

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Oxspring Parish Council held on the 15 January 2024, at 7.15pm in St Aidans Church Hall.

Present: Cllr Ann Walker (Chair)
Cllr Graham Sedgwick (Vice Chair)
Cllr Norma Mckay
Cllr Emily Gratton-Rayson
Cllr Lisa Chambers
Cllr Ian Stanley
The Parish Clerk
Residents: Ian Goldthorpe

1. The Chair opened the meeting and provided a reminder to all in attendance on the Council's expectations about audio or visual recordings of the meeting.

Public Participation

None.

2.1 To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received from Cllr Gareth Hinchliffe.

2.2 To consider the approval of reasons for absence given by councillors

None.

3.1 To receive, consider and decide upon any applications for dispensation

No members of the council had any requests for dispensation.

3.2 To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or a member's Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No members of the council had any declarations of interest.

4. To confirm the minutes of meeting held on 11 December 2023, as a true and correct record

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Oxspring Parish Council held on 11 December 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

An amendment to item 12.4 was made to remove the action that Cllr Sedgwick would see if the drains on the playingfield are blocked.

5. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary

5.1 Cllr G Hinchliffe

Cllr G Hinchliffe was absent and so unable to submit the required forms.

RESOLVED that he complete the Register of Interests forms and Eligibility forms and send to the Clerk prior to the next meeting.

5.2 ***Hanging Baskets 2024***

Approval has been received for use of the remaining lampposts in the main roads, only one post has been refused. Previous sponsors have been invited to renew, and the new applicants from 2023 have been contacted and invited to sign up for 2024, as they were all rejected last year due to the issue with the posts.

RESOLVED that once the renewals have been completed, any remaining posts will be advertised for new sponsors.

5.3 ***Reports to BMBC***

Overflowing dog bins, pot holes and a broken bollard were reported to BMBC in December. These items will be monitored. Potholes have been filled with a temporary filling. The structural issues at Willow Bridge were again discussed, and it was RESOLVED to also report to English Heritage.

5.4 ***Playingfield Drainage***

Cllr Stanley stated that he hopes to obtain a metal detector soon to look for the drain covers.

6. **To consider and decide upon the following planning applications**

2023/1066 – Land West of Millstones – rural exception site 6 properties.

RESOLVED to object to the application. Vote (5 in favour, 1 abstained). It was agreed to request an extension on responding to give further time to discuss and make the comments to the planning department.

7. **Planning Decisions and information**

7.1 2023/0357 – Roughbitchworth Lodge – variation to condition 2 (double driveways, new house type – under consideration

7.2 2023/0675 – Land adjacent to Smithy House – demolition of changing rooms & 2 storey house – **Approved.**

8. **Matters requested by councillors**

8.1 **Playarea Grass cutting**

Two renewal quotes were received from R Barker.

RESOLVED to accept the quote for 14 cuts starting in March, ending in October.

8.2 **SID Statistics**

SID statistics from Roughbitchworth Lane and Sheffield Road SIDs were circulated prior to the meeting and were discussed. It was agreed that the speeds are not bad, with less than 1% travelling over 40mph, and only 4% over 35mph on both roads. There has been an improvement since the SIDs were installed. The new 20mph sign near the school has also improved the speeding situation. It was noted that the speed camera van has visited the village recently also.

It was noted that there has been another accident at the Back Lane crossroads.

RESOLVED that the Chair reply to the correspondence from A Jackson regarding the works order to ensure that signage and line marking will be included.

8.3 **Community Allotment & Orchard**

No news on the community allotment. It was noted that there has been fly tipping of garden waste at the Clays Green allotments.

RESOLVED to put up a CCTV in operation sign.

8.4 **Titivator Report**

No report was received.

8.5 **Playarea Inspections**

It was noted that one of the talk tubes has rusted, and that the zip wire seat height may need adjusting.

RESOLVED to look at these issues when the weather is warmer.

8.6 **OUFC New Community building**

A number of questions were sent to OUFC regarding their plans for the building project. They have informed the PC that they will be having a meeting to discuss, and will have a meeting with the PC after that. They will be setting up a sub-committee.

RESOLVED to circulate the previous draft lease to Councillors.

8.7 **Playingfield car park resurface**

The Chair reported that the playingfield car park is full of potholes. It was discussed that getting some planings would be a good idea.

RESOLVED to find the contact that did the allotment entrance, and to find a contact for planings.

9. **To receive and consider for decision any recommendations from the Council's Committees**

None.

10. **Financial Matters**

10.1 *To receive and note current bank balances*

Bank balances in the current and savings accounts were noted.

10.2 *To receive and note a bank reconciliation/finance report to 31 December 2023*

Relevant documents had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

10.3 *To approve the following accounts for payment*

RESOLVED to approve payment to:

Payments					
Date	Ref	Name	Service/Item	Gross amount	Account
Current Account					
24 Dec 23	44	BULK WASTE MANAGEMEN	SKIP HIRE	312.00	ALLOTMENTS
4 Jan 24	DD	OVO ENERGY	ELECTRICITY PLAYINGFIELD	20.00	MAINTENANCE PLAYINGFIELD
				332.00	
Deposit Account					
NONE					
				0.00	
Receipts					
Date	Ref	Name	Service/Item	Amount	Account
Current Account					
NONE					
				0.00	
Deposit Account					
NONE					
				0.00	
Transfers					
Date	Ref	Name	Service/Item	Amount	Account
13 Dec 23	TRF	HSBC	BANK TRANSFER	2000.00	BANK TRANSFERS

10.4 *To note payments already authorised*

It was noted that the Clerk's salary as per the contract of employment, had been paid for the month of December.

10.5 *To receive a report on Earmarked Funds*

Relevant documents had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The report was noted.

10.6 The precept request from BMBC for 2023/2024 was discussed.

RESOLVED to request a precept of £24,000 for the new financial year.

11. **Correspondence received**

- 11.1 An article in a recent YLCA newsletter was discussed regarding a Parish Councils biodiversity duty, in terms of how a Council can improve biodiversity on land it manages and how to create dedicated spaces to attract and enhance wildlife. Information from the article with examples of how to enhance wildlife such as bird nest boxes, hedgehog homes, buy hotels etc was passed to Cllr Gratton-Rayson.

12. **To receive items to report from Councillors**

- 12.1 It was reported that the steps to the TPT at Roughbitchworth Lane are in a bad state. It was also reported that the Japanese Knotweed on the TPT near the Anthills needs spraying.
- RESOLVED to request a meeting on the TPT with a TPT representative and Cllr Stanley to discuss the various TPT issues.
- 12.2 It was reported that the dropped kerb has not been done on Roughbitchworth Lane for the Little London building site.
- RESOLVED that Cllr Stanley will call the BMBC highways contact about the issue.

13. Items for the next ordinary meeting of the Council

The Chair reminded members that the councillors are to provide specified agenda items to the Clerk at least one week prior to the next Council meeting in accordance with the Council's adopted policy.

O UFC building, playingfield carpark, Anthills plans to be added to the February agenda.

14. **Employment matters**

14.1 The Clerks employment contract has been updated to include the changes made at the December meeting. The Chair and Clerk signed the contract.

15. **Date of the next meeting**

It was noted that in accordance with the agreed schedule, the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be held on 5 February 2024.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:

Clerk: _____ Date: _____

Chair: _____ Date: _____