



## **OAKLEY & DEANE PARISH COUNCIL**

Have you considered supporting your community by becoming a Parish Councillor?

The documents in this section will give you information and guidance on how to proceed and what you need to do and know to help make a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community.

In addition the following provides you with details specific to Oakley & Deane Parish Council.

### **Facts about Oakley & Deane Parish Council**

The Parish Council was formed in 1894 and contained the hamlet of Malshanger and Church Oakley, whilst East Oakley and Newfound were part of the Parish of Wootton St Lawrence for both Ecclesiastical and Civil purposes.

In 1966 it was agreed to amalgamate the Civil Parish of Church Oakley, with the East Oakley and Newfound elements of the Civil Parish of Wootton St Lawrence. In May 1968 these areas were brought together into the new Oakley Parish Council. Church Oakley, East Oakley and Newfound are now jointly referred to as Oakley.

In 1976 Deane Parish Meeting was amalgamated with Oakley Parish Council to become the Oakley & Deane Parish Council.

The population is just under 6,000 living in approximately 2,500 dwellings. The area is divided into five wards for electoral purposes with thirteen councillors.

### **How we work**

All the thirteen councillors live within the parish and are passionate about their village and serve the whole community rather than their individual wards.

The Parish Council is a non-political council.

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Newfound Sports Pavilion starting at 7.30 pm.

Planning Committee meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month with an additional meeting on the first Thursday (if required). They are also held at the Newfound Sports Pavilion starting at 7.30 pm.

The work of the Parish Council is carried out within informal working parties, each reporting back to the full council each month. The working parties draw up their annual budget in November for the following year which is incorporated into the Parish Council precept calculations. Details of the working parties and their areas of work can be found on the separate list.

Most communications are by email and therefore basic computer skills are an advantage.

## **Functions and Responsibilities**

Planning Applications – to advise Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council of the Planning Committee’s recommendations with regard to planning applications.

To maintain and enhance the recreational facilities at Beach Park, Newfound Sports Ground, Peter Houseman Ground, Upper Farm Road Play Area, Avon Road Play Area, Rectory Road Pond, the main pond at the junction of Hill Road and Oakley Lane and the network of footpaths within and surrounding the villages.

To set an annual budget to determine the Precept – shown as the Parish Rate on your Council Tax bill.

To nominate representatives on village organisations and outside bodies. See separate list for details.

To make note of and pass to the responsible authority for action any matter of general concern to the parish.

Allotments – to manage the 57 allotments situated at Station Road, Oakley.

Provision and maintenance of 36 benches and seats, ten bus shelters and three planters.

Maintenance of noticeboards at the main pond, the Oakley Burial Ground, Deane, St John’s Piece and in Oakley Lane.

Maintenance of Drive Slowly signs, Bye-law signs, Community Speedwatch signs and equipment at various locations in the villages.

Maintenance and emptying of litter bins – 63 in total at various points around the village.

Maintenance and management of Oakley Burial Ground at Rectory Road, Oakley.

Maintenance of the closed churchyard at St Leonards, Rectory Road, Oakley.

Provision of equipment for Community Speedwatch Scheme.

To work with the first and second tier of local government (Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council) to ensure the effective delivery of services to the local community.

To work with other organisations regarding matters both within the parish boundary and any wider aspect that might influence our community.

To become involved locally in promoting heritage and enjoyment (Oakley Act of Remembrance, Carols at the Pond, Oakley Village Show, Jane Austen Bi-Centenary).

To raise the profile of the Parish Council wherever possible (Oakley Act of Remembrance, Carols at the Pond, Oakley Village Show, sale of Parish Council merchandise, displays of achievements and future plans).