OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Oxspring Parish Council held on the 13 January 2025, at 7.15pm in St Aidans Church Hall.

Present: Cllr Ann Walker (Chair)
Cllr Graham Sedgwick (Vice Chair)
Cllr Ian Stanley
Cllr Emily Gratton-Rayson
Cllr Ian Yems
The Parish Clerk

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**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lisa Chambers and Cllr Alan Harley.

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

The reasons for the apologies were approved.

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**

None.

4. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2024, as a true and correct record**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Oxspring Parish Council held on 9 December 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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

5.1 In Cllr Harleys absence it was not possible to check whether his email is now working on his phone. To carry forward to the next meeting.
5.2 BMBC have confirmed that they are regularly chasing Northern PowerGrid re the lampposts without light on Sheffield Road. The Clerk is chasing BMBC for regular updates.
5.3 The SID was re-installed in December and is now working again.
5.4 A quote was received from Axo for tightening the zip wire, however the work was not required in the end as the BMBC parks maintenance team tightened it for us following a conversation with J Birch.

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

2024/1047 – 15 Psalters Drive – single storey side extension – no objections.

7. **Planning Decisions and information**

7.1 2024/0614 – 41 Mayfield – single storey outbuilding – **approved.**

8. **Matters requested by councillors**

8.1 **To discuss having a staffing committee**
Cllr Yems explained that it was recommended at the Councillor training that he attended that the Council adopts a staffing committee in the event of any staffing issues.

It was RESOLVED that the staffing committee would comprise Cllrs Stanley, Chambers and Yems.

8.2 **To discuss allotments.**
It was noted that allotment invoices for 2025 would be sent in early March with the agreed increase of £5.

8.3 **Community Allotment & Orchard**
Cllr Gratton-Rayson gave an update on the site and reported that there had been flooding on the plot.

8.4 **Titivator Report**
It was noted that due to the recent snow that the Christmas Tree lights had not been able to be removed yet.

8.5 ***Playarea Inspections***
It was noted that due to the recent snow that the playarea had been unable to be inspected.

8.6 **To discuss Cloud storage**
It was noted that the Clerks files are currently stored on a hard drive rather than in the Cloud.

It was RESOLVED that when the new laptop is purchased, that an MS 365 license will be purchased which will incorporate cloud storage. Cllr Yems and the Clerk will research specs for a new laptop prior to the February meeting. It was RESOLVED to enable Councillors to have read only access once the files are added to the Cloud.

8.7 **To discuss the purchase of a ladder and Hi-Vis jackets**
Purchasing a ladder was discussed and it was noted that a risk assessment and training would be needed. It was noted that the main requirement is due to the Christmas tree lights, however Mr Walker is looking into possible ways to decorate without the use of a ladder.

It was RESOLVED not to purchase a ladder. It was RESOLVED that Titivators can have Hi Vis jackets if they require them. It was agreed that Councillors purchase them from KDA and claim the cost as expenses.

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

None.

10. **Financial Matters**

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

10.1 RESOLVED to note the balances in the current, savings & money market accounts.

10.2 RESOLVED to accept the bank reconciliation to 31/12/24.

10.3 RESOLVED to accept the budget variance report to 31/12/24.

10.4 RESOLVED to approve payment to:

Payments				
Date	**Ref**	**Name**	**Description**	**Gross amount**
Current Account				
6 Jan 25	67	St Aidans	Hall Hire	285.00
6 Jan 25	68	S Tolson	Clerks expenses	41.26
4 Jan 25	DD	Ovo Energy	Playingfield electricity	30.00
				356.26
Deposit Account				
NONE				-
				-
Receipts				
Date	**Ref**	**Name**	**Description**	**Amount**
Current Account				
4 Dec 24		M Thackray	hanging basket sponsorship	120.00
				120.00
Deposit Account				
6 Dec 24		HSBC	bank interest	37.40
				37.40
Transfers				
Date	**Ref**	**Name**	**Description**	**Amount**
10 Dec 24	trf	HSBC	bank transfer deposit to current	2,000.00
9 Dec 24	trf	HSBC	bank transfer money market to deposit	20,000.00
9 Dec 24	trf	HSBC	bank transfer deposit to money market	10,000.00

10.5 *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.

10.6 RESOLVED to accept the earmarked funds report.

10.7 Several quotes for Internal Audit for the year ending March 2025 were reviewed. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Internal Audit Services Yorkshire.

10.8 The 2025/26 precept was discussed with reference to finance information and statistics circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Full year forecasts for 24/25 and 25/26 were discussed, along with future earmarked funds. The increase in Employer National Insurance which is effective from April will account for 3% of the Parish precept.

It was RESOLVED to request a precept of £25,440. This will represent an annual increase to a Band D home of £3.54.

It was RESOLVED to formally set the 2025 budget at the February meeting.

It was RESOLVED to review and amend the earmarked funds for 2025 at the February meeting.

11. **Correspondence received**

11.1 An offer to make a donation to fund tree planting was made to the Parish Council from the Oxspring Amble run by Mr Dickinson. This was discussed and it was noted that there had been a lot of tree planting recently in Oxspring.

It was RESOLVED to accept the offer and suggest a donation for rose trees for the rose bed.

11.2 A quote has been received from First Impressions for Hanging basket prices for 2025.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quote.

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

12.1 The recent gritting by Barnsley Council during the recent snowy period was discussed. It was agreed to thank BMBC highways.

12.2 The notice boards were discussed and it was noted that they could be used more. It was agreed to put on Facebook that the Notice boards are available for advertising local community events/groups.

12.3 Cllr Stanley reported a lot of recent dog poo on footpaths and the TPT in Oxspring and also that the bins are overflowing. The Clerk has reported the overflowing bins in the last few days. It was agreed to put a notice on Facebook reminding people to pick up after their dogs.

12.4 Cllr Stanley reported on the New Year Walk that he led around Oxspring. The walk was successful with 16 participants. He hopes to arrange another one in the Spring.

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.

14. **Employment matters**

14.1 None.

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 3rd February 2025 at 7.15pm.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Clerk: Date:

Chair: Date: