



Minutes of the Oving Parish Council Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 7.15pm at Oving Village Hall

Present: Cllr Ambrose McGinn (Chairman) Sue Severn (Clerk)
Cllr Trish Perkins (Vice-Chair) Cllr Mark Cheetham
Cllr Matt Winward Cllr Alistair Walker-Smith

In Attendance: Buckinghamshire Mark Elvins
Cllr Phil Gomm (Buckinghamshnire)
Laura Williams (Minutes) Louise Watson, Ewart Watson
David Midwinter Polly Taylor
Jessica Boulton Karen Boulton

Action

The Chairman opened the meeting noting that this has been the first in-person meeting since January 2020. Alistair Walker-Smith was welcomed as a co-opted councillor.

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Open Forum

Tree planting

Jessica Boulton (9) gave a presentation asking Oving Parish Council to participate in tree planting to help improve the environment. She told the Parish Council that the Woodland Trust was giving away free saplings from October until the end of next year, and recommended that trees were best planted from October to March. Jessica was congratulated on her excellent speech. The Councillors agreed this was a good idea. There are approximately 300 whips in a pack. Jessica was asked to apply for the Woodland Trust pack and was invited to attend a future meeting to help make decisions on where to plant. Follow-up care of the planted whips will be discussed in the future.

Recreation Ground

Louise Watson made the following points:

- The recreation ground is now open to the road by the reading room after the previous fence fell apart and the gate was removed as it wasn't wide enough for the accessibility path. Cllr McGinn suggested the Parish Council take advice on the best solution. AM
- The grass is cut to the rear of the football pitch but roughly, and Louise suggested a path could be mown around the edge of the recreation ground with a shorter SS

cut, to help accessibility for the many people who use it. Sue Severn will ask RTM contractors.

- The new benches are low and difficult to sit on, and not very relaxing. Cllr McGinn remarked that refurbishment of the current classic benches in the village and provision of more was being looked at, possibly for the Jubilee. Community board funding could be applied for. AM
- The lime trees have previously had their base shoots cut back but this hasn't been done recently. Sue Severn will ask RTM contractors to do this. SS

David Midwinter thanked the Parish Council for delaying the meeting until villagers could be present in person. He informed the Parish council that the Silver Jubilee tree that was lost in recent recreation ground works was a pink may tree, chosen specifically as the Silver Jubilee was held in May, and requested it was specifically replaced with the same tree of a suitable age. Cllr McGinn agreed that a substantial tree should be planted.

Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm gave an update. In future meetings this will appear as an agenda item.

He encouraged Oving Parish Council to take advantage of Community Board funding and invited the Parish Council to send a representative to the meeting (Cllr Trish Perkins had attended the last meeting).

Phil Gomm sits on numerous committees; topics that are currently being pursued are:

Wilding – promoting wilding of suitable areas to help the environment.

Speeding – (enforcement as well as monitoring)

Health and Wellbeing

Rights of Way – voluntary groups are needed to keep footpaths clear

Drains – Oving is high on the priority list to have all drains cleared. Ewart Watson warned that as he and others have taken to clearing drains to the extent that is possible, a brief visual inspection may not show the extent of the silting. Phil Gomm said a full inspection will be done. Louise Watson said that Fix My Street postings are disingenuous with the situation as posts are removed when they relate to things in the work programme – like drains. Cllr McGinn remarked that on the other hand the response can be quick (pothole repaired in 5 days). Phil Gomm remarked that the speed of response depends on the relevant team availability. He asked that the Parish Council help order the importance of village works in order to help him facilitate them. All were in agreement that drains were the priority. The Meadway drain will be repaired and cleared and the downstream drainage will be cleared with a jet – the machine is large and it would help the process to have the road used as little as possible during the jetting, which will work from the bottom to the top of Pulpit Lane, since that is where the Meadway drain leads to. Phil Gomm and Trish Perkins will approach the properties on Pulpit Lane to see what can be done to reduce traffic while the works happen. David Midwinter informed Phil Gomm that there are dumb wells in Bowling Alley, and will be consulted. The drain opposite Wayside was mentioned in case it falls within the parish boundary.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 May 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

5 Planning

The following applications were considered:

The Hawthorns

21/02147/APP | Erection of annex for ancillary use | The Hawthorns Whitchurch Road Oving Buckinghamshire HP22 4ER

Mark Elvins attended the meeting and explained that the extension was an ancillary residence for family members and might be removed in time. The Parish Council had no objections.

Freelands

An application for tree work at Freelands, including reduction of some and removal of others. There are no Tree Preservation Orders on the trees. The Parish Council had no objections.

Louise Watson asked why the Parish Council was neutral on trees being felled but supportive of Jessica's idea to plant more trees. Cllr McGinn replied that the Parish Council can't dictate what people put in their gardens but can manage what happens in public space.

6 Councillor's Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities within the Parish Council were confirmed as follows:

Cllr Ambrose McGinn: Chair OPC, Chair OVHC, Finance, Governance, Risk Management, liaison with Whitchurch and surrounding parishes - particularly on major planning items eg Rectory

Cllr Trish Perkins: Vice Chair, Planning, Liaison with Buckinghamshire Councillor Phil Gomm, 50/50, Grant funding expertise

Cllr Matt Winward: Traffic Management, Speed checking and mitigation, Future of Old White Pavilion (formal survey and plans for refurb / relocation), Liaison with Church.

Cllr Alistair Walker-Smith: Website (content & structure refresh), social media, noticeboards, parish mag, Grant funding expertise (with Trish). Welcome pack update & delivery. Focal point of contact for OVH and Reading room. Lead on HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration 2022.

Cllr Mark Cheetham: Rec Ground including playground, paths and verges / public areas / shelters / benches. Parish Partnership liaison with Ramblers.

7 Recreation Ground/Tennis Club

Old Pavilion

Cllr Winward reported that the results of the survey were damning, and that the building is essentially rotten beyond repair. It was discussed that the next decision is removal/replacement. The Parish Councillors expressed regret that the building was beyond saving. Sue Severn will obtain a quote for removal and the cost of a store shed. It was noted that there are items of interest stored in the old pavilion including a sign about the original building purpose, protests about the airport, and the original recreation ground rules.

SS/MW

Noise and Nuisance

There has been a noise and nuisance complaint about users of the recreation ground from one Bowling Alley resident. However, other Bowling Alley residents consulted did not agree and no action was currently felt necessary.

Playground Equipment

SS

Sue Severn will ask the contractor who will be working at the village hall to see if repair work can be done to the playground.

Tennis Club access to the Village Hall

The Tennis Club Chairman will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the possibility of adding a Tennis Club toilet to avoid conflict with village hall bookings. Funding would likely be through a grant.

8 Street Lighting, Rights of Way and Verges

Street Lighting

Sue Severn reported that there is still a wait for the ordered bulbs. At the point of replacing the bulbs, the Meadway light will be reconnected.

SS

Rights of Way and Verges

A reminder has been put on Facebook about cutting back overgrown hedges. It was noted that there is a pavement entirely covered by hedge between the Dark Lane gate and the top of Church Lane.

9 Village Hall

Agnieszka Alborzpour had circulated a report to Councillors. The Hallmaster system is working and the classes are returning. There will be some activities for children over the October half term. Cllr Cheetham asked how many children were attending the nursery; the number was not known.

The Annual Trust Meeting and Oving Village Hall Management Meeting will be arranged in September.

AM

Loft Access

Sue Severn has a quote for bannisters on 3 side of the loft hatch for safety, £300. The Parish Council agreed to proceed.

SS

10 Highways and Speeding

Speeding

Cllr Winward will liaise with Phil Gomm for the April/May/June statistics. There was no reply to a request in the parish newsletter for help. It was intended to use Sentinel again.

MW

Highways

Drains are the absolute priority. See open forum summary.

The pavement in Church Lane is very uneven. Phil Gomm will look at it. The highways maintenance contract is being taken back in house at the Council so this may help to get work done.

13 Finance

Payments made outside the meeting were ratified and the electronic payment run was approved.

Oving Parish Council accounts to year end June 2021 were agreed as circulated.

The internal audit of accounts was confirmed as completed and has been submitted to the external auditor.

12 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Cllr Walker-Smith is coordinating. An initial advertisement is in the Parish Newsletter. It will be the Friday of the weekend double bank holiday in June 2022.

AWS

13 Meetings

The Winslow and Villages Community Board meeting was attended by Cllr Perkins and Phil Gomm. See open forum. Also:

Traffic: the statistics will now be directly downloaded to the police under a new system, starting in September. It is a pilot of some villages across Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire. Letters will be automatically generated, as a first step of enforcement. The Community Board meetings can be attended by anyone, not just Parish Coucillors. The meetings are continuing on zoom at the moment. Cllr Perkins remarked that not everyone is on social media and so this information needs disseminating more broadly, using the newsletter for example. It was noted that projects of several thousand pounds were being granted, and that the village could benefit from grants.

14 Dates of Next Parish Council Meetings

14th September 2021; 9th November 2021

11th January 2022; 8th March 2022

Any Other Business

All Saints' Church

Cllr McGinn noted that the church's quinquennial report had been issued (for repairs required to the church) and that it would be good to help if this was possible.

Contact for Phil Gomm

Cllr Perkins agreed to be the formal point of contact for Phil Gomm.

Memorial event for Bok's crew of 1942

On 15 August there will be a memorial event commemorating the 75th anniversary of "Bok" Hull (George Laurance Bazett Hull, DFC), who is buried in Oving Churchyard with his twin sister. An insert will be circulated with the newsletter.

15 The meeting was closed at 2025h and the members of the public left. The PCC then debated a confidential matter (note on file).