

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly On Monday 18th May 2015, at 6.45pm in Saint Aidans Church.

Present

Councillor I. Goldthorpe	(IG)	(Chair.)
Councillor G Sedgwick	(GS)	
Councillor Stanley	(IS)	
Councillor Walker	(AWa)	(Vice Chair).

In Attendance

Mrs S Tolson (Clerk), Bill Taylor, Ged Brearley, John Wade, Joy Cooper, Hannah Goldingay-Jordan.

Apologies.

Councillor Shaw, Councillor Mills. (IS,AW)

Councillor Goldthorpe in the Chair as retiring Chairperson of Oxspring Parish Council read the Notice of the Annual Assembly.

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 12th May 2014, and Matters Arising from them.

There were no matters arising.

The minutes were agreed to be signed by the Chair as a true record. (IS,AW).

Public Participation

Hannah Goldingay-Jordan spoke to the Council about fibre broadband possibilities for Oxspring. It has been announced that BT openreach will be bringing superfast broadband to the Oxspring area in 2017. Hannah felt that for local businesses this wasn't soon enough and has been researching alternatives. She spoke about the community group in Dodworth that have contributed towards fibre along with local grants. She stated that to do a similar scheme in Oxspring would cost in the region of £50,000, and BMBC have stated that grants would not be available due to the imminent arrival of fibre in 2017. The other option that she spoke about was to contract with a private company (such as www.superfast.yorkshire.co.uk) that would install lines individually to each house at a cost to that individual. They would need a minimum number of residents to sign up to the scheme for it to be viable to put in a cabinet. The unknown with this scheme is that if some houses in Oxspring have the superfast broadband via the private company, then there is the possibility that openreach will pull out of upgrading the whole village. She stated that her husband would be contacting openreach to discuss further.

Mrs Goldingay-Jordan also requested permission for the school PTA to use Bower Dell for the duck race on the 3rd July. This was agreed.

John Wade spoke on behalf of an allotment tenant that was enquiring whether someone who assists her with the allotment could be put on the contract as a joint tenant. The Clerk advised that the tenant should contact the Council if she has queries with her allotment. It was noted though that it was against Council policy to add a person as a joint tenant if they are not residing at the same address. If the person assisting with the allotment wishes to take over the allotment at some point in the future, then that person must join the allotment waiting list and can only be offered the plot when they are at the top of the list. Mr Wade stated that he would report back to the tenant.

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Joy Cooper spoke about the planters she maintains on Long Lane and reported that plants keep being stolen from them. She has planted new plants and it was agreed that the Council would reimburse her for the cost of the plants up to £20 per planter. Mrs Cooper submitted her receipts. She also reported that trees were overhanging the short footpath between Roughbitchworth Lane and Back Lane making it difficult to pass, especially for horseriders. It was agreed that the Titivator group would take a look, and that the Clerk would seek permission for them to do some clearing from the footpaths officer.

Reports of the Parish Council Representatives and Associated Bodies.

The Titivators

Councillor Sedgwick gave a report:

The Titivators have had a busy year with litter picking, planting, strimming and tidying. Recent works included the Pinfold; pruning and planting herbs with the help of the school gardening club. Thanks are to be given to Shirley and Les Ilsley, Alison Barron and Bill Coles for their plant donations. This will be mentioned in the newsletter.

At Bower Dell more planting of wild flowers has taken place, and also some have been planted in the Rookery. In the Rose garden, Emily Rose Gratton-Rayson had been planting, and Councillor Sedgwick stated that he will remove the For Sale sign post that has been put in there. In Gordon's Garden the banking has been dug and wild flowers will be planted. It was noted that an apple tree has been planted near to the seat by a resident. Unfortunately there isn't now room for the BMBC mowers to get through. It was noted that it will need to be moved, but that it can stay until the growing season is over. Councillor Sedgwick will have a chat with her.

The stone trough near the playingfield was discussed, and it was agreed that the daffodils could be removed from the surrounding grass verge, and that the trough could be filled with perennials. It was suggested that the daffodil bulbs are planted in the wooded area of Bower Dell.

Oxspring Friends.

The Chair gave a verbal report. The report was as follows:

Oxspring Friends have had a fairly busy year, and recently organised the Charity Bonanza and Seniors Tea. Both of which went well.

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Councillor Stanley gave a verbal report. The report was as follows:

There have been 7 teams this year, under 7's,8,11,12,13,14 and under 16's. The teams achieved two third places in their respective tables and the 14 and 16's teams achieved mid table.

Penistone Church football is still using the field for some home games, and makes donations to the Parish Council.

Oxspring Primary School PTA

A written report was submitted by Helen Fryers:

It's been a year of change at Oxspring School: last July we said sad farewells to our well-loved head-teacher Kath Evans, who retired after many years' service at the school. However we've been pleased to welcome new head-teacher Sharon Irwin, and she's bringing new ideas and fresh enthusiasm to school and to the PTA.

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The PTA's had another busy year. We held school discos in June, November and February. As usual our two main fundraising events were the Christmas Fair, complete with Santa in his grotto, and the July Duck Race (which again had to be relocated from Bower Dell to the school playground due to rain!). Other fundraisers included printing Christmas cards, recycling old clothes and pens, a Christmas wreath-making workshop and a penny-saving competition. We also held coffee mornings in aid of Macmillan and the British Heart Foundation.

Our money raising efforts have meant that we've been able to fund an end of year trip and books for year 6 leavers, coaches for trips to the pantomime and to the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, new chairs, special building blocks & a light box, as well as extra resources for each class and for special needs.

We're very grateful to the Parish Council for allowing us to use Bower Dell for our annual duck race. This year's is planned for Friday July 3rd, and so please come along, browse the stalls, buy a duck, watch it float down the river and maybe win a big prize!

Oxspring Parish Allotments Manager.

Mrs Steph Tolson. The Clerk presented the Council's Allotment register which was circulated amongst Council members. She then read out the following report:

There is 1 vacant plot at Clays Green. This vacancy occurred this month and will be filled from the waiting list.

All allotments for the Year starting 1st April 15 have been fully paid, with the exception of the one that has just become vacant. There are currently 10 names on the Waiting list. 3 of those on the list are Oxspring residents, two of which are requesting specific plots.

Four people joined the waiting list in the last year. 4 plots had tenant changes during the last financial year, 2 at West Crescent, and 1 at Roughbitchworth, 1 at Clays Green.

Oxspring Parish Council Chair's Report.

Councillor Goldthorpe submitted a written report which he read out. The report was as follows:

The last year has been a fairly busy year for the Parish Council. Several projects have been completed and several items of maintenance work in the village have been carried out.

The largest project has been the progression of the Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan for which Councillor Walker has been the lead Parish Councillor. The draft indicative policies were consulted on early this year and further funding is anticipated to steer the NP towards getting actual policies written.

The Titivators have made a large contribution towards keeping Oxspring in good shape this last year. They have done many jobs including weekly litter picks and general strimming and clearing of various areas around Oxspring. Specific areas that they have worked on and done planting are the Pinfold, Bower Dell and Gordon's Garden. They have also taken on the maintenance of the Rose Garden, and helped put up the village Christmas Tree. Some excellent gardening equipment and a shed were purchased this last year which the Titivators have made good use of.

Maintenance work has continued this past year at the village playarea with new arms for the Waltz, repairs to the swings, modifications to the perimeter fencing and new grass matting being laid in parts.

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Parts to replace the majority of the wooden train and the Multiplay Swing Bridge have been purchased, and these will be installed shortly. A ward alliance grant was also received to match fund the purchase and installation of three new seats at the playarea; these are due for delivery shortly.

Drainage problems were dealt with on the playingfield last autumn, with new underground piping being put in to solve issues that had appeared the previous winter after heavy rains. The PC is now confident that the new piping links into the Culvert and that a blocked drain has been repaired. Also in the playingfield, the circular footpath is still receiving attention, and there are plans to resurface the full path.

This last year has also been a busy year on other counts, with many planning applications being considered, several reports of fly tipping, potholes, antisocial behavior at the playingfield carpark and parking issues near the school being dealt with and pursued with BMBC. A traffic order for yellow lines at Roughbitchworth is now underway. Less successful issues that the PC tried resolving were the stone wall on Sheffield Road and grass matting in the grass verges near the bridge, both of which proved too costly and not possible for the Council to improve after much investigation.

Finally may I say thank you to all Councillors and our Clerk for all your hard work this last year. Thanks must also go to the Neighbourhood Plan Group for their hard work in progressing the project and also to the Titivator Group for the great work they have done in making Oxspring an even more attractive village.

Observations from Members of the Parish.

Taken at the start of the meeting.

There was no further business.

This meeting was closed at 7.45pm.

Signed this day _____ **2016**