

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OAKLEY & DEANE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

**Present:** Mr. Parry (Chairman), Mr. Bullions, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Hewitt, Dr. Johnstone, Mr. Paler, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Startin and Ms. Tofts. One member of the public attended the meeting.

Ms.Tofts, as retiring deputy chairman, took the role of chairman of the meeting.

### **Public Session**

A resident of Sainfoin Lane expressed concerns about correspondence received from a local land owner about future plans for the lane, and an outline proposal for a development of 35 dwellings as detailed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council have not been notified of this officially and the resident will contact Cllr. Taylor who has contacted the landowner previously about hedge removal during nesting season. The ownership of the lane is still not clear but it has been repaired and maintained by the owners of Sainfoin Stables for at least 30 years.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Mr. Bealing and Mr. Harding, and from Mrs. Taylor (Worshipful Mayor of Basingstoke).

#### **2. Appointment of Chairman**

Mr. Paler proposed Ms.Tofts and Mr. Startin seconded. Mr. Bullions proposed Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Ellison seconded. Mr. Hewitt proposed Mr. Parry and Dr. Johnstone seconded. Ms. Tofts and Mr. Parry accepted their nomination but Mr. Hewitt declined. Mr. Paler asked that both candidates gave a statement of their vision for the Parish Council.

Mr. Parry stated his commitment to the Parish Council and to the local community. The Council is a team of volunteers who want to serve the community and should work together to meet the needs of the residents. There are undoubtedly changes that need to be made, but the core duty is for the Council to carry out the statutory duties imposed by the Local Government Act as amended in 1974. The Council should work with the higher tiers of government to try and influence decision making, as well as working with other groups (i.e. care providers). Mr Parry has experience of chairing meetings both professionally and socially, and would wish to draw on the expertise of all members.

Ms. Tofts stated her commitment to the residents, across all ages, and particularly to the younger members of the community, who are under-represented. She would like to see the re-introduction of a Youth council which has proved very popular previously, and to involve The Gap in this. Meetings need to be more efficient. Members are volunteers and the working parties need to be more project-based so that members may be involved in different areas. The Governance working party in particular needs to work on a disaster recovery protocol by liaising with emergency

services, with GPS etc. The working parties need to be re-evaluated so see if all areas are properly covered. Ms. Tofts has extensive experience of chairing meetings, both professionally and personally, and her wish is to develop members' skills over time.

The clerk distributed voting slips to all members to indicate who they selected to be chairman. The clerk counted the returns and asked both candidates to witness the results. Mr. Parry was elected by a majority.

Mr. Parry took the chair.

### **3. Appointment of Vice-chairman**

Mr. Bullions proposed that Mr. Hewitt be vice-chairman and Mr. Ellison seconded. Mr. Hewitt accepted the nomination, and with no other proposals, Mr. Hewitt was elected un-opposed.

Mr. Parry stated his thanks to Ms. Tofts for all her hard work whilst a member of the Parish Council. He said he was honoured to follow Mrs. Blackman as Chairman. Mr. Parry's primary role was, as he saw it, to chair the meetings, to build on the existing skills of members and to seek consensus. Dr. Johnstone thanked Mr. Parry for standing. Mr. Parry confirmed that over the next few weeks he would like to meet with the leads of the working parties outside of the normal monthly meetings.

### **4. Appointment of Planning Committee and Working Party Members**

The clerk had distributed schedules to the members who had indicated their preferences in advance of the meeting. As there are now two vacancies on the Parish Council, it was agreed to proceed with the draft list but to revisit when the full quota of members was in place.

### **5. Appointment of Representatives on Other Organisations**

The clerk had distributed schedules to the members for them to indicate which organisations they would wish to join to represent the Parish Council. The East Oakley Village Hall Committee is not yet covered but hopefully one of the new councillors will be able to take that one, and Dr. Johnstone will attend meetings of the Village Show Committee.

### **6. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 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.

### **7. Draft accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019**

Mr. Startin had prepared and distributed draft (unaudited) accounts and there were no comments or queries from members.

### **8. Notices, Circulars and Correspondence**

- a. **Borough Council Elections May 2019:** the clerk had informed members that Cllr. Hannah Golding had been elected as Ward Councillor for Oakley and North Waltham, and that she had invited Ms. Golding to attend future meetings of the council.

- b. **Mayor Making May 9<sup>th</sup> 2019:** Mrs. Blackman and Mr. Elkin represented the Parish Council at the ceremony at the BDBC offices. Members congratulated Cllr. Taylor on her election as Mayor.
- c. **Election Expenses Submissions:** the clerk had provided copies of Expenses forms, Members Interests forms, and Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms at the meeting and reminded all members to submit the election expenses by the end of May.
- d. **Institution of Rev Dr Ben Kautzer:** Mrs. Blackman, the clerk, and Mr. Bullions all attended the service. There were over 250 in the congregation and a live video feed was provided for others who watched from the St Leonard's Centre.
- e. **Bench Along the MUR:** the Men's Shed repaired the vandalised bench and re-installed it. Mr. Bealing and Mr. Ellison attended the installation.
- f. **Storage:** OCA have taken on a storage facility and have agreed that the Parish Council can store items in it once it is racked out.

**9. Clerk's report**

The clerk had distributed her report in advance of the meeting and there were no comments or queries.

**10. Planning Matters**

- a. **Minutes from the Planning meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May** were distributed and there were no comments or questions.
- b. **Meeting re Basingstoke Golf Course development:** Mr. Hewitt attended the meeting. It appears the sale is not finalised. Much of the meeting was devoted to detail of the application (i.e. size of rooms in sports hall) rather than the more immediate concerns of traffic, infrastructure etc.
- c. **Update on letter re 'windfalls':** the clerk had forwarded the response from BDBC. She asked permission from the members to reply, to request answers to direct points raised in her initial letter that were not addressed in the response. Mr. Ellison stated that he understood that the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan sat together in terms of determining applications, but this response appeared to contradict that. The clerk was asked to involve other parishes to see if they had the same issues. It was also requested that Ward Councillors be copied to the response, and if necessary a meeting be arranged to discuss in a more formal setting. It was agreed unanimously that the clerk follow up on the response.

**11. Working Party Reports**

- a. **Burials and Churchyards:** the clerk had requested timings for the works to create further cremated remains spaces, and the memorial garden, but had no response.
- b. **Environment:** there have been instances of fly-tipping at the allotments. Mr. Harding examined the gate and confirmed it is not

suitable for a padlock, and a chain would simply be lost or stolen. It was agreed that the clerk should contact Malshanger Estates to inform them of the issue – the Borough have said they will not clear any future tipping as it is private land, so as Landlord, Malshanger should provide assistance.

### c. Finance

**Approval of Payments:** it was proposed by Mr. Ellison and seconded by Mr. Paler 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 April	Paid DD
EE and T Mobile	16.14	19.37	Clerk mobile phone	Paid DD
HMRC	558.38	558.38	April Contributions	Unpaid EFT
Scofell	296.66	355.99	April Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
M Bastick	540.00	540.00	Handyman Hours April	Unpaid EFT
Larkstel Ltd	1758.00	2109.6	April Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
Nigel Jeffries	485.66	582.79	March Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
W G Shenton	130.00	156.00	Gas boiler service	Unpaid
R Blackman	272.66	279.18	Chairman's expenses 2018/19	Unpaid
T Harrington	158.12	158.12	April cleaning	Unpaid EFT
4BT	10.00	12.00	Portable mini hub	Paid DD
Spencer & Peyton	75.00	75.00	Refund of cheque banked but sent in error	Unpaid
Oakley Mens Shed	150.00	150.00	Seat on Multi User Route	Unpaid EFT
HCC	55.00	55.00	Hall hire for APM	Unpaid
Malshanger Estates	250.00	250.00	Allotment rent to 31/10/19	Unpaid
B Bedford Expenses	158.90	24.06	Trolley wheels, stationery, refreshments	Unpaid EFT

Mr. Parry and Ms Tofts approved the EFT payments.

CCLA subscription: the clerk informed members she had arranged a subscription of a further £50,000.00 to the fund, upon receipt of the precept.

### d. Highways and Transport

Mr. Harding had produced a further OTIS report, this time on Oakley Lane. Mr. Ellison remarked on the vast amount of information contained in the report, but asked how it was being used and to what final purpose. Mr. Paler confirmed that it was currently being used to help in the request for a crossing at the school, and that data was being circulated to police, HCC and other interested parties. It was agreed that Mr. Harding's report be adopted and the clerk will add it to the website. The decision as to whether to pay for the incident report from HCC was deferred until June so that Mr. Harding could provide more information. Mr. Hewitt commented the Station Road footbridge, and the speeding along Station Road in general, was a great concern both to the PC and to the residents. Dr. Johnstone made the

point that OTIS definitely adds value for the residents, but that we should beware of investing in resources that should be part of the Borough or HCC area of responsibility. Mrs. Smith commented about the speeding in Deane, as most of the roads are unrestricted – there is not a large volume of traffic but it is mostly going fast.

**e. Parish Council Governance**

The clerk was asked to circulate details of the training courses being held at Whitchurch. Mr. Parry commented that one of the more experienced members could mentor new councillors, but that it was more beneficial for the new member to ask direct questions as they arose, rather than having a 'teaching session'. Mr. Ellison agreed, saying that was how mentoring was managed at QMC, where he is a governor. Mr. Paler remarked how useful he found attending all the working party meetings, as he gained a lot of information to help him when he first joined the council.

**f. Publicity and Events**

The Annual Parish Meeting was well attended, and all the feedback about the speakers was positive.

**g. Sports and Play Areas**

Mr. Ellison distributed a Working Party report.

**Skate Park repairs:** as per the quote from Evolution Skate Parks, all members agreed that the repairs should go ahead, as funds were in the budget, and works should commence before the summer holiday period.

**Signage for Peter Houseman:** Mr. Ellison gave members two signs (one bordered with black, the other with red) to select which to put in three locations at Peter Houseman. A majority of members chose the black border. The clerk will order 3 signs, one with mention of horses, all three with children and pedestrians.

**12. Reports from Representatives to Other Organisations**

**Andover Road Village Hall** – nothing to report

**East Oakley Village Hall** – Planning application was supported by the Parish Council, but is still to be decided by the Borough. Mr. Bullions asked if the PC could make a donation to the project, but the clerk reminded members that there was a substantial amount of S106 money available to the Hall. There was a mention of possible funding in the recent HALC newsletter, and the clerk was asked to forward the report to all members.

**Jubiloaks/Woodlands Group** – the clerk will attend the AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Village Show Committee** – meeting is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May

**OCA** – Mr. Startin issued a report in advance of the meeting. He mentioned that the Kennett Way Park website was not updated with the details of the money raised so far. Mrs. Richards said that this was because a lot of the fund raising was done by other groups and until it was paid over to the KWP group it was not included.

At this point Mrs. Bettridge thanked the members for all the hard work they do for the village.

**13. Confidential Items**

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

14. **Date of next meeting** is confirmed to be June 13<sup>th</sup> 2019.