

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OXENHOPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 AT OXENHOPE METHODIST CHURCH,  
COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

Present: Cllr Neal Cameron  
Cllr Tony Maw  
Cllr Penny Cusdin  
Cllr Reg Hindley  
Cllr Derrick Hopkinson  
Cllr Tony Jones

In attendance: Worth Valley Ward Councillor Russell Brown  
Worth Valley Ward Councillor Rebecca Poulsen  
Miran Rahman, Keighley News Reporter  
Seven members of the public

**129/14. Apologies consented to**

Cllr David Ashcroft (work commitments)  
Cllr Pauline Bedford (family commitments)

**130/14. No disclosures of Interest**

**131/14. No applications for Dispensation**

**132/14. Guest Speakers**

PCSO Tracy Metcalfe introduced herself and gave apologies of absence for Sergeant Chris Watson. PCSO Metcalfe confirmed that a group of Oxenhope youths had been referred to the ASBO Team and that warning letters would be issued. The Neighbourhood Policing Team would monitor the situation and consider whether the action of the ASBO Team had the desired effect. A reminder was given to ensure owners of vehicles and outbuildings to keep their property locked when unoccupied as a recent garage burglary had resulted in the theft of two motor cycles. If this kind of crime became an issue then a plain clothes operation would go live. Cllr Hindley raised his concerns as to the regular ram raids on the Co-op on Station Road. PCSO Metcalfe confirmed she would make enquiries and report back. Several members of the public raised their concerns regarding speeding motorists on Moor Side. On 5<sup>th</sup> November as a result of a speeding motorist a horse was decapitated. The Police were called to the scene but members of the public present at meeting remained very concerned as they feared a pedestrian walking on Moor Side would be the next victim of a speeding motorist. PCSO Metcalfe confirmed that the Neighbourhood Policing Team would use their mobile camera on Moor Side to ascertain the extent of speeding motorists. Cllr Poulsen confirmed she would report matters to Highways Department.

Cllr Poulsen advertised the 'New Deal for Bradford District' and confirmed that a public meeting would be held in Keighley on 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7 p.m. at Central Hall to encourage people to tell the Council their ideas about how things could be done differently as national funding for public services continue to be cut. Cllr Poulsen also advised those present at the meeting about the Bradford District Bus Tender Review. Cllr Poulsen concluded by giving an update as regards Tree Tops in Haworth and that it would not be closing, however, it would no longer be a Surestart centre. As this decision had been called in by the Conservatives brief, Cllr Cameron enquired whether a letter from the Parish Council would assist. Cllr Poulsen welcomed the idea and Cllr Cameron agreed to draft the letter.

**133/14. Minutes of meetings**

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> October were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Hopkinson and were signed by the Chairman.
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**No matters arising**

The November Outstanding Issues Report was duly noted.
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## No matters arising

### 134/14. Public question time

The meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Ken Eastwood, Fibrevalley, to update those at the meeting where his team were at with regard to the broadband issues in Oxenhope and the wider Worth Valley. He explained that in April they met with Kris Hopkins MP along with BT Openreach, Superfast West Yorkshire and an officer from the DCMS. Two pressing issues were discussed:

- 1) The difficulties being experienced in Stanbury and outlying areas, and
- 2) The problems in Oxenhope. A sizeable number of Oxenhope residents are unable to receive super- fast broadband due to the way cables are routed underground. The telegraph pole on the corner of West Drive, for example, is only yards from a fibre enabled cabinet but the lines to that pole oddly connect to the cabinet up on Marsh. Due to the distance of that connection available speeds are reduced and service reliability is compromised. The solution here would be re-pairing of the lines into the nearest cabinet, immediately adjacent to the telegraph pole. This is technically possible.

Since the meeting with Kris Hopkins, BDUK had also given the green light confirming categorically that the business connection vouchers could be used by SMEs within the Bradford Council area to pay a supplier to perform copper re-parenting on commercial cabinets. However, BT had categorically said no, stating it is not their policy to re-parent copper lines on commercial cabinets in order to improve speeds to premises. This was despite BT agreeing to look into the issue and provide costs at the meeting with Kris Hopkins in April.

A follow up meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr John Huxley from Stanbury PC also attended, as Kris Hopkins had written to him recently about the Stanbury issue and the possibility of a community funded solution (BT estimate minimum of £28k to get fibre to Stanbury).

At the follow up meeting it was agreed that Kris Hopkins would write to Joe Garner, CEO of BT Openreach to challenge their policy stance with regards to re-parenting. Kris Hopkins has asked Ken Eastwood to write to him first, summarising the issue and it was suggested that perhaps the Parish Councils would add their support? Cllr Huxley has kindly agreed to take the matter to his next meeting with a view to writing a letter of support also. It may be that a valley-wide approach could carry some weight.

Mr Eastwood enquired whether Oxenhope Parish Council would be able to get behind the campaign and write a similar letter of support. Cllr Cameron confirmed that it would and agreed to write a letter of support. Cllr Cameron also suggested doing a snap poll on Facebook.

### 135/14. Correspondence

To receive the following previously circulated communications and to formulate responses, if appropriate:

- a) Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014 received from Matt Stroh, Chairman, Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Preservation Society. Agreed that Cllr Cameron respond highlighting Cllr Jones difficulties in attempting to have regular meetings with a KWVR representative.
- b) E-mail dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 received from a parishioner re the Tour de France legacy. As the parishioner was present at the meeting, Cllr Cameron confirmed that the legacy idea had the full backing of the Parish Council. Initially the Parish Council were trying to ascertain who owned the car parking area and therefore responsible for its maintenance and an approach had already been made to Vikky Harris at Welcome to Yorkshire to investigate any TdF legacy funding. Cllr Cameron confirmed that he would chase Vikky Harris for a response and that the Clerk would continue her dialogue with Bradford Council Highways Department.

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- c) E-mail dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 received from a concerned parishioner re Yate Lane flagstones. Agreed that the Clerk ask Bradford Council Highways Department as to why the flagstones had been replaced by a concrete pavement in a Conservation Area.
- d) E-mail dated 28<sup>th</sup> October received from a concerned parishioner re planning application 14/04492/PNH. Agreed that the Clerk write to Bradford Council Planning Department to ascertain why the Planning Protocol had not been followed and that as a result the Parish Council was not consulted as regards application 14/04492/PNH.

**136/14. Allotments**

- a) No monthly report received.
- b) No October Safety Inspection Report received.
- c) Cllr Hopkinson explained that there is a workable and affordable car parking solution at the Keighley Road allotments site. This followed his onsite meeting with a contractor who confirmed the cost would be £2,500. Cllr Cameron agreed to liaise with Martyn Burke in the Planning Department and to write to Yorkshire Water that the Parish Council had a workable solution.

**137/14. Community Assets**

- a) Cllr Cameron agreed to bring to the next monthly meeting the draft applications to register Oxenhope Recreation Ground and Oxenhope Community Centre as community assets. Cllr Maw agreed to investigate whether the Recreation Ground should also be registered as a 'Field of Remembrance'.
- b) Cllr Cameron agreed to bring to the next monthly meeting the draft applications, in the Parish Council's name, to register the Millennium Green, the Rose Garden and Oxenhope Cricket Ground as community assets

**138/14. Marsh Common**

- a) Agreed to note the October Safety Inspection Report.
- b) Agreed that the Parish Council would organise a working party to cut down the Japanese knotweed within the next few weeks, the knotweed is then to be stored over winter on the concrete base at the Common and then it will be burnt Spring/Summer 2015 when it had dried out. Cllr Jones agreed to contact the Probation Service and any other willing volunteers. Cllr Cusdin to initiate a Facebook appeal to attract further volunteers.
- c) The longevity of Marsh Common was considered by members and it was agreed that as the Parish Council budget each year to maintain the Common and will continue to organise Autumn working parties to cut down and burn the Japanese knotweed that the ownership of the Common should remain in the Parish Council's name.

**139/14. Reports**

To receive the following reports or to note previously circulated reports:

- a) Oxenhope School Governors. No report received.
- b) Oxenhope Youth Club. Cllr Cusdin confirmed that the Club was still attracting high numbers of attendees but the lack of casual youth workers was hindering the Club's success. Cllr Cusdin confirmed that she would be having a word with Abina Dorgan Smith in Youth Services. As Bradford Council may withdraw all youth provision and that voluntary groups will be expected provide youth work, it was suggested that the Parish Council may wish to consider raising its precept to cover the cost of employing two youth workers for a weekly youth club session. Cllr Cusdin to consider the suggestion and to provide a paper at the Parish Council's budget setting meeting if it is considered appropriate to cover such costs.
- c) Rights of Way. Cllr Hopkinson confirmed that Bradford Local Forum had welcomed him at their last meeting and that there was nothing of further significance to report.

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- d) Oxenhope Community Centre. Cllr Maw reported that the renovations were coming to the end. New spot lights were to be installed and then the Community Centre would be decorated.

**140/14. Financial Matters**

**Resolved:**

- a) To note the quote received from CJH Electrical re additional Christmas lights at the Rose Garden. It was agreed that as the Christmas tree had grown considerably over the years and that the existing LED lights on the tree were insufficient that these lights would not be turned on this Christmas, only the lights in the boundary trees would be turned on. The Clerk was requested to investigate the costs of the Haworth Christmas tree and ascertain why Haworth has a tree and Oxenhope doesn't.
- b) To note the quote received from CJH Electrical to repair the lighting at the telephone kiosk at Marsh. It was agreed not to repair the lighting as members felt there was no justification in having the kiosk lit at night.
- c) To authorise section 137 expenditure of £17 for a Remembrance Day wreath
- d) To authorise the following accounts for payment:

Payee	Cheque no.	Amount	Description
Orange	Direct Debit	£28.24	Mobile phone charges from 17 <sup>th</sup> October to 16 <sup>th</sup> November
Gratuity Account	Transfer	£29.43	Monthly transfer
Elaine Pearson	Standing Order	£730.08	Monthly salary

- e) To note the following trial balance:

Analysis	A/c			Grand Total	Budget remaining
	Current	Deposit	Gratuity		
001. Balance b/fwd	811.70	29424.41	2780.43	33016.54	
002. Transfer	-6235.44	6000.00	235.44		
01. Precept	14495.00			14495.00	
04. Bank Interest Business Base Rate		9.76		9.76	
05. Grants Received	875.00			875.00	
06. VAT repayment	194.24			194.24	
08. Rent Allotment Holders	403.00			403.00	
09. Bank Interest - Gratuity Account			0.74	0.74	
119. PAYE & NIC	-429.50			-429.50	
120. Clerk's monthly salary	-5841.04			-5841.04	£4,044.33
121. Subscriptions	-604.00			-604.00	£266.00
122. Insurance	-481.09			-481.09	£13.91
123. Audit Fee	-290.00			-290.00	
124. Room Hire	-166.00			-166.00	£154.00
125. Stationery & printing	-123.16			-123.16	£442.04
126. Postage	-59.52			-59.52	£0.48
128. Christmas Lights	-82.46			-82.46	
131. Allotments	-684.60			-684.60	
133. Contingency Fund	-9.00			-9.00	£927.50
135. Mobile phone	-228.83			-228.83	£84.32
139. Outreach	-125.00			-125.00	£250.00
141. Marsh Common	-120.00			-120.00	£150.00
142. Contribution towards the 812 service	-500.00			-500.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£799.30</b>	<b>£35,434.17</b>	<b>£3,016.61</b>	<b>£39,250.08</b>	

**141/14. Minor items and items for the next agenda**

**Minor items:**

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- a) The revised Charter with Bradford Council was discussed and it was noted that 9.1 was missing. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not sign the finalised revised Charter as members were not confident that any revised Charter would engender improved relations with the principal authority as previous evidence had demonstrated many Bradford Council officers were unaware of the existing Charter and certainly did not adhere to its content.
- b) Cllr Jones presented to the Clerk a cheque for £1,037.72 drawn on Oxenhope Conservation Initiative (OCI). The Clerk was requested to send a receipt to the OCI Treasurer.
- c) Cllr Maw gave an update on his progress on finalising the Oxenhope leaflet and confirmed he would circulate a pdf copy to members for approval.

**142/14. To note the date, time and venue of the next meeting**

Monthly meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at Oxenhope Methodist Church.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:30 p.m.

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