

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly On Monday 10th May 2010, at 6.30pm in Saint Aidans Church.

Present

Councillor I. Goldthorpe.	(IG)	(Chair.)
Councillor C Booth.	(CB)	
Councillor Mills	(AM)	
Councillor Shaw	(FS)	
Councillor W. Taylor.	(BT)	
Councillor Stanley.	(IS)	(Vice Chair.)
Councillor Chitoriski	(RC)	

In Attendance.

Mrs S Tolson (Clerk) & Borough Councillor Robert Barnard.

Apologies.

No Apologies were received.

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 11th May 2009, and Matters Arising from them.

The Chair read through the minutes of the previous assembly and allowed comments and progress on items from the assembly as this was done.

There were no matters arising.

The minutes were agreed to be signed by the Chair as a true record following a proposal from Councillor Booth, supported by Councillor Shaw.

The Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2009

These together with the Internal and External Auditors' reports and certification of accounts were circulated for examination and comment or questions.

There were no questions from the Public or Councillors present.

Reports of the Parish Council Representatives and Associated Bodies.

Oxspring Brownies.

No representation at the meeting, or report submitted.

Penistone Rural Road Safety Committee.

Councillor Taylor. No report as there were no meetings.

Oxspring United Football Club.

Councillor Stanley gave a verbal report on Football Clubs 2009/2010 season. He reported that the year had been successful for the 3 junior teams, and satisfactory for the 2 adult teams. One junior team was 2nd in the league, and the other two were mid table. 1 team qualified in the Cup. All teams had new kits last year. He reported that the Charter Standard has been completed and is ready for the

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next season. He also reported that Chris Thorpe's father had left some money to the club, and this has been used to purchase a Line Marker.

Oxspring Trunce Runners.

No representation at the meeting, or report submitted.

Oxspring Primary School PTA.

The PTA sent a written report as follows:

The PTA's had another busy year. We held school discos in June, November and February and a very competitive & enjoyable Beetle Drive in the Autumn term. Our two main fundraising events were the Christmas Fayre, complete with Santa in his grotto, and the July Duck Race which unfortunately had to be relocated from Bower Dell to the school playground due to bad weather and muddy ground conditions. Nevertheless both events were a big success and between them raised £3,600. Other fundraisers included a scheme where children designing their own Christmas cards, which were then printed and sold, and 'Bags to School', where bags of old clothes are exchanged for cash.

Our money raising efforts have meant that we've been able to fund an end of year trip and books for year 6 leavers, prizes for an Easter egg competition, magnetic games for the playground, special needs resources, video cameras for ICT work, as well as £2000 worth of classroom equipment.

Until now space to hold events at school has been very limited, but a large extension to the hall is due for completion in the Summer. The PTA's looking forward to next year when we'll be able to use the extra space to hold some new & different events – watch out for posters in the Autumn – and in the meantime please come along to our annual Duck Race on Friday July 2nd in Bower Dell, where you can buy a duck, watch it float down the river and maybe win a big prize!

Oxspring Good Companions.

No representation at the meeting, or report submitted.

Oxspring Heritage Group.

Councillor Booth gave a written report. The report was as follows:

The group is not as active as it has been in the past but this year its members and volunteers have been involved in several projects –

Renewal of way marking all the public footpaths on the Definitive Map for Oxspring was carried out by invitation from the Parish Council using materials supplied by BMBC

Providing a time capsule of appropriate historic photographs of Wood's garage for Gordon's Garden

Supplying several old photos for display on the parish website

Making a start-up donation to Oxspring Sport and Community Centre project from our resources

Supplying the trees and some volunteers for the Anthills Hedge Planting Project

Planting an oak tree and daffodil bulbs beneath it behind the memorial seat in Gordon's Garden

Volunteers spent time removing litter and dead bushes and plants from the playing fields car park.

Councillor Booth then added verbally to his report that the Christmas Walk had had a good turnout, but that the Carol Singing at the Travellers had not had great attendance, and he wasn't sure how many more years this event would continue.

CARE

Councillor Booth gave a written report. The report was as follows:

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CARE has not met this year formally. I have had several conversations with the Chair Colin Bower and report on the situation as at present.

All reports and accounts have been registered with the Charity Commission within the required timescales having been independently verified and distributed.

There is little activity by comparison these days with only recorded projects in Silkstone and Oxspring parishes although there has been interest at Stainborough and Thurgoland but nothing reported.

CARE facilities through tool loans, library and umbrella insurance for registered projects are still available.

The Anthills hedge planting in Oxspring was covered by their insurance and tools were loaned for the work also.

Oxspring Friends.

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

All is going well with Oxspring Friends. The Committee has had two new members join recently which were very welcome. The Seniors Tea that took place last weekend was very successful with approximately 50 people attending and a great band. The Titivators gardening group under the umbrella of Oxspring Friends have been very busy doing many project throughout the village, and this is going well.

OPSCC

Councillor Booth presented the following written Annual report of the trustees:

Background.

Oxspring United Football Club (OUFC) approached Oxspring Parish Council (OPC) to relocate their changing rooms to the playingfield and invest in a partnership.

Following consultation and collaboration within the community OPC gained grant funding from “Awards for All” to employ architect M Clynych to gain planning permission for a community facility in the Green Belt. They also commissioned a feasibility study within the same grant. This reported in February 2008 and planning permission was granted in October 2008.

From consultations it was clear there was a need for the facility to be independent from both OUFC and OPC. To this end it was decided to set up a Steering Committee to bring the building to fruition with 2 members each from OPC and OUFC the major partners, and with the proviso to gain others from the community.

First Year Review.

Councillors Stanley and Shaw were nominated from OPC whilst OUFC put forward G Clamp and John Crowther. Councillor Booth as OPC’s lead on this project was requested to advise and support the group initially and an inaugural meeting was called for 18 December 2008 at Ian Stanley’s home.

Our early meetings were about identifying our strategies – finding start-up funding, gaining charitable status, and finding public representatives prior to moving forward the actual project. Freda Shaw was elected as Chair of the committee and a constitution drawn up and adopted.

The strategies were developed and local potential user groups offered small donations to help us get started and a bank account opened with these funds at Penistone HSBC bank in January 2009.

Voluntary Action Barnsley gave advice on achieving charitable status through their solicitor A Robinson. This involved a cost and finance to cover legal fees and administrative set-up costs were sought.

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South Yorkshire Community Foundation in July 2009 offered us a Grassroots Grant over 2 years; Year 1 for legal fees and admin set-up costs, with Year 2 to cover professional fees for advice on the construction phase.

Further legal fee funding was required to advise on leasing the footprint of the building from OPC once charitable status was granted. Barnsley MBC Community Support Fund provided this in August 2009. Others were approached from advice by South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau but these have not been successful.

Charitable Status was achieved in November 2009 with the 4 committee members becoming the First Trustees thus opening the way to seek higher funding levels to start the design and building processes.

Helen Goldsby-West was recruited in December 2009 to act as a Financial Consultant to help us identify grant funding and draw up a business plan to use in accessing the design and construction costs once we have funding to pay her fees. These are pending.

A review of our first year was included in the December 2009 Parish Newsletter and volunteers were called for with an interest in the project and expertise in the construction and financial elements. Three have come forward wanting to be Trustees – Matthew Sykes, Neal Beevers, Alan Walker, and we welcome them for their enthusiasm and skills.

Through ProHelp, a pro bono professional support group, in January 2010, advice has been sought to inform us on the design and construction phases and incorporating sustainable measures into the building. This has also focussed our attention on the design and layout of the centre in preparation for offering a future design team a detailed agreed brief.

Now February 2010 has arrived we are in the process of finalising the details of our lease of the plot of land on the playingfield from OPC. With that, a ground site survey and the Business Plan in place we can say we are ready to see some concrete future evidence of a community building with changing facilities appearing out of the ground in front of us.

Councillor Booth added verbally that Freda Shaw has since stepped down as Chair, and Ian Stanley has taken the Chair. He also reported that 37 applications had been made to fund the Business Plan, of which there had been 3 rejections so far. OPSCC have also enquired with Grassroots if they are able to widen the 2nd tranche of funding to include more activities. A reply is awaited. SYFAB have also been contacted for further grant funding avenues.

Oxspring Parish Allotments Manager.

Mrs Steph Tolson. The Clerk presented the Council's Allotment register which would now be circulated amongst Council members as required by law for information. She then read out the following report:

There are currently no vacant allotments.

All allotments for the Year starting 1st April 10 have been fully paid, with the exception of 2 plots at West Crescent both belonging to the same tenant, Mrs Murphy. Two reminders have been sent since the original invoice. These plots will be offered to the next people on the waiting list if payment is not received shortly.

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There are currently 24 names on the Waiting list, of which 1 already holds a plot at West Crescent, but wish to remain on the list for a Roughbitchworth plot instead. 8 of those on the list are Oxspring residents, and therefore priority will be given to these when a plot becomes vacant.

3 plots had tenant changes during the last financial year; two were at West Crescent and one at Roughbitchworth. At this rate of turnover, the wait is approximately 2 or 3 years for an Oxspring resident. As we have approximately two or three Oxspring residents joining the list each year, then non Oxspring residents have very little chance of being offered a plot in the foreseeable future.

Comments were then made on the above report; that Mrs Murphy was believed to have moved away and therefore this would explain the non payment of the allotment rent. It was agreed to offer these two plots to the next two people on the waiting list.

The large conifers behind some plots at West Crescent were discussed. Councillor Shaw is to find out if the tenants want these cutting down, and if so, this would be discussed on the next agenda.

Oxspring Parish Council Chair's Report.

Councillor Goldthorpe submitted a written report which he read out.

The report was as follows:

After reading through the Parish Councils minutes of the last 12 months, I believe that progress has been made on several projects. Below is a summary of work that has taken place.

- The Memorial Garden has seen a big improvement with a seat and stone carving being placed there. Trees and flowers have been planted, and the grass is now included in the grounds maintenance contract with BMBC. Thanks goes to the Titivators who have helped with the garden planting. The sale of this land by BMBC is still in progress with the Solicitors.
- A charitable trust has been formed for the Community Building and Councillor Booth is helping the steering Committee progress this project.
- The decision to repair the Culvert at the Playingfield was made in 2009, and design plans were drawn up and quotes obtained for the work. The environment Agency approved the scheme. Funding was looked at with a couple of grant applications being made, so far with no success. The Council is hoping to borrow some funds and use existing reserves. An application for borrowing approval is awaiting a reply. A preferred supplier has been chosen.
- The sump at the playingfield was investigated and cleared, and the trees near the sump site have been cleared today.
- Several items at the play area had maintenance work done on them, including rebuilding the train and horse springy that had been vandalized, and fixing the monkey bars so that they can't swivel to improve safety.
- Rubbish removal and asbestos removal work took place at Roughbitchworth allotments.
- Work is ongoing to start up an Oxspring Parish Fishery again.
- A development plan has been drafted for the playingfield to include a cricket pitch, a boules pitch, a circuit path, a drainage pipe, extra benches and improvements to the existing playing surfaces. These ideas are now being looked at and costed.
- The water leak under Roughbitchworth Bridge was finally fixed by Yorkshire Water and BMBC have been resurfacing much of the TPT through Oxspring.
- The Parish Council held a public meeting at Saint Aidans about the Sheepphouse Heights Windfarm and several representing bodies were able to attend to provide information. Finally in December 09 the Windfarm was rejected by the BMBC Planning Board.
- Whips were planted in November at the Anthills by a group of Councillors. Thanks to OHG for donating the trees.

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- One dead tree at the play area was cut down by Councillor Taylor.

2009-2010 has been a productive time and I would like to thank all members for their help and assistance during the last year.

Observations from Members of the Parish.

The shortage of allotments in the Penistone area was discussed.

Councillor Barnard spoke about the progress of the new supermarket and market area in Penistone.

It was agreed that the Clerk is to inform the Trunce organisers about the Culvert repair work on the playingfield once it is known when the work will start.

There was no further business.

This meeting was closed at 7.35pm.

Signed this day **2010**