

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly On Monday 9th May 2022, at 6.45pm at St Aidans Church

Present

Councillor I Goldthorpe	(IG)
Councillor A Walker	(AW)
Councillor G Sedgwick	(GS)
Councillor E Gratton-Rayson	(EGR)
Councillor N McKay	(NM)
Councillor L Chambers	(LC)
Councillor I Stanley	(IS)

In Attendance

Mrs S Tolson (Clerk).

Apologies.

None.

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

The Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021

These together with the Internal and External Auditors' reports and certification of accounts were circulated.

Reports of the Parish Council Representatives and Associated Bodies.

Oxspring Parish Allotments Manager.

Mrs Steph Tolson.

There are no vacant plots. Most allotments for the Year starting 1st April 22 have been fully paid, one is still outstanding. The Clerk is chasing this.

One plot became vacant upon tenancy renewal and has now been filled. During the year two other plots changed hands.

There are currently 18 names on the Waiting list. 5 of those on the list are Oxspring residents, 2 of which are requesting specific plots.

Four people joined the waiting list in the last year.

The Titivators

Councillor Sedgwick submitted a written report:

Regular litter picking has taken place around the village during the last year by the Titivators team

Weeding and planting has been ongoing in all areas such as Gordons Garden, the Rose Garden, the Sports field carpark gardens, Bower Dell and other Parish owned areas helping to keep the village looking attractive and tidy.

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Installation and removal of the Willows planters was also undertaken by Titivators members.

The Titivators group applied to the Woodland Trust for a number of hedgerow saplings these have been planted adjacent to the fence on the Eastern boarder of the Sports field.

Alongside the above work the Titivators undertake many non-horticultural tasks such as

Inspection of the Children's Play area which is completed on a fortnightly basis and many of the repairs which are required are done by members of the Titivators team.

The team also undertake the work required in erecting and removing the Christmas tree and maintaining the lights etc.as required our thanks to the family in the adjacent property for allowing a mains power supply for the tree illuminations.

Many other maintenance tasks have also been undertaken such as repairs to fencing around the village.

Two Speed Indicating Devices complete with Solar panel devices were installed by Titivators members, one at the western end of the village on Sheffield Road and the other t the southern end on Roughbitchworth road.

Again, it's been a challenging, rewarding and entertaining year by a small but dedicated team.

My thanks go out to the following people for their continued support and hard work our latest member Gary Cadman, Alan Walker, Roger Rose and Bill Taylor.

Cllr Gratton-Rayson reported that the new Titivator, Dee has been regularly litter picking at Longley Ings. The soft fruit has been planted in the Community Allotment and the Jubilee Tree has been planted in the Orchard. A plaque will be arranged. Bower Hill Bridge has been weed sprayed recently.

Oxspring Friends

The 'Friends' have been a little quiet for the last couple of years due to the restrictions imposed on us due to Covid 19.

However, during the pandemic another group of volunteers was set up in the Village, called Oxspring Buddies and now that things have returned to something like normal it is the intention to merge the two groups together so that they can reap the benefits afforded to a properly constituted group like Oxspring Friends with its own bank account. This will allow the group to access funding for any future events or to support residents in any number of ways. There is a healthy group of volunteers in the Buddies so their help and assistance with new projects will be immensely valuable.

Oxspring Friends has been successful in obtaining a Ward Alliance Grant to support the Queen's Jubilee event and this money will be used to pay for equipment hire etc. The organising Committee for the Jubilee event is made up of a number of different groups - Oxspring Friends, the Pop In Club, The PTA, the local Football Club, the local hostelry etc. and each group will do what it can to raise their own individual funds on the day although

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

raising funds is not the main concern for the day. It is more about ensuring that we have a super, fun filled day that all the village can enjoy.

Hopefully, once the merger of the two groups is complete, we can consider what other events and or support we want to be able to offer in the coming year and we will be happy to consider suggestions about what we might want to undertake to support our lovely community.

Oxspring Parish Council Chair's Report.

Councillor Walker submitted a written report as follows:

Welcome to the Assembly Meeting for 2022 and I am pleased to report that we have had another very successful and busy year.

We have managed to complete a number of projects including installation of the MUGA, a new seesaw and floor surface in the children's play area, a revisit to improve the surface of the car park near the football field, a new handrail to assist the less able when walking into the football field, the installation of the SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices), and the ongoing works that our very valued Titivators undertake throughout not just this year, but every year. A big thank you to the Titivators team.

During the course of the year we have also considered, monitored, commented on, and objected to a number of planning applications. We have dealt with 20 individual planning applications in the last twelve months and have been successful with the ones we have objected to. We have been happy to support the majority of applications and will continue to be involved in the planning decisions that are brought before us.

A new initiative for this year, has seen us try to get the Pop In Club members more involved in what issues we discuss at the Parish Council meetings. Two members of the Parish Council visited one of the Pop In sessions and had a very constructive discussion with those residents who were present on the day. We have also initiated a post card scheme, whereby any members from the Club can raise an issue on a post card and submit it for discussion at the next available Parish Council meeting.

We continue to have an active presence at the Ward Alliance meetings and have been successful in obtaining a number of Ward Alliance Grants for a variety of people and groups in the village.

One of the major issues that we try to deal with every year is the issue of speeding through the village. To help improve this matter the Parish Council purchased two SIDs and three solar panels. This will enable us to move the SIDs around in the village and as soon as Thurgoland Bank is opened again, we will look to put one of the SIDs on a lamp post at the side of the Waggon and Horses to hopefully slow down traffic coming from Thurgoland and through our village.

Two members of the Parish Council also attended a zoom meeting with Alan Billings, the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and they were able to raise a number of issues relating to road traffic issues in our village. Although speeding and traffic issues are

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

raised on a regular basis with BMBC, the Parish Council took the decision to write a letter to the Highways Department, listing several serious issues that villagers often raise with us. As a result of this letter being sent a representative from Highways was invited to attend one of our Parish Council meetings and we were able to put to him, in person, the issues that cause most concerns from residents. We will wait to see if any of our proposals come to fruition, but will definitely not be resting on our laurels and if we feel that nothing has transpired as a result of the letter and the meeting, we will be following the matter up with a further letter.

It is now three years since we had our Neighbourhood Plan formally adopted and we will shortly be undertaking a review as is required as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process. We will be undertaking this with a 'light touch' and have spoken to Barnsley Planning Department and advised them that this is what we plan to do.

The children's play area equipment is now approximately 23 years old and some of the equipment is getting a little bit long in the tooth, despite the fact that the Titivators work hard to keep things repaired. We get no funding from the Local Authority, so any repairs or renewals have to be paid for from the Parish Council budget and new playground equipment is extremely expensive. We would like to undertake some remedial works and have recently submitted a bid for some S106 funding to help with the cost of this remedial work. If we are successful (and it could take a long time), we will be talking to residents to let them know what we are planning and to get feedback from them regarding any equipment replacements that we plan. The first stage of the project, will however, be to improve the floor surface and we will keep residents informed through the Parish Council minutes if and when we hear whether or not we might be successful with our finding bid.

The next big project is of course the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event which is being organised by Oxspring Friends in conjunction with the Parish Council. This is due to take place on the 4th June in the football field. We hope it will be a fantastic day and hope as many residents as possible attend what we hope will be a fun filled and interesting day for all concerned.

Finally, a very big thank you to all my fellow Parish Councillors for all the hard work you put in throughout the year. Obviously, we are all volunteers and some residents don't always appreciate the sheer amount of work that is undertaken on their behalf. Give yourselves a big pat on the back and thank you for all your support.

Observations from Members of the Parish.

There was no further business.

This meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Signed this day **2022**