

Minutes of meeting of Friends of the Rose Garden held on 10th October 2018 at 6.15 p.m.

Present:

Andy Allan
Ken Eastwood
Karen Faulkner
Roger Smales
Yvonne Smales
Anne Taylor
Stuart Taylor
Janet Foster - Clerk

1. Oxenhope Wind Farm Grant - Background

Ken started the meeting by providing background to the Ovenden Wind Farm grant scheme. He explained that as part of the planning consent for the wind farm, a grant scheme to offset the environmental and visual effects of the wind farm had been agreed.

Oxenhope Parish Council had been involved in this and had worked hard to ensure that Oxenhope could access the grant funding.

He stated that the process of applying for a grant was very involved and time consuming.

Stuart asked why the grant application made by the Parish Council in 2017 for Rose Garden funding had been unsuccessful. Ken stated that the applications for funding considerably exceeded the funding available. While there had been indications that a few large projects would be funded, virtually all the grants were made to smaller projects.

He stated that bids could be made for up to £10,000. He expected that the fund would again be oversubscribed. He stressed that any bid would need to emphasis the benefit to Oxenhope. He said that the Parish Council were not planning on submitting any other bids for funding, but other clubs in the village were likely to apply.

He said the grant scheme was a pot of money available to both Oxenhope and Calderdale. He stated that it was important that Oxenhope benefitted from the fund.

2. Discussion on whether to apply for funding

Yvonne stated there was definitely a need for funding for equipment in the Rose Garden.

Ann asked if it was possible to have a system similar to that in Haworth Park, where the Friends Group worked in conjunction with Bradford Council. Ken explained that this was not possible as the Parish Council was very shortly due to sign a lease to take on full responsibility for the Rose Garden.

Signed.....

It was mentioned that the Council had not been emptying the bins in the Rose Garden. A local resident was doing this.

Andy pointed out that the Rose Garden is located right in the centre of Oxenhope and everyone going through the village will see it. At the moment it looks rather run down. He was keen to see it improved and said that support would be needed to achieve that.

There was support for applying for grant funding.

3. **Grant application**

Stuart asked about what should be included in the grant application. Ken stated that he felt it would be good to have a “Welcome to Oxenhope” sign, which would welcome visitors to the village and provide information. He suggested that it be in black and gold, with the same colour scheme for waste bins.

Roger stated that his priorities would be first bins, then benches, but he was less sure about a new notice board. He queried whether the existing board could be renovated.

Andy suggested that a picnic table could be useful, but after some discussion it was decided to just look at benches at the moment.

It was agreed to apply for 6 new benches, with three on each side. The benches are made from recycled plastic and will not require maintenance. The possibility of the old benches being used by the Bowling Club was mentioned. The cost for six benches was estimated at £2,500 (including fittings).

Stuart queried if we should include installing a water supply and Karen raised the possibility of drinking fountains as well. After a discussion it was decided not to include this in the grant application.

In terms of bins it was decided to apply for three bins so there could be one by each entrance. A compost bin was also suggested. The cost for three bins and a compost bin was estimated at £1,000.

It was also agreed to include funding for a welcome sign, including a map of the village, in the application. Ken said they could look at keeping the current noticeboard and possibly moving it to the side of a new entrance. The cost of a new welcome to Oxenhope sign was estimated at £2,500.

It was also decided to apply for a sum of money for materials to be used for repairs to existing footpaths, repairing the walls, installing new entrances and footpaths from the new entrances. Ken said that he understood planning permission would not be needed. He also said that Highways had not expressed any concerns about having an entrance onto Hebden Bridge Road by Muffin Corner.

There was some discussion on the best sites for the new entrances and whether there would be a need for steps / ramp or whether it was possible to have a level entrance.

Roger agreed to provide a plan for the footpaths and an estimate of how much funding would be required for this work.

There was then discussion on whether to include plants for the central beds. Roger pointed out that the beds would probably need to be re-shaped.

The Parish Council has provided funding for shrubs for the boundary beds. These will be low growing rhododendrons and also azaleas, which if cut back annually should not grow too tall.

It was decided to include funding for plants for the central beds (which would include ground cover roses) up to the value of £1,500. There was also mention of climbing roses being planted along the top wall (though this would need to be agreed with the home owner).

It was also mentioned that there were plaques on some existing benches. Where possible contact would be made with the people to whom the plaques belonged.

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.