



**Minutes of the Oving Parish Council Meeting  
held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.15pm at the Village Hall, Oving**

**Present:** Cllr Trish Perkins (Vice-Chair) Sue Severn (Clerk)  
Cllr Mark Cheetham Cllr Alistair Walker-Smith

**In attendance:** Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire Councillor)  
Sharon Matheou (Hall Manager)  
Laura Williams (Minutes)  
10 members of the public, including Ben Glover.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McGinn (Chair). Apologies for late arrival were received from Cllr Walker-Smith (who arrived during the Open Forum). The meeting was chaired by Cllr Perkins.

**2. Open Forum**

**Village Hall Noise**

Members of the public present raised the issue of noise nuisance at the village hall which they stated had become a problem lately with excessive noise making it unbearable for nearby residents. One resident described checking the hall calendar to avoid being in their home when there was an evening party.

The hall manager confirmed the current noise cut-off times as:

Monday to Thursday 11pm  
Friday and Saturday 11pm  
Sunday by 9.30pm

Hirers to leave by 11.30pm, and Sunday 9.30pm.

Attendees asked the Parish Council to consider stopping Friday and Saturday night bookings (which would include the whole weekend hire packages including Friday and Saturday night) They also requested that hirers never play music in a marquee which had happened recently, despite not being permitted use.

Previously the council had considered installing decibel monitoring, or forced cut-off at a certain time for music.

**Actions**

Given that the income from weekend hires is relatively high it was understood by all that replacement activities would need to be found. (In the first 9 months of 2023 the weekend packages had been £2,400 of £18,000 income). Party packages for daytime events at weekends and other classes etc., would be welcome. The hall manager and councillors would try to find an early solution.

There was discussion around the types of events and fundraising that could be arranged to replace weekend hire income. Suggestions included community events.

The hall was not repaying its principle and interest loan with approximately £15,791 of the capital sum remaining. Hall costs per annum are c£20,000 excluding major repairs. All agreed to make some suggestions and see what could be done.

### **Car Parking**

Cllr Perkins described a letter received from a resident on Bowling Alley who could not access their own driveway due to a vehicle parked from the Football Club on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The owner of the vehicle had apologised and told the resident that football parking was not being allowed in the recreation ground car park by the hall hirers that day. In the meeting, Sharon Matheou confirmed that hirers were not allowed any exclusive use of the car park.

It was noted that if there is a hall hire with a number of guests, at the same time as a football match, and tennis club use, the available car parking is not sufficient.

Currently, residents are finding the pavements on Bowling Alley blocked when the parking overflows from the recreation ground. It was noted that except in London and Manchester, the police can't stop vehicles from parking on the pavement. However, it may be possible to discourage pavement parking on the pavement through educating drivers – Phil Gomm can advise.

Cllr Cheetham reported that the Football Club are finding the gate access to parking on the recreation ground is often blocked. A more robustly worded sign has been put on that gate. It was noted that cars parking on the grass during the winter may damage the surface.

### **Hedges**

Members of the public noted the large overhanging hedge at the junction of Baulk Road and Church Lane. Verbal requests have previously been made to the owner of the hedge to cut it. Sue Severn will follow up with a letter.

### **Speeding – Update from Dennis**

Dennis had done some exploratory monitoring at two points on Bowling Alley. At the School signpost outside the Old Chapel Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 0700h to 0922h, Dennis recorded 71 vehicles passing, of which 18 were speeding. At The Reading Room Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 1456h until 1720h, Dennis recorded 148 vehicles passing, of which 19 were speeding.

Phil Gomm will liaise with Dennis about the official data requirements and monitoring points, and thanks were recorded to Dennis for his work and for recruiting other volunteers.

Monitoring was done using Sentinel. The MVAS is not working – see Item 8. Highways and Speeding.

### **Playground**

Members of the public asked if playground equipment was to be repaired or replaced – see

Item 6. Recreation Ground.

**Update from Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm (made after item 10. below):**

- Phil Gomm has not heard from Gemma Cooley and Zoe Havers about wildflowers (see Open Forum of 11 July 2023), nor has the Parish Council. Support is still offered.
- There will be a cover for the dropped kerb on Bowling Alley (on the narrow pavement after the Reading Room).
- There has been another enquiry about more asbestos on the allotments (the roof of a shed). Phil Gomm will liaise with the diocese.
- Planning is looking into the container/bus storage on Meadway. Phil Gomm is in contact with the owner.
- Community Board funding is taken back at the end of the year if it is not spent. Phil Gomm encouraged everyone to make applications for community benefit. Funding could be applied for to use for wildflowers, new playground equipment (not playground repairs), community-focussed events, etc.

**10. Casual Vacancy**

The Vice-Chair Cllr Perkins moved this item forward on the agenda, and proposed Ben Glover to be co-opted onto Oving Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Walker-Smith and unanimously agreed. Ben Glover signed the acceptance of the Declaration of Office and was welcomed by the other Councillors.

**3. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record by the Vice-Chair.

**5. Planning**

The following applications were considered:

**23/02377/VRC** | Variation of condition 5 (materials) relating to application

**20/01054/APP** (Demolition of existing dwelling and rebuild)

(retrospective). | Leyburn Church Lane Oving Buckinghamshire HP22 4HL

Full details at: 23/02377/VRC | Variation of condition 5 (materials) relating to application 20/01054/APP (Demolition of existing dwelling and rebuild) (retrospective).

| Leyburn Church Lane Oving Buckinghamshire HP22 4HL ([aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk))

The Parish Council recorded a neutral opinion of this application.

**Pulpit Lane**

Although the Parish Council requested that this application be referred to committee, the application has been granted without committee review (as is currently allowed). The Parish Council has sent a letter of complaint to Peter Strachan, Nick Graham, Glen Watson, David Goss, and Phil Gomm, that the application has been granted without proper consideration by the committee.

**6. Recreation Ground/Tennis Club**

## **Oving Football Club**

- Cllr Cheetham and Cllr McGinn met Oving Football Club. The Football Club has made ~12k of renovations to the football pavilion.
- The annual fee was proposed to be raised to £750, which needs to be ratified by the Football Club at their next meeting.
- Ongoing grass cutting costs need to be discussed.
- Oving Football club are very aware of parking concerns. The situation caused by the wedding hall hire on 2<sup>nd</sup> September is hoped to be a one-off event.
- Oving Football Club will do their winter training at Waddesdon starting from October.
- The smaller goals will be concreted in.

## **Playground**

Councillors considered the cost of repairing existing equipment versus getting new equipment. It was noted that repairs are not able to be covered by grants, and that the equipment is old enough to make replacement parts difficult to obtain. It is estimated it would cost £4000 to repair the playground equipment. The Parish councillors voted to repair the pirate ship, make running repairs to the zip wire, apply for grants for new equipment and decommission remaining 'red item' existing equipment.

## **Grass Cutting**

The grass cutting contract will be re-tendered next year.

It was noted that the long grass on the recreation ground (that the paths are cut through) does need some maintenance cuts.

## **7. Village Hall**

See also Open Forum.

- Water meter readings are unusually high and are being investigated.
- Items from the last meeting: the leak in the men's toilet has not reoccurred. The light is fixed.
- A light outside the village hall is not working.

## **8. Highways & Speeding.**

See Open Forum for an update from Dennis.

The MVAS is currently not working. The Community Board does not generally now support Highways projects but may honour pipeline projects such as the previously discussed need to replace the MVAS. If successful, the Parish Council would have to match the fund (around £1500).

## **9. Finance**

- The electronic payment run was approved.
- The accounts to the end of August 2023 were agreed as circulated.

## **11. Meetings**

No meetings were attended.

## **12. Dates of the next Parish Council Meetings**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024; 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

There being no further business, the Vice-Chair closed the meeting at 2110h.