukraine Appeal (on the day), doubled by an anonymous donor after the event - **£1496** raised in total.
- **Coronation** – Raised **£1000** for DEC Turkey/Syria Appeal and The Prince's Trust (on the day), with a further £275 from donations received afterwards **£1275** raised in total.
- Great feedback from vendors (The Black Boy, Souvlaki House and Jay's Ices – all would return for future events).

3. Parishioners' Open Forum

The following issues were raised, all of which will be considered by the Parish Council going forward:

Hall and Football club parking

OPC

- Members of the public felt that cars blocking the pavement on Bowling alley is an issue. The football club do bollard some of the road for matches. Members of the public pointed out that this moves the problem further along but does not solve it. It was also pointed out that there are a lot of cars parked for The Black Boy at the other end of the village. The Parish Council took an action to re-review parking arrangements involving the football club and hall hirers. **OPC**
- Positive signage was considered, with signs showing where to park rather than “no parking”. **OPC**

Hall Useage

- Members of the public requested a breakdown of income from different types of hire to look at whether evening hire (especially for parties) is worth continuing. A particular party was referenced that ended at 2.30am, which all agreed was unacceptable. It was voiced that party guests are unlikely to consider a hirer’s penalty when they are enjoying themselves and so the sanctions being proposed may not result in less disturbance. Villagers have been over to the hall when disturbance is happening but this has not resolved the problem. **SM/LW**
- Q: what time is the noise cutoff? A: music is to stop at 11.30pm.
- The hall hiring terms and conditions will be published in the parish newsletter for general reference.
- Q: have parish councillors been near the hall when the music is playing? A: yes.
- A member of the public expressed a feeling that the recreation ground, that was given to the people of Oving by Mrs Thompson, is slipping away from the people of Oving and that the conditions under which the recreation ground was given are being eroded. A discussion followed, and it was also expressed that people now travel further for leisure and if good facilities are provided then people will travel to use them. The Black Boy was cited as an example of this, with a member of the public saying that The Black Boy is a “venue” pub rather than a “village pub” (ie, used more by people outside the village than in it), but that it needs this influx in order to thrive. Generally, it was felt that use of village facilities by people outside the village was necessary for the village to grow and the for the facilities to function. It was acknowledged that there was a balance to be found between keeping facilities going and preventing an unfair burden on villagers, especially those who live near the hall, and regardless of where hirers are coming from.

All Saints Church

SS

The following ideas were suggested by members of the public: a roving congregation, following the vicar from church to church; more use of the church for meetings; coffee mornings at the church.

Recreation ground

- A member of the public reported not being able to get to the apple trees. It was agreed to ask RTM to mow around each tree. **SM/SS**
- A member of the public asked for the area behind the football pavilion to be maintained. It was clarified that this has been added to the RTM schedule (RTM are the contractors) to be “rough cut”. **SS**

- A member of the public asked for the village hall brown bin to be moved to the gate on collection days. It was added to the schedule of village hall maintenance.
- A water tap was asked for near the Reading Room, as the village hall is a distance away. However, there is an outside tap on the football pavilion that can be used instead.
- It was asked what progress there was on fitness equipment for the recreation ground: the Parish Council are looking into getting a grant to cover the cost of the equipment.

Mowing

Q: how often do RTM mow? A: it depends on the grass growth, which depends on the weather. Some areas have been requested to be kept wild by the parishioners living near them. RTM charge on for the work they do, and send a report each time they do work.

Highways

- A member of the public reported overhanging hedges on the road coming into Oving from Pitchcott. This is the responsibility of Highways under Buckinghamshire Council and can be reported using “fix my street”.
- A member of the public reported bad footway conditions at the top of church lane. This is the responsibility of Highways under Buckinghamshire Council and can be reported using “fix my street”.

OPC

Hossil Pond

Q: can it be cleared? A: technical advice was sought previously, which stated that the pond does not need to be cleared of silt, as this would be an enormous job and would simply re-silt. The advice was to leave the pond to maintain its own equilibrium (it is fed from a spring). However, any impact on adjoining property from vegetation can be looked at, and an access path can be mowed. Parish councillors will visit the pond and assess.

Speeding

- Concerns were raised by members of the public about speeding in the village, especially the top of North Marston Hill into Bowling Alley. They were informed that the police only allow a speed monitoring to take place at approved spots, and that there is not an approved spot on Bowling Alley (due to line of sight). In order to monitor speeding with the equipment the Parish Council has, volunteers are needed. For speed monitoring to be a deterrent, the camera needs to be out often. 101 reports need to be made for speeding, as the police can only take action if they have reports. Enforcement of speed is done by the police.
- A member of the public suggested getting Whitchurch School to make 20 is Plenty signs for the village like the ones displayed outside the school.
- A traffic sign such as Whitchurch has displaying speed would cost £4k plus the siting of the post.
- A Traffic and Speeding subgroup was proposed. Volunteers will be sought.

OPC

Close of meeting

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 2130h.