



**Minutes of the Oving Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.15pm at The Reading Room, Oving**

Present:	Cllr Ambrose McGinn (Chair)	Cllr Trish Perkins (Vice-Chair)
	Sue Severn (Clerk)	Cllr Mark Cheetham
	Cllr Alistair Walker-Smith	
In attendance:	Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshire Councillor)	James Hann (Oving Football Club)
	Agnieszka Alborzpour (Hall Manager)	Sharon Matheou (Hall Manager Designate)
	Laura Williams (Minutes)	3 member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence **Actions**

There were no apologies received. Cllr Matt Winward is on a leave of absence.

2. Open Forum

20 is Plenty

A member of the public sought the Parish Council's view on a 20 is Plenty campaign.

Cllr McGinn explained that there has not been enough interest generated in the village in the speeding problem to implement changes. There have been public meetings previously but there have been few volunteers to help with speed guns.

Traffic calming options are being explored and this is on hold until Cllr Winward's return.

Phil Gomm clarified that a 20 mph limit is not legislation, and is not enforceable, except for specific areas such as the 20 mph zones around schools. The perception is that a 20 is Plenty campaign is unlikely to succeed where there is currently a speeding problem with a 30 mph limit.

However, some action can be taken. The member of the public offered to help with the village speedwatch, which will start again when the weather improves, and will also meet with Phil Gomm to discuss speeding and 20 is Plenty. Phil Gomm reported that experimental temporary chicanes are being tried on the "rat run" between Bletchley and Swanbourne; results will be shared.

It was noted that the Sentinel monitor in the village requires that data is taken from a preapproved spot. There is currently not a pre-approved spot on Bowling Alley, as a previous application was not approved due to a lack of line of sight. However, the location will be reapplied for. A location on North Marston Hill is available (see update from Phil Gomm

below).

Football Club House

James Hann from Oving Football Club sought Oving Parish Council's position on the football club updating the club house. The aim would be for a facility that had a wider benefit to the village as well as the football club but would not have hospitality as a primary objective. James expressed a wish to honour the history of football in Oving, especially for example the Oving Villages Cup, and have facilities to be proud of. In response to a question from an attending member of the public, James confirmed the football club house is intended to be open on match days. Phil Gomm reminded James that community grants are available.

Oving Parish Council is open to considering these ideas, and noted that Oving Football Club would need to consult planners and an architect and present specifics about design, location and funding before a proposal can be considered.

It was noted that the existing building contains asbestos, which could make upgrading the building expensive. Vehicular access/parking would also need considering. If the building location was proposed to be changed, consideration would need to be given to groundworks.

A separate meeting to discuss appropriate upgrading of the football club house will be scheduled between Oving Football Club, Parish Councillors, and the Tennis Club, as affected parties.

**AM,
MC**

Update from Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm:

Atkins is now the company being used for Highways, taking over from Transport for Buckinghamshire. There is a lot of highways work outstanding.

Pothole repair has been given funding from the Government.

The County budget went through, with increases for adult social care. There is a dementia enquiry ongoing, and Phil Gomm is a nominated Buckinghamshire Council carer champion. The enquiry will include looking at how information gets to carers.

Speeding – Phil Gomm requested the Speedwatch machine on Oving hill/North Marston hill. There is an authorised location on the post by the last of the houses on the right heading down the hill. Phil Gomm left the meeting at 1959h.

All

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th January 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

5. Planning

There were no planning applications for consideration.

The settlement review has been completed, supporting appropriate infilling when it can be shown to work but not otherwise.

6. Recreation Ground/Tennis Club

- The car park light has been fixed.

- The refuse bin nearest to the Reading Room needs to be moved to outside of the recreation ground fence, and near to the Reading Room but furthest from the adjacent house. SS
- The recreation ground fencing that runs along Bowling Alley is scheduled for repair.
- The Reading Room entranceway needs repair, there is a hole in the floor. SS
- Reading room Wi-Fi – Cllr McGinn is awaiting a response from an IT consultant. Another option is a sufficiently powerful (industrial) booster from the village hall. SS
- Grass cutting costs for the coming financial year are the same as for the previous year. A breakdown of these costs will be provided. RTM are to trim/mow the ground behind the football club house/new pavilion. AM
SS
- The rubbish under the new pavilion still needs clearing.
- A resident has requested that the small piece of ground by the roadside between the Reading Room and the adjacent property be made more aesthetic, e.g., with gravel. SS
- The replacement Silver Jubilee memorial tree will arrive on 16th March, Cllr McGinn will take delivery and arrange planting. The replacement tree is being funded by an anonymous donor. The old plaque till need moving to the new location (to be decided). SS
AM
- The Parish Council recorded grateful thanks to all those involved in the recent litter pick.
- Cllr McGinn and Cllr Cheetham will meet with Oving Football Club to discuss a new economic budget for OFC contributions to the Parish Council (covering electricity, groundskeeping, etc). It was noted that Oving Football Club and the Oving Villages Cup are two separate organisations. AM,
MC
- A banner for the Oving Villages Cup has been agreed upon.

Electric car charging points

Research showed that the companies supplying electric car charging points are looking for public car parks with higher use numbers than the recreation ground car park, and that the return does not look feasible currently. There are some leads still to follow up (including Dacorum), but electric car charging points on the recreation ground look unlikely to be viable. SS

7. Village Hall

The Hall Manager’s report is attached to these minutes as an appendix.

The Parish Council welcomed Sharon Matheou as hall manager designate.

A sample comfortable folding chair for use at film nights was brought to the Parish Council meeting and was approved as more comfortable than any existing chairs, and more portable. The same model is used for film nights in Berkhamsted. Sue Severn will obtain a price for 10 or 12 chairs. SS

It was agreed to renew the Hallmaster licence, as Hallmaster now has increased functionality to integrate Stripe and PayPal and meets the village hall needs.

It was agreed to have a minimum time length for party hire of 3 hours, which will be put into the terms and conditions. SS

It was requested to change the access code to the hall, as there have been a few instances of people letting themselves in unexpectedly. The Parish Council felt that changing the code would be a big upheaval and decided it is to stay as it is for now. Sharon was asked to monitor any inappropriate use and report back. **SM**

Evening Parties and Noise **SM**

A member of the public reported hearing noise from an evening booking late at night some time ago. Hall bookings are required to finish by midnight. It was explained that hall staff cannot attend in this situation, but that the following action should be taken if a resident feels disturbed:

- Call 101 for the police at the time the noise is happening to report a disturbance
- Email hall@ovingpc.com the following morning, so that the hirer can be approached and if necessary blocked from booking again.

An option may be to introduce a deposit for evening bookings that would be lost in the event of noise disturbance. Sharon will also ensure an 'overdrive on information' for hirers about the necessity of not creating noise disturbance.

Ground Source Heat Pump

The GSHP is currently working, but an engineer is still being sought for servicing and is hard to find. The GSHP heats the floor and is not intended to heat the water. **SM**

Solar Panels

Solar panel generation is not registering on the meter. It is currently not known if panels themselves are not generating, or if there is a fault between the panels and the meter. An electrical survey will be carried out to locate the actual problem before solutions are considered. **SM**

General

Sharon was asked to keep a schedule for repairs and also for ongoing monitoring of water and electricity readings etc, to identify any problems as soon as possible. **SM**

Thanks

The Parish Council recorded their thanks and appreciation to Agnieszka Alborzpour for her work as hall manager. **SM**

Agnieszka and Sharon left the meeting at 2027h.

8. Highways & Speeding.

Streetlight number 20 (outside Orchard Cottage on the Pitchcott road) is not coming on in the evenings but is on in the early mornings. Sue Severn will follow up to have the timer adjusted.

See Item 2 Open Forum for discussion of Speeding. **SS**

9. Economic Crisis

The Reading Room is being used (it is open 10am to 4pm daily, and heated). Smart meters are being installed on 16th March, which will allow Reading Room electricity use to be monitored. It is currently on a low tariff. It was decided to continue opening and heating the Reading Room and to review at the next meeting.

Options will be explored for a way to allow the Reading Room to be booked for specific use. The village hall Hallmaster system licence only covers one venue. A free app was suggested as an option.

SS

Sharon will be asked to look after the Reading Room maintenance and monitor energy use.

At the next meeting, Reading Room bookings will be discussed, including charges, booking, and use. In the meantime, bookings can be made by contacting Sharon, hall@ovingpc.com.

All

10. Finance

SM

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

All

VAT is being reclaimed. The village hall has paid this year's loan costs back.

The carry forward after remaining expenses this year is approximately £13k, which is about half of the precept and a good position.

A breakdown of the budget was reviewed, Sue Severn will correct the figure currently coded as stationary to clerk's expenses. It was noted that "Excel expertise" covered administration of the accounts spreadsheet.

The audit timeline is for Gus Orchard to review mid-April, for the accounts to be signed of at the annual meeting in May, and then sent for external audit.

SM

A breakdown of grass cutting costs will be obtained, to identify any potential economies.

The financial arrangement with the Football Club will be discussed going forward, including factors such as electricity metering and grass cutting.

11. Meetings

SM

Nothing new to report.

12. Dates of the next Parish Council Meetings

AM,
MC

Both the Annual Parish Council meeting and the AGM will be held on Tuesday 16th May 2023.

13. AOB

Coronation Event

The event is on budget. Commemorative key fobs are on order.

Village Ball 2024

A village ball fundraiser is being organised for the 18th May 2024. Karen Boulton is the contact. There is no fundraising focus yet. The Parish Council are happy to support the event.

AWS

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 2051h.

