

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm
in Oxhill Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Harbour, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Stuart

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Chris Mills and five villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There are late agenda items to discuss and the Parish Council will not be able to approve any expenditure which is not on the agenda. This will be carried forward to the January meeting.

21/116. Apologies for absence

Cllr Connolly (away), Cllr Rivers-Fletcher (holiday) and District Cllr J Feilding

21/117. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

The Chair declared an interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

21/118. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2021

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

21/119. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

There were no matters to discuss.

21/120. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. A marquee has been reserved for the event and a deposit of £60.00 is required in November. The Parish Council have given money in the past to help finance Jubilee events. The costings have been supplied. The event will be fully inclusive for all villagers regardless of their means. If the Parish Council give a grant it will offset the ticket price. The committee are currently collecting feedback and will make a decision by 20th November.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask for a road closure for the whole of Main Street. A suitable PC grant will be discussed at a later meeting.

The Queens Green Canopy was discussed again. Its for the community to be involved in. Villagers have been talking and under OWLS, each family with a child (16 or under) can plant a tree. A four foot tree would cost £6 each and the total cost of the project would be £300.00. Other families can join in if they wish to. The trees will have to be ordered and paid for before Christmas. It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting would be arranged late November/early December to agree the expenditure.

A villager spoke about the planned extension at Whitehill House. The original layout of the house was confusing and this work has been carefully thought through and will straighten things out. The Parish Council will review the formal application when it is submitted to SDC.

A trustee from the Village Hall Committee pleaded with the Parish Council to submit the CIL fund to SDC. This was agreed at the September meeting and applications have to be submitted by Spring. The work at the hall will be a phased development.

The three main items are the removal of the bank of earth at the back of the hall, to remove existing windows in the north face of the hall and install two French doors and work on the kitchen area to remove the chimney breast and construct a new ceiling. The Parish Council may be able to use some of their reserves for other work depending what amount of CIL money is awarded by SDC.

21/121. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The following report was received from County Cllr Mills.

Mental Health and Wellbeing support

WCC's Covid 19 Mental Wellbeing and Resilience Fund has awarded £750K to support local community groups to develop sustainable and innovative solutions to help improve the mental wellbeing and resilience of Warwickshire.

Project Warwickshire

A £557,000 contract to help the county's small businesses in the hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors bounce back from the Covid pandemic has been awarded by WCC.

Help for residents to meet household costs through Winter

A new £500M household support fund grant will be made available to Local Authorities in England.

Residents encouraged not to return to pre-pandemic behaviour

With cases of Covid 19 remaining high across the county, the Director of Public Health for Warwickshire is urging residents not to revert to pre pandemic behaviour to stop cases increasing any further.

Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund

Town and Parish Council's across Warwickshire will be supported to create their own climate emergency action plans thanks to the Warwickshire County Council Green Shoots Fund.

New Counselling project in Warwickshire to support children and parents

A new project called Strengthened Families will support children and parents in Warwickshire with their wellbeing. It will be managed by the Parenting Project who are a voluntary organisation working with children and young people including those with SEN and Disability from 0-25 years.

Warwickshire County Council one step closer to providing Priority Worker Help To Buy Funding (PWHTB)

Cabinet approved the plan to progress the development of the PWHTB scheme to facilitate home ownership for priority workers who may not be able to move onto or up the property ladder.

WCC unveils Children and Young People Strategy 2021-2030

WCC cabinet has approved a new Children and Young People strategy which outlines the Council's commitment to ensuring children and young people have a voice and be the best they can be.

Have you say on how Covid 19 has impacted on you

Many people have had a tough time during the last 18 months during the Covid crisis. WCC is inviting people who live, work or study in Warwickshire to take part in a survey to help understand the impact of Covid 19.

A villager asked Cllr Mills about the Green Shoots Fund and did any local villages get any money? The Village Hall Committee applied but were unsuccessful. Cllr Mills noted there may be more funding next year and agreed to get more detail.

The following report was received from District Cllr Feilding
Covid

The last week has seen a reduction in cases across the district and county. The current rate in the over 60s remains high however there have only been three cases in the over 80s in the last week.

Digital Report

The plumbing needs to be fixed to ensure the right systems are in place. They need safe secure sharing of information, simple to use services that work first time every time. The digital tools should be simple to use. Customers should be kept informed and the services are designed to communicate with customers. An excellent website with up to date accurate information is needed. Broadband is still very poor with only 36% of properties having gigabit broadband.

As at 28 October, nearly 49000 permits had been purchased and over 75% of dwellings with a garden have at least one permit. Permits are being sold at the rate of 50 per week.

Waste Contract

The joint SDC/WDC contract was awarded to Biffa and commenced on 1st August 2021. An information night will be organised for Councillors. After the New Year there will be messages on social media, the media and notice-boards to encourage residents to recycle more and put waste in the right bin.

Fly Tipping

It is well below last years level but still has some way to go before we get to 2019 levels.

Household Support Fund

The Government have made £3.47M available to WCC to support those residents who are struggling and need immediate financial support this winter with food, energy and water bills. There is a press release with contact details.

21/122. To receive an update on planning

The following update was given:

- 20/02224/OUT, Demolition of existing steel framed buildings and brick building and erection of up to 11no open market dwellings and 7no affordable dwellings at Wixey Transport, Kinton Road. Refused by SDC.
- 21/02855/FUL, The change of use of an existing building with planning permission for the purposes of specialist sheep housing, laboratory and veterinary purposes (as permitted under planning permission 12/01682/FUL) to business uses associated with farming operations and equestrian related activities, comprising uses such as gate/fence fabricator; livestock trailer fabricator; livestock trailer repairs/adaptations; farrier; animal feedstuff distributor; sand school/manège contractor; and farm machinery repairs/servicing at Church Farm, Whatcote Road. Support with comments by PC.

An application was received after the agenda had been issued:

- 21/02589/FUL, Proposed redevelopment of existing pig farm to create 10 new dwellings at Hogwood Farm, Pillerton Hersey Road. This will be supported by the PC.

21/123. Financial Report

The following payment was approved under statutory powers:

£151.19 to TEEC (website hosting)

To approve the costs of the footpath accessibility project

The Parish Council have received the grant money (£1500.00) from Cllr Mills. Seven gates are required and Cllr Stuart read out three options with prices. It was agreed to proceed with the self build option which is the cheapest. A villager is donating materials and volunteers will be needed to erect them and provide the labour.

21/124. Councillors Reports

An update was given on the buffer zones at Leys Field. Despite plans being submitted to SDC Enforcement by the Parish Council and SDC saying the plans were wrong, they have now changed their mind and advised that the plans are right. A letter has been issued to Mr Palmer to put the matter right.

The Chair spoke briefly about the Wixey Development which has just been refused by SDC. Cllr Feilding supported the application despite the Parish Council and villagers objecting to it. The Parish Council have to support SDC development policies. The Parish Council have no confidence that Cllr Feilding will represent the views of the village in the future. Therefore he has been told he is not welcome to attend any meetings but he will send his monthly report by email which will be minuted.

The precept for 2022/23 will be set at the January meeting. A note to be put in the Oxhill News asking for spending ideas which will be considered.

21/125. To note Meeting dates for 2022

11th January, 8th February, 8th March, 12th April (Annual Parish Meeting), 10th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting), 14th June, 12th July, 13th September, 11th October and 8th November.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.