

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OAKLEY & DEANE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11TH JULY 2019

Present: Mr. Parry (Chairman), Mr. Bealing, Mr. Bullions, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Harding Mr. Hewitt, Dr. Johnstone, Mr. Paler, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Startin.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs. Richards and from Mrs. Taylor, Borough Councillor.

2. Co-option of New Councillor

Dr. Johnstone proposed, and Mr. Parry seconded, that Mrs. Eydatoula be co-opted to join the Parish Council, and all members agreed, and welcomed Mrs. Eydatoula. It was agreed that Dr. Johnstone would be her initial point of contact for queries.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2019

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. Notices, Circulars and Correspondence

- a) Review of Polling Places:** the clerk published on Facebook a request for comments from residents about the provision of polling places in Oakley. Currently the Hill Road Hall and the Junior School are the places used for polling. Many residents have responded, most saying that they want an alternative to closing the schools but no venue large and central enough has been identified. One resident has raised the issue of postal voting to reduce the necessity of physical polling places but the Borough will still need to provide places, even if take up of postal voting increased.
- b) Mayor's Civic Sunday Service:** will be held at St. Michael's at 6.30pm on Sunday 14th July. Mr. Parry is hoping to attend.
- c) HALC competitions:** the clerk was asked to re-send details to members.
- d) LIF Support for Oakley Bowling Club:** the clerk distributed a copy of the letter to the Borough expressing support for the LIF application

5. Clerk Report

The clerk had distributed her report in advance of the meeting. Mr. Ellison expressed surprise that a member of the public had requested that the Parish issue advice to dog-walkers to not walk pets during the hottest

part of the day, but agreed that there are many requests made to the clerk that would not fall within the remit of the Parish Council.

6. Planning Matters

- a) **Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings** held on 20th June and 4th July had been distributed and there were no comments or queries.
- b) **Meeting with BDBC re Local and Neighbourhood Plan updates:** Mr. Parry, Mr. Hewitt and the clerk will attend a meeting on August 15th at the Civic Offices.
- c) **Windfall Development:** the clerk informed members that she had received a response from the Borough, showing that Bramley had been allocated the most amount of windfall development. Dr. Johnstone said that was meaningless as the issue was the size of Oakley and the lack of infrastructure, rather than hard numbers. Mr. Ellison agreed, and commented that it was not Nimbyism to want to protect the area from development that was outside that agreed in the Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Mr. Parry agreed, and said that it erodes residents' trust when they are told they are being given choices, only to have them removed with no notification or discussion. Dr. Johnstone suggested that the clerk should contact other parishes in the area, and she confirmed she had already done so and that one of the Chairs of a local parish council had asked that Oakley join with them in raising this with the Borough and with MPs.

7. Working Party Reports

a) Burials and Churchyards

The clerk distributed photographs of the new cremated remains area and all members agreed that Mr. Warner had done a very good job. Dr. Johnstone commented that the memorial area was not very large and probably would fill quickly, so it might be better to plant it ourselves.

b) Environment

A working party report was issued to all members in advance.

Kings Orchard: the clerk asked for delegated authority to the Working Party to contact residents in Kings Orchard to express their opinions about the wild flower meadow and what should be done with it, and once this is obtained, to progress it rather than wait for the September meeting. All members agreed.

Environment competition: Mr. Hewitt and the clerk visited both schools and were very impressed with the quality of the works displayed and the

care and thought that had gone into them. A letter of thanks was sent to both schools.

Rectory Road Pond: the clerk was asked to contact Mr. Warner to confirm that the previous quote for clearance around the back of the pond was still valid. There is still a significant amount of waste in the pond and the water levels are low. Dr. Johnstone asked if the fact that the area had to be cleared every couple of years would not mean that the bog garden planting would be disturbed each time and require re-planting. Mr. Harding will check through previous emails from Mr. Crafer. Authority for the working party to start the process for the works was requested and all members agreed. Dr Johnstone raised the issue of safety around the pond if the vegetation is not cut back more regularly.

Lengthsman Scheme: Mr. Ellison suggested a thorough review of the scheme before any requests are made for funding in 2020/21 and Mr. Harding confirmed that is already in progress.

Main Pond: Mr. Harding informed members that he is investigating a potential source of funding via the National Lottery (unmatched funding source) to cover the relining and renovation of the village pond. Dr. Johnstone said that residents should have an opportunity to express their opinion as to whether they want the pond, and are prepared to help fund the works, or not, and the Village Show would be an ideal opportunity for the residents to be consulted. A questionnaire will be produced by the Working Party. Mr. Ellison asked the clerk to chase the Borough to do more strimming around the pond area as it is already very overgrown.

c) Finance

Approval of Payments: it was proposed by Mr. Ellison and seconded by Mr. Bealing, and agreed by all members that the following payments be approved:

Payee	Charge to Budget	Total Cost	Service	Status
NEST	108.45	108.45	Clerk Pension June	Paid DD
EE and T Mobile	16.14	19.52	Clerk mobile phone	Paid DD
HMRC	570.50	570.50	June Contributions	Unpaid EFT
Scofell	296.66	355.99	June Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
Vision Signs	240.00	288.00	Signs for PH	Unpaid EFT
M Bastick	465.75	465.75	Handyman Hours June	Unpaid EFT

Larkstel Ltd	1698.00	2037.60	June Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
Nigel Jeffries	587.92	705.50	May Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
T Harrington	143.21	143.21	June cleaning	Unpaid EFT
BT	10.00	12.00	Portable mini hub	Paid DD
BDBC	1.00	1.00	Annual rent for Beach Park	Paid DD
S Harding	271.99	271.99	Ladder and brackets	Unpaid EFT
SW Contract Services	2230.00	2676.00	Work at Burial Ground	Unpaid EFT
BT	42.00	50.40	Office phone June	Paid DD
B Bedford Expenses	86.65	99.98	Office 365 Subscription. Microphone	Unpaid EFT
Full Circle Leisure	6314.42	7577.30	Repairs to skatepark	Unpaid
J Paler	131.67	131.67	Ragic subscription July	Unpaid EFT

Mr. Parry and Mr. Startin approved the EFT payments. Mrs. Richards has completed the forms to become an online approver on the Lloyds banking service.

Authority was delegated to the Working Party to pay invoices due during August and seek approval at the September meeting. A list of proposed payments will be circulated to all members and unless objections are raised, the clerk will prepare the payment. All members agreed.

d) Highways and Transport

A working party report was issued to all members.

The accident data requested in June has been received and shows a total of 59 accidents over 10 years. The clerk has an A1 Map which she will give to Mr. Harding to plot the accidents across the area.

Traffic: Mr. Harding has prepared a response to a letter from a resident about the heavy vehicles using Rectory Road, which has been submitted to Link, and Mr. Parry approved that it can be published. Traffic flows along Rectory Road/Station Road are increasing and will only increase with the development at the Park Farm site.

e) Governance

A report from the meeting with the Borough Councillors was circulated to all members. Ward Councillors will attend the strategy day on September

7th at St Leonards. Mr. Parry asked the clerk to chase Cllr Golding re the Community Led Plan so this can be included in the strategy discussions.

Assets and Responsibilities : the clerk sent out the list to all heads of Working Parties. Mr. Ellison asked that his original note be re-sent.

Accessibility Statement: the clerk was instructed to use the HALC statement and update the website by the due date.

The clerk was asked to set up a working party meeting in August .

f) Publicity and Events

Mr. Ellison proposed that the working party name be changed to **Events, Information Systems and Publicity** and Mr. Bealing agreed.

(Subsequent to the meeting, the clerk was asked to qualify this decision, in that social media ie Facebook, website etc are part of Publicity and Events, the IT project comes under Governance as it is part of the formal management and compliance of the Parish Council).

A working party report was issued to members.

Mr. Harding proposed that **S137 funding** not exceeding £65 be provided to purchase items for a hamper to present as a prize in the Village Show, and all agreed.

g) Sports and Play Areas

A working party report was issued to all members. The issues raised by St Mary's have been addressed. Mr. Ellison will contact Mr. Williams re use of Newfound on Sundays. It was agreed that pitches would be available from 31st August at Peter Houseman, and from 7th September at Newfound. New goalposts were required at Newfound – when the goals were taken down, one set was found to be outside current specifications. It is planned to request funding via S106 from BDBC but if this is not forthcoming, the new goals will have to be purchased using contingency funding.

8. Reports from representatives to other organisations

Andover Road Village Hall: there is a wasp problem but this is being dealt with. Some internal redecoration is being undertaken.

East Oakley Village Hall: nothing to report

Jubiloaks/Woodlands Group: the clerk will meet with Mrs. Askew on 17th July to progress the purchase of the beech whips.

Village Show Committee: meeting will be held on 15th July.

OCA: Mr. Startin forwarded the OCA Annual report to all members. Mr. Ellison asked if OCA would consider funding a circular seat round one of the trees in Peter Houseman ground, and the clerk agreed to make the request to the trustees.

9. **The date of the next meeting** is September 12th.