

**Ovington Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 6.30pm on 6/09/2022**  
**Ovington Village Hall**

**Councillors present:** Peter Levett (Chair), Shaun Hanson, Nigel Parkes

**Clerk:** Julie Parkes

**Present:** one member of the public

1. **Apologies:** Jo Harper

2. **Declaration of interests:** none

3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** amend 10.2 to 'bin adjacent to park bench'

4. **Matters arising:**

**4.1 : reference 5.1** - tree surveys have taken place with a follow up surveys as per the letter from E Peat.

**4.2 : reference 5.5** – Another resident has informally raised concerns about the state of the road around the village green in front of Maypole Cottage. OPC discussed that the responsibility for this part of the road around the green was less clear (from Fairways to approximately in front of Cote Cottage residents maintain the road as access to their properties). After further examining historical information and contacting DCC no clarity can be given as to who should maintain the road in front of Maypole Cottage.(it is debatable but not conclusive that it may be part of the Village Green).This raises the issue of liability should someone have an accident or damage their vehicle, for example. The resident concerned is averse to any repairs due to concerns that flooding may occur to the cottage. After some discussion it was agreed that OPC could not 'do nothing' and would carry out a risk assessment including photographs of the current state of the road and proposed remedial action to mitigate risks to those using the road as far as reasonably practicable, including mitigating risk of adverse drainage affecting the cottage. On completion of the risk assessment it was agreed that OPC would write to the resident outlining the issues of concern and the required remediation which OPC would undertake.

## **5. Correspondence:**

**5.1:** The Clerk has received a letter of resignation from Henry Johnson via e mail as he plans to move out of the village. OPC need to begin the process of finding a replacement councillor OPC thanks Henry for his contribution to the work of the council.

**5.2:** The clerk received correspondence from a resident via Hugo Fox raising concerns in relation to OPC not maintaining the verge adjacent to their property. The resident raised concerns that they felt unfairly discriminated against by an individual councillor. The councillor and clerk visited the resident to further explore the issues raised and agreed a joint way forward. This was confirmed to the resident via e mail.

**5.3:** A resident has provided a copy of an article 'Where have all the insects gone?' that outlines why councils should take responsibility for providing a more insect friendly environment and promoting natural verges. OPC agreed to seek further advice and explore peppering some verges eg: up to Cliffords Lane with wildflower seeds as long as residents were in agreement.

## **6. Finance**

**6.1:** The RFO reported that OPC had £1305.46 in the current account. VAT reclaimed was £247 and this had been paid into the deposit account giving a balance of £4118.06 in that account.

Still to pay is an invoice from Mill gardens for £900 (includes £150 VAT that will be reclaimed), and an approximately further £800 to pay out for remaining grass cuts and Christmas tree.

**6.2: Precept:** OPC are due to receive the 2023/24 Budget Planning -Tax base and LCTRS Grant letter imminently to enable OPC to set the precept. OPC agreed that consideration will need to be given to inflationary factors and this will be considered in the December meeting.

**6.3: Mill Gardens contract:** this needs to be reviewed for next year, RFO will take this forward.

**6.4: Future costs:** it was raised that although DCC had inspected the trees around the village green and confirmed that they were in good condition a number of dead limbs had been spotted. RFO to contact DCC for another survey but OPC may need to put aside some funds to address any issues of concern. It was also raised that some reserves may need to be used to repair the road adjacent to Maypole Cottage as per minute 4.2.

## **7. Planning** :there are two ongoing planning applications

**7.1:** extension to Fairways, further amendments have been made to plans: no decision yet reached.

**7.2:** garage to house north of Moor View applicant has requested a change of materials from stone to wood due to ground conditions.

## **8. Conservation**

**8.1:** OPC have received an update from DCC in terms of progress. DCC are in the process of finalising the next draft of the conservation area appraisal for the forthcoming consultation. It is currently being reviewed by DCC's accessibility team; this is causing a slight delay that will

hopefully be resolved this week. The aim is then to send out letters to households regarding the article 4 declaration and information regarding trees( as requested at the drop in ). DCC will further update OPC once the start date for the consultation has been confirmed and the letters will be posted. (this is felt to be imminent). The consultation will not involve another in person session but via letter and on line comment.

## **9. Broadband – no further update**

### **10.Telephone Box:**

**10.1** After numerous e mails back and forth to BT re adoption of the telephone box in Ovington BT have confirmed that Ovington is not eligible. When challenged BT provided the following response:

OFCOMS guidance says that BT can only remove a last at site public phone box where 'all UK wide mobile network operators have coverage at the site' (A2.4, p 103)

In order to measure mobile coverage at Site OFCOM expects BT to carry out site testing if the 'mobile coverage checker tool indicates that the site does not have good indoor mobile coverage from all UK network providers' (A2.5, p103-104).

The removal decision is indeed based on outdoor coverage, but on site testing is required to confirm this where the indoor coverage is poor. Unfortunately the on site testing OFCOM require is somewhat onerous and BT do not currently have a process in place to carry this out. As a result BT have decided not to propose the removal of any boxes which do not have good indoor coverage on the checker tool.

BT completely understand the points raised by OPC.

BT subsequently advised OPC follow up in 6 months.

**10.2** OPC discussed potential next steps and agreed that the Clerk should e mail OFCOM on their complaints e mail address outlining the issues.

**10.3** The Chair confirmed that OPC had been approved some grant funding towards the purchase of a red telephone box alongside the funding provided by the Village Hall committee, the plan being to house the defibrillator eventually plus community resources. Some discussion was had in relation to an alternative site for the red phone box pending approval eventually to replace the existing and whether to proceed to order the red box with no conclusion pending any further information from OFCOM.

## **11. Ovington IT – defer**

## **12. Clerks update:** covered in point 10

**13. AOB:** member of the public wished to thank SH for all his hard work to support conservation area designation

**14: date and time of next meeting :** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 6.30 pm

Draft - unconfirmed