



Minutes of the Oving Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.15pm at the Village Hall, Oving

Present: Cllr Ambrose McGinn (Chair) Cllr Trish Perkins (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Ben Glover Cllr Alistair Walker-Smith

In attendance: Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire Councillor)
Sharon Matheou (Oving Village Hall)
12 members of the public
Laura Williams (Minutes)

Jane Watts-Wiggett signed her Declaration of Acceptance of the office of Parish Councillor and this completed her co-option onto Oving Parish Council at the meeting.

Actions

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Open Forum

Pitchcott Hill Farm

Tony Langford from Pitchcott Hill farm attended the meeting to give an update on progress at the farm. Work has started to convert agricultural buildings around the farm courtyard into a café and a space for community activities, with a principle of “learning about connecting to nature”. The café is planned to be opened from Easter 2025, to use local suppliers and a kitchen garden. It is expected to create local jobs and opportunities.

Pitchcott Hill Farm can be accessed on foot from Oving. Cllr McGinn recommended contacting the Ramblers’ Association for any help wanted with signs and stiles. Phil Gomm noted that the farm may eventually be on part of the 5-spur cycleway project. Tony Langford noted in response to a query that there is no through route to the farm from Carters’ Way.

Update from Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm

The Pitchcott road is busier since the local road rearrangements. HGVs have been particularly noticed. Phil Gomm noted that the Pitchcott road is classed as the outer ring road of Aylesbury. He noted that Highways have tried various diversion routes for recent works (aided by HS2) and he is trying to promote an alternative route through Berryfields.

Phil Gomm agreed to attempt to get the Pitchcott road (and hence Oving) restricted to 7.5 tons to prevent use by articulated lorries. It is hoped that this may be achieved within 6 months. PG, AM

Highways work over the winter will concentrate on drains and gritters (and potholes).

Phil Gomm will provide a report to Oving Parish Council on help available for senior citizens, such as pension credit and the 'warmer spaces' initiative to keep warm spaces available to the public. PG

Enquiries into disused property in the parish are continuing, Cllr McGinn will liaise with Phil Gomm. AM, PG

Hedges

Members of the public noted that some hedges in the parish are not being cut back far enough. It was noted that Highways are only involved if the hedge encroaches on the highway. If hedges that obstruct the pavement are reported to the Parish Council then the Parish Council will contact the property owners. All

Accessibility

Members of the public noted that dropped kerbs for accessibility are absent or being obstructed by parking and that parts of Oving's pavements are not accessible for anyone using mobility aids. Oving Parish Council and Phil Gomm will follow this up and requested a list of all such places from the reporting members of the public. A sign was suggested to prevent parking over the dropped kerb in front of the recreation ground gate. AM, PG, SS

Potential Development of Land Behind Church Lane (Oving House)

Attending members of the public expressed concern and opposition to any future housing development of the land at the Baulk Road end of Dark Lane, between Church Lane and Dark Lane.

It was noted that planning permission has not yet been applied for. However, activity (most recently an environmental survey) has been noted and a potential application was discussed at the September 2024 Parish Council meeting (see previous minutes). Therefore, nearby residents wished to make their concerns known and have written to Oving Parish Council with details of their opposition. It was noted that nearby residents have made attempts to contact the land agent about the potential development but have received no reply. These residents noted they felt misled as to the reason for tree felling at the site – whether it was to turn the land into garden as they had originally been made aware, or whether it was to develop the land.

It was decided (unanimous) that the Parish Council will collate those concerns received by correspondence into a single document, stating the number of residents who raised concerns. This will be sent as soon as possible (within the next 2 weeks) from the Parish Council to the land agent. The land agent will be requested to consult more widely on any plans and invited to meet residents. Sue Severn will produce the document. Cllr McGinn will supply a covering letter to Sue Severn. SS, AM

The following was noted: Oving Parish Council does not have the authority to approve or refuse planning. However, the Parish Council reflects community views and has historically opposed some applications such as the land opposite Stone View (which application was not

granted). When applications appear on the planning portal, comments can be submitted. Councils can call the planning officer to talk to them. They can also request for an application to be “called in”, meaning that an application is brought in front of the County Planning Committee.

Parish Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Members of the public reported being unable to find the agenda and minutes on Oving Parish Council’s website. Sue Severn advised that the website was currently being reconstructed and should be finished in the New Year. Members of the public requested for the date of the next meeting to be put on the noticeboard as well as on social media.

**SS,
AWS**

Speeding

An update on speeding was received from Dennis Atkinson. On 07th June 2024, between 0640h and 1802h, the camera was positioned adjacent to Bunshill on Oving Road facing Pitchcott. There were a total of 2528 vehicles, of which 60% were speeding. Recently, police speed cameras were set up locally but dispersed after the locations appeared on social media.

Cllr Glover, Phil Gomm and Dennis Atkinson will liaise to install Phil Gomm’s available speed indicator equipment. If the fixings are compatible it could be sited on existing poles.

BG, PG

Dennis will return the speed camera to Sue Severn as it is needed elsewhere.

Members of the public left the meeting at the end of the Open Forum.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chair.

5. Finance and Administration

5.1 The payment schedule for November 2024 was agreed. It was noted that expenditure is generally on target with some items currently under budget. The localism and events budget for this year will go towards an event next year. The village hall has covered its own loan repayments this year. It was also noted that an invoice is still needed for contribution to the newsletter (Laura Williams will send a reminder) and for the dog waste bin emptying. It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council may not increase the devolved services contribution next year.

LW

5.2 The accounts to the end of October 2024 were received and approved as circulated.

6. Planning

See also Open Forum.

No applications were received for consultation at this meeting.

7. Land and Recreation Ground

Tennis Club

There is no update on the pay-to-play gate as this is still being discussed by the Tennis Club. Sue Severn will follow up.

SS

Football Club

Complaints have been received from members of the public about foul language during matches and litter left after matches such as plastic tape. Sue Severn will send a note to the football club to make them aware.

SS

Reading Room Ceiling

The Reading Room ceiling requires maintenance – Councillor Glover will look at this.

BG

7.1 Church Lane verges and overgrown hedges

See also open forum. It was noted that vehicles parking on grass verges on Church Lane are causing the verges to collapse. The Church Lane footpaths are in poor condition. Also, the New Road footpath needs clearing as the verge has grown across it. Parish Councillors will follow up with residents on hedge overgrowth and Phil Gomm will follow up anything covered by Highways. Accessibility will also be followed up, see 2. Open Forum. Sue Severn will forward information she has on addressing verge growth to Councillors.

AM, SS,
PG

7.2 Bulb planting and tidying in Bowling Alley

The Parish Council recorded thanks to the volunteers who tidied the hedge and verge and planted bulbs along Bowling Alley outside the recreation ground.

7.3 Parish Plan

The Community Led Plan was last published in 2016 and updated are needed. Councillor Walker-Smith and Councillor Watts-Wiggett will organise this and will consult the village widely.

AWS,
JWW

The possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan rather than a Community Led Plan was discussed. Although a Neighbourhood Plan would link into the County Neighbourhood Plan, such a plan would be an extensive, up to 3-year, project and it was decided that for a community the size of Oving a Community Led Plan was the best fit.

7.4 Dogs in recreation ground

The Parish Council reviewed and discussed the current dog access policy on the recreation ground and decided to keep the policy as it is – dogs are allowed access but are to be kept on a lead and out of the playground.

9. Village Hall

The village hall manager's report has been circulated to councillors.

A paving slab is loose outside the village hall. Councillor Glover will fix this.

BG, SM

The village hall shutters are becoming a problem as they are frequently broken. Recent damage has been caused by the nursery who will be charged for repairs. Councillor Glover will assess the shutters to find potential solutions.

BG, SM

It was agreed that the organiser of the potential Youth Club should return to meet the Parish Council before anything is agreed, as the original circumstances of their proposal have changed.

A once-a-month Sunday Market at the village hall has been proposed, Sharon Matheou is looking into this.

It was noted that the electronic booking system must be used to book the hall to prevent any double bookings.

Village hall and Reading Room Wi-Fi

Cllr McGinn is negotiating with Gigaclear for fibre internet access to the village hall that could then be sent across to the Reading Room.

AM

10. Meetings

The Parish Council have not yet met Callum Anderson MP, this is now arranged for 23rd November.

11. Dates of the next Parish Council Meetings

Saturday 4th January 10am.

There being no further business, the Chair ended the meeting at 9.10 pm