

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OAKLEY & DEANE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 2022**

**Present:** Mr. Adams, Mr Bullions, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Paler, Mr. Rowley (chairman) and Mr. Startin. Cllr. Diane Taylor (Borough Councillor) Mrs. Meyer (Deputy Clerk) and two members of the public also attended.

### **Public Session**

Mrs. Robson spoke at the public session, to present initial thoughts on the Oakley Walks initiative, so that the Parish Council could, at the July meeting, discuss whether and how the Council could support and promote the proposals.

The categories of potential walks could include historical interest (social history/transport, Jane Austen, battle sites, Roman and later trade routes, history of families in the village etc), nature (seasonal, woodland walks, farming, and 'noticing nature'), wellbeing (already happening every fortnight) as well as family walks on bike and pushchair/wheelchair friendly paths and routes. Mrs. Robson wanted to ensure that the walks were publicised in an easy to access site, and that the Parish Council website and FB page were recognised and trusted as a 'brand' and that the two Oakley history books had been published by the Parish Council (and were written by Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Blackman who at the time were clerk and chairman of the PC). Not only new residents, but all residents would be able to access the walks and experience the countryside that is on our doorstep. It was agreed that the Environment and Community Engagement Working parties would meet and discuss, but due to the number of vacancies on the parish council, and the lack of residents to either join the PC or to co-opt onto working parties, resources were very strained, and this may affect the Council's ability to become involved in this scheme.

As Mr. Harding was not present at the meeting, Mr. Startin proposed that Mr. Rowley be elected chairman for the meeting, and all members agreed.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr. Bealing, Mr. Harding and Mrs. Hayman.

### **2. Resignation of Councillor**

The clerk informed members of the resignation of Mrs. McCullins. Members thanked Mrs. McCullins for her efforts and contributions to the Parish Council and extended their good wishes for the future. The Borough have been informed of the vacancy and will advise the clerk once a co-option can take place.

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Minutes of the meeting, having been previously distributed to all members, were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and the chairman signed the minutes.

#### **4. Approval of AGAR 2021/22**

The clerk had distributed the AGAR to all members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Paler proposed and Mr. Ellison seconded, and all members by show of hands agreed to accept the unexamined accounts and for the clerk (as RFO) and the chairman to sign off the submission. The clerk confirmed the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights to be 20<sup>th</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **5. Clerk/deputy clerk report**

- a) The clerk and deputy clerk had issued their report in advance and there were no comments or queries.
- b) The Clerk requested approval to request the Lengthsman to work on three footpaths in the village – FP9 (to the school and Peter Houseman), the path from St Johns Road to Hill Road, and the path from Hill Road to Kennet Way. All members agreed.

#### **6. Planning Matters**

- a) **Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June** were circulated to all members. There were no comments or queries.
- b) **Summary of planning Applications and Decisions May/June** was issued by the deputy clerk and there were no comments or queries.
- c) **Proposal to support Whitchurch Town Council in promoting the use of alternative housing numbers methodology:** in April, Mr. Rowley attended the Whitchurch Town Council (WTC) Neighbourhood Plan review meeting where a discussion was held resulting in a request from WTC for other parishes to support them in reducing the overall Borough housing requirements. Mr. Rowley proposed to support WTC in reducing the housing numbers for the Borough and Mr. Paler seconded this. By show of hands all members agreed and the proposal was carried.
- d) **Community Buildings and Parish Council office update:** to date no visits to other local buildings or office have taken place but will happen shortly. The clerk was asked to contact Wates for a discussion, following on from the objections raised by the PC to the planning application for Station Road. Mr. Ellison stressed how important it was for all the Borough Councillors and the County Councillor to be in support of the initiative, so far only Cllr. Taylor has expressed her support. Mr. Ellison also reminded members that Cllr. Rhattigan, when Leader of the Council, pledged support for any community initiatives for the village, and so Cllr Bounds should be contacted also. Cllr. Taylor confirmed that Local Infrastructure Funding grants have now ceased and so no funding can be obtained from that source. Cllr. Taylor also informed members that the Borough might be more minded to support the scheme if a management plan was in place, and Mr. Rowley confirmed he had initiated discussions with OCA on that point.

- e) **To note that Manydown will attend the July PC meeting (14<sup>th</sup> July) with an update on the development:** Cllr. Taylor will not be able to attend the meeting but advised members to stress how important the 'empty field' closest to Oakley is in the planning – it was always agreed to keep the housing away from the village to maintain a 'gap' and this should be maintained.

**7. Review of Action List**

Mr. Startin informed members that the actions added to the plan in respect of Burials and Churchyards should be carried forward as a meeting of the Working Party and the clerk had to be postponed due to illness and is currently rescheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Mr. Paler informed members that the grant request to HCC for support for the Broadcasting of meetings to the public had been made and Cllr. Henderson had indicated she would be happy to grant £1000 towards the overall cost of approximately £4200.00.

The clerk and Mrs. Meyer agreed to review all SPA open items on the agenda and close out those that were completed but would turn off notifications in RAGIC whilst doing this.

Mr. Rowley proposed that the review of action list agenda item is moved to after the working party summary in future meetings, and all members agreed.

**8. Working Party Reports**

- a. **Environment:** the clerk confirmed that the transfer of land from Bewley Homes to the Parish Council had not been completed. Our solicitor has returned the draft documents to Bewley with our comments.

**b. Finance**

- i) **Approval of Payments:** it was proposed by Mr. Paler and seconded by Mr. Adams and agreed by all members by show of hands, that the following payments be made:

Payee	Charge to Budget	Total Cost	Service	Status
NEST	122.01	122.01	Clerk Pension May	Paid DD
EE and T Mobile	34.86	41.95	Clerk/deputy mobile phone	Paid DD
HMRC	727.20	727.20	May Contributions	Unpaid EFT
Scofell	296.66	355.99	May Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
KLG Ltd	220.00	220.00	PH Septic tanks	Unpaid EFT

Larkstel Ltd	2437.33	2924.80	May Grounds Maintenance /marking out/bins	Unpaid EFT
BT	41.95	50.34	Office phone	Unpaid DD
Archers Grounds Maintenance	159.32	159.32	Grounds Maint May	Unpaid EFT
S Harding	89.16	106.99	Clamps for OTIS	Unpaid EFT
Octopus	280.34	280.34	First month DD PH	Paid DD
Octopus	712.58	712.58	First month DD NF	Paid Dd
BT	14.98	17.98	Mobile Hub	Paid DD

Mr. Statin and Mrs. Meyer approved the EFT payments.

**c) Highways and Transport**

- i) **ZORAN:** the clerk confirmed that the claim relating to the purchase of faulty equipment has not yet been settled.

**d) Community Engagement**

Mr. Rowley is now the sole PC representative on the WP along with two members of the public who have very kindly volunteered to be co-opted. The PC will have a village show stall in August, primarily focussed on updating residents with what the PC do, attracting new members, and asking residents views on proposed future initiatives.

**e) Sports and Play areas**

- i) **Grass cutting** – once again the Borough Council have disputed that they have a responsibility to cut the grass at Upper Farm Road and Avon Road play areas. The clerk again forwarded letters from 1975 and 1982 where the Borough accepted that they would do this. The grass has been cut this time, but Mr. Ellison requested Cllr. Taylor’s support in getting this resolved permanently as this is now the third time that we have had this dispute in the last four years.
- ii) **Peter Houseman Six a side competition:** was well attended but as with previous events, there were problems with the toilet facilities. It appears that plumbing the portable toilets into the septic tank overloads the system – therefore the PC requests that future portable toilets are supplied with separate tanks which can be emptied directly into a tanker rather than using the tank. The PC arranged KLG, our contractor, to empty the tanks before the Jubilee picnic.
- iii) **The Jubilee picnic** at Peter Houseman was a great success with around five hundred attendees.
- iv) **A further Jubilee event was held at Upper Farm Road:** again, we understand this was a success

- v) The PC have given permission for the PH field to be used on 25<sup>th</sup> June for an awards ceremony and family football game as the formal events ceremony will now not take place.
- vi) **Beach Park Adult Fit trail:** since 2016 this has been on the Parish Council's 'wish list'. Now that LIF funding has been removed, Mr. Ellison requested that alternative funding sources be explored – the cost in 2016 was estimated to be around £20-25,000.00 and it is unlikely this will have reduced. It was agreed also to gauge interest via Link and at the Village Show to ensure that residents were still supportive of the initiative. Cllr. Taylor agreed to investigate any other Borough sources of finance still available.

**9. Reports from representatives to other organisations.**

- a) **Andover Road Village Hall:** nothing to report.
- b) **East Oakley Village Hall:** nothing to report.
- c) **Love Oakley? Go Green:** nothing to report
- d) **Oakley Community Association:** Mr. Startin issued a report in advance of the meeting and there were no questions or comments
- e) **Village Show Committee:** nothing to report.
- f) **Ukrainian Refugee Action** – Mrs Hayman has prepared and distributed more of the welcome packs.

**10. Confidential Items**

**RESOLVED:** that owing to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

**11. Date of the next meeting is July 14th at Newfound Pavilion.**