

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly On Monday 15th May 2023, at 6.45pm at St Aidans Church

Present

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), I Goldthorpe, Chris Smith.

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 2022

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. All allotments for the Year starting 1st April 23 have been fully paid.

Two plots became vacant upon tenancy renewal and have now been filled. During the year one other plots changed hands.

There are currently 20 names on the Waiting list. 6 of those on the list are Oxspring residents.

Five people joined the waiting list in the last year.

The Titivators

Councillor Sedgwick submitted the following report:

Many of the green spaces within Oxspring are parish owned and are situated in or in close proximity to the centre of Oxspring village.

The Titivators group, in close liaison with the Parish Council help with the upkeep and maintenance of these areas.

The majority of tasks associated with these areas which include Gordons Garden, the Rose Garden, the Sports field carpark gardens and sections of the general field, the Pinfold and Bower Dell take up most of the time available from this small but dedicated group.

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The type of tasks involved in this year round activity range from general gardening type work such as digging, weeding, strimming and the propagation of shrubs and other plants for distribution in to the various areas.

Often plants are donated by Oxspring residents and organisations, over the previous year we had donations from Twiggs for a number of Azalea shrubs which were planted out in the rear of the Sports field carpark gardens and some one hundred plus spring bulbs which were planted in the eastern edge of the Sports field along with some two hundred plus daffodil bulbs donated by the “Stocksbridge in Bloom” group.

Many thanks to all those who have donated items they are much appreciated.

In 2021 the Titivators group applied to the Woodland Trust for around one hundred saplings with the intention of creating a hedgerow along the wire fence line of the Eastern boarder of the Sports field.

Due to the effects of the Corvid epidemic the saplings arrived too late to be planted out in that year and were stored over the winter and were subsequently planted out as early as possible in 2022.

Due to the hot dry weather for long periods the saplings experienced harsh environment for a prolong time and it is expected that a number of them will not have survived.

Initial inspections seem to indicate that a number of the saplings have not survived and over the coming weeks some of these will be replaced and the grass and weeds will be removed from around those which have survived and continue to grow.

Other task such as the installation and removal of the planters along the railings in front of the Willows and the Inspection of the Children’s Play area (which is completed on a fortnightly basis) and many of the required repairs 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 and again our thanks go out to the family in the adjacent property for allowing a mains power supply for the tree illuminations.

We are aware that BMBC are at present in the process of contract renewal of the “Green Team Contract” which allowed the Titivators access to the Services of Twiggs we look forward to renewal of a similar contract for this year.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Twiggs team for the work they have undertaken alongside the Titivators over the previous year, and would like to thank in particular Adam Price and wish him the best of fortune in his new chosen career.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who have been involved in on a regular or occasional basis for all their hard work and dedication in keeping the Parish of Oxspring a great place to live.

Cllr Gratton-Rayson added that she had pruned the rose bed and had mulch delivered behind the school which is available for the Titivators and Parish Council to use.

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Oxspring Friends

Ann Walker submitted the following report:

Oxspring Friends continues to grow and we are now offering more and more events and occasions for our residents.

In September last year, the Friends hosted its first Drop in Cafe event and although not hugely attended, those who did attend found the event very useful. We had a guest speaker talking about Internet Scams and as a result of this session, at least one of our residents avoided being scammed by a company purporting to be their electricity supplier. So, job done!!

We have another Drop in Cafe organised for 16th September 2023 and hopefully our guest speaker will be advising people on how to use the Defibrillator equipment at the front of St Aidans.

The Friends also arranged the Picnic in the Park event for the 7th May to celebrate the King's Coronation. The event was an absolutely fantastic success and we had a really good turn-out of approximately 250 – 300 people who came to enjoy the sun and activities. The children from the local school participated in the Crowning of the May King and Queen and also in demonstrating their maypole dancing skills. We also had live music provided by Angel Voices from Penistone (not to be missed) and the Ukulele Lady.

Our next event, which is a fund raiser, is a car boot sale in the football field on the 8th July. This involves a lot less work on the day but still needs to be organised correctly and we will only be accepting cars who have pre-booked so that we can keep a check on the number of vehicles attending.

We have also planned our usual Christmas events and will be repeating the Christmas tree light up event but with an added twist. We will be finishing the lighting up event by carol singing at a number of venues across the village, namely The Willows, The Wagon and Horses, and the Smithy Arms followed by drinks and a chat at the Smithy Arms afterwards.

Finally, we have arranged our annual Christmas Carol Concert at St Aidans for the 16th December and, learning from last year, we will be improving our drinks offer and also improving the sound quality by ensuring that the compere is appropriately microphoned up.

We have lots of new ideas for the following year including the possibility of a tea dance and a beetle drive on the agenda for discussion.

Volunteers are always welcome so please encourage your friends and families to come along and join us.

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Oxspring United JFC

Jenny Sparrow submitted the following report:

We are very happy to say that our club continues to grow and prosper, for the 2022-23 season we have added new teams at various age groups, including our first all-girls team. This means that we now have 8 teams at the club which is a 100% increase on last season. We have also recently started an inclusive (SEN) football session with funding from the FA Disability Wildcats Scheme.

We are very proud to say that there are around 140 children regularly accessing and playing football at Oxspring United JFC.

We continue with our plans to further grow the club and are about to start free training sessions in the hopes to add a new under 7 mixed team and a new under 8 girls' team.

As the club grows and the number of children playing increases, it gives us challenges in terms

of sharing and maintaining the pitches and the field, but challenges we welcome as it ultimately means more children are able to enjoy playing football in Oxspring.

The Ward Alliance have been very generous in providing us with grants to buy much needed new goals for our teams. We are also hoping to secure funding from the FA Football Foundation to help improve the quality of the pitches, this is an ongoing pitch inspection based application. We are currently looking into options to employ someone to cut and mark out the pitches for the club, which if done on a more regular basis will help to keep the pitches

in a playable condition year-round – hopefully!

Away from the playing side we have also achieved a lot off the pitch this past year. After work

to find historical documents and the past trustees for the club owned land and former changing rooms on Sheffield Road, we have had new trustees named and the land registered with the land registry. This preparatory work has meant that we have recently put the land up for sale. We received ten bids on the land and have agreed to sell to a local builder. The sale is now subject to contract. We have been very lucky to receive the donation of a storage container to the club, we are hoping to get that into position on the field very soon.

All of this work means that we are now in a position to start what we hope will be an exciting new chapter in the club's history. We are very excited to work closely with the Parish Council

to build a new club house and storeroom on the pitch side of the road. The clubhouse will not only be an incredible asset for the football club but we hope it will also benefit the community

as a whole.

Our club is entirely run by volunteers who work tirelessly to provide a safe space for our children to enjoy and play football. We will strive to continue to uphold our core values and ethos. To be an inclusive and nurturing club, an open and welcoming environment for anyone who wants to play football, accessible to all backgrounds and abilities.

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Oxspring Parish Council Chair's Report.

Councillor Walker submitted a written report as follows:

Welcome to the Assembly meeting for 2023.

The Parish Council have had another very busy and also a very interesting year. We have progressed with some fairly major projects and also with some smaller but equally rewarding ones as well.

Our biggest project last year was definitely the improvements to the children's playground. We were fortunate to be able to access some S106 and Ward Alliance funding which paid for some fairly major remedial works to both equipment and flooring in this area. The Parish Council also expended some £6000 of the Parish's funds on completing other works in the playground that were not covered by the S106 funding. We have had some excellent feedback from residents and other users about the works undertaken and hopefully, going forward, the ongoing repair costs should be diminished due to the works undertaken.

We have also contracted out the grass cutting in this area, partly due to the amount of damage being caused by the big sit-on grass cutters used by BMBC and again this should reduce the amount of repair work that has to be undertaken.

The Parish Council have continued to liaise with BMBC Highways department about a number of issues, and as a result we have been advised that the speed limit on Sheffield Road will be reduced to 20 mph at school times; that the speed limit on Bower Hill will be graduated from 60 to 40 mph before it hits the 30 mph road sign; that new and improved signage will be installed at Four Lane Ends to hopefully make drivers more aware of the dangers of speeding at this particular crossing. Although this is only the tip of the iceberg, it will hopefully make our roads just that little bit safer in the future, and we will continue to put pressure on the Highways department to deal with other issues that we have in the village.

As you are aware, I represent you on the Ward Alliance Committee which I find very useful and informative, and it is always interesting to find out how we compare with other Parish Councils. It also gives me access to some of the initiatives that are on offer i.e., Reds in the Community and the Ramp it up project.

The Ward Alliance is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year and they have quite a programme of events taking place over the coming months, one of which will be a further celebration event for all our volunteers, so get your thinking caps on and think about who you might want to nominate.

We also have the South Yorkshire Closed Road Rally taking place later this year in December which will hopefully give us an opportunity to work with the community to promote the event to all our residents. If it is successful, it could well become an annual event bringing in visitors from all across the country.

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Finally, we have all been able to stay on the Parish Council as our positions were not contested at the recent elections. However, we do need to start thinking about some succession planning, and to this end we need to consider how to move this forward and perhaps this should become a future agenda item for further discussion.

Once again, I wish to extend a huge thank you to Steph, our Clerk, who ensures that we stay on the straight and narrow. Her advice and guidance are very much appreciated and we are very lucky to have someone who is as interested in our village as we are.

As Chairman, I also wish to thank each and every one of you for your help and support over the year and to thank you for your forbearance at my impatience at times. I know that as a village, we are doing some really good work that is often admired by other outside organisations and you should all give yourselves a big pat on the back.

Here's to another very busy and successful coming year.

Observations from Members of the Parish.

There was no further business.

This meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Signed this day _____ **2023**