

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm
in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Stuart (Chairperson), Cllr Connolly, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher and Cllr Robertson

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Mills, District Cllr Littlewood and seven villagers

24/65. Apologies for absence

Cllr Storey (personal)

24/66. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/67. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

24/68. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

There were no matters arising.

24/69. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about the defibrillator training which really helped recently when somebody collapsed. Somebody collected the defibrillator and First Responders and an ambulance attended.

A villager was at the meeting to discuss the planning application at Fern Cottage, Main Street. The Parish Council have received notification which came in after the agenda had been issued. There has been no site notification. The Chair advised that plans are on the website now.

24/70. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from Cllr Mills included:

Prepare for emergencies: Key Contacts, Home to School Transport, Funding for new schools, Local Council's Charter, RSV Vaccination for older people, RSV vaccination in pregnancy, Domestic abuse survivor engagement, Dementia contact in Warwickshire, World Alzheimers Month 2024, Funding for new schools, All electric buses in Warwickshire, Tree planting funding, Aston Martin honoured with King's Award for Enterprise and WCC's Cabinet approves New Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Operating Model. The full report will be available to read on the village website www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk.

The report from Cllr Littlewood included: Planning Applications, Welfare and Support, Resettlement & Asylum in SDC, SDC Finances and Resources. The Tysoe AD application will be determined in the next four weeks. If refused it will go to committee and there will be a further delay on a decision. Flooding and sewage problems have been discussed. There have been a series of local incidents. Anyone can report an incident. Cllr Littlewood asked to be copied in to any which are reported. The Fox & Hounds at Great Wolford, Warwickshire was an Asset of Community Value and has been saved.

The pub was taken off the market as a Public House and the owners wanted to turn it into a house. The local community came together and raised £400K. Both Cllr Mills and Cllr Littlewood will help residents if they are entitled to the winter fuel allowance.

24/71. To receive an update on the current situation of sewage on Manor Fields

Two villagers were present to explain the problem in more detail. This is a village problem which has been ongoing for some time. A recent survey has shown that 50% of the sewers are blocked and more pressure is being put on the sewers. Severn Trent (ST) have tried to close the complaint and are oblivious to the fact that people are affected. They know the problem, the pumping station is not big enough to cope and requires an upgrade. There is evidence that all tests were carried out upstream and not downstream. A meeting with senior officials is taking place on 18th September. The Parish Council did write to ST but never received a response. Cllr Connolly asked if it's a planning consideration but Severn Trent are not a statutory consultee. The Chair asked if the Parish Council should be present at the meeting on 18th September but it was felt the less people that went, the better. It was agreed to draft a skeleton letter that people could add to and send with photos and videos.

Action: The villager present to send the correct address to the Chair and a note will be put in the Oxhill News.

24/72. To discuss updating the Parish Plan or producing a Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair had circulated information about Neighbourhood Plans (NP). It will be a lot of work and expense but has more power than a Parish Plan which the village has previously done. It would be part of the Core Strategy and without one the village is vulnerable. A NP does not stop development but helps control it. The current Core Strategy will be replaced in 2031 and will become the Stratford Warwick Local Plan. Tysoe have done a NP but they are a bigger village and Councillors understood why. Plans last three years and then have to be renewed. A villager asked if there is a perception of a threat to the village in the next 5 years? Following the recent Housing Needs Survey and the tour of the village, there is little land to be built on. WCC have a 14.5 year housing supply. There are grants available up to £18K. It was agreed to get more information from other villages about costs and processes.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email Tysoe PC.

24/73. To discuss the idea of the setting up of Parish and Town Council Forums by SDC and responding to the questionnaire

SDC is keen to ensure that communication continues to meet the needs of the district. An idea is to set up a Parish and Town Council Forum to discuss pertinent issues in real time. It was agreed this would be useful to receive updates on planning strategies and policy government changes twice a year.

Action: The Chair to respond to the questionnaire.

24/74. To receive an update on the replacement bridge off Nolands Road

There are a few parties involved in this project. The removal of the old bridge has been organised and the disposal of materials and clearing of the ditch. The purchase price is £2500.00 and installation cost is £1250.00. The Parish Council have asked Cllr Chris Mills for £2250.00 and the quote is currently with WCC Finance for approval.

24/75. To discuss the fly tipping of garden waste around the village

The Parish Council have been made aware of fly tipping of garden waste on Beech Road. There was a similar problem in Green Lane and a note was sent to all residents. It was agreed to follow the same process.

24/76. To receive an update from the District Council's Climate Assembly Event

Cllr Connolly attended the event on 5th September. It was well organised but not publicised enough.

It has been five years since SDC declared an emergency and it was an update to see what they have done. Workshops were held but Cllr Connolly felt they would have been run better with an objective and outcome. There were lots of ideas but also controversial ones.

Action: Councillors to look at the Climate Change Action Plan which is a big part of a NP.

24/77. To discuss the road sign at the Whatcote Road/Green Lane junction

The road sign has been hit and damaged by a farm vehicle.

Action: The Parish Clerk to report with photos to SDC.

24/78. To receive an update on planning

- *24/01875/FUL, Demolition of existing storage building and erection of replacement storage building (use Class B8) at Red Horse Vale Ltd, Windmill Farm. It was agreed to support.*

A second application had been received after the agenda had been issued.

24/01841/FUL, Alterations and extensions to existing outbuildings to create annexe living accommodation for family at Fern Cottage, Main Street. The Parish Council is to respond by 26th September. Councillors to look at the paperwork.

24/79. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£240.00 to Atwell & Sons Ltd (removal of dangerous tree)

£792.00 to Tysoe Childrens Group Ltd (copying of newsletter)

£552.12 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£138.00 to HMRC

£58.50 To Parish Clerk (mileage)

To discuss the purchase of a new VAS and consider the costs

There is a pole to place a sign on Whatcote Road. Signs are permanent and moveable and all measure speeds in both directions. A sign costs approximately £2.5K.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to complete a project form and write to Connexin who own the pole.

To discuss supporting the Village Hall who are applying to the Warwick District Council Rural Capital Improvement Scheme for an improvement project.

Oxhill Village Hall are going to apply for a Warwick District Council Rural & Urban Capital Improvement grant that will pay up to 80% of an improvement project that costs £10K. The plan is to get the car park improved (not full tarmac). It was proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr Rivers Fletcher that £500.00 be given if the bid is successful.

24/80. Councillors Reports

There was nothing to report.

24/81. To receive the following correspondence

- Shipston Home Nursing, Donation thank you letter.
- Shipston Community First Responders, Donation thank you letter.
- Community Choir of Oxhill, Tysoe and Shennington, Donation thank you letter.
- Villager, Maintenance of Public Rights of Way. There are general difficulties when walking the local footpaths. The footpath team will meet and see what work they can do to improve matters.

- Katharine House Hospice, Bereavement Volunteers. On noticeboard.

24/82. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DRAFT