

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE 2020 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE,
COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Cllr Ken Eastwood (Chair)
Cllr Robert Goulding
Cllr Kevin Allmond
Cllr Michelle Dawson
Cllr Peter McManus
Cllr Chris Pawson
Cllr Nick Pearce

In attendance: Worth Valley Councillor Rebecca Poulsen
Worth Valley Councillor Chris Herd
1 member of the public

83/20 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence from Village Councillors.

Apologies have been received from Worth Valley Cllr Russell Brown,
Rev. Cat Thatcher and Alice Bentley.

84/20 Disclosures of Interest

Cllr Goulding declared an interest in the item on the access at Shaw Farm.

85/20 Applications for a Dispensation

None received.

86/20 Minutes of Meetings (previously circulated to Members)

- a) The minutes of the Village Council's monthly meeting held on 13th May 2020 were confirmed as a true and correct record.
- b) There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- c) The June Outstanding Issues Report was noted. The Art Exhibition idea has been added to the outstanding issues report.

87/20 Public Question Time

None.

88/20 Guest Speakers

a) Worth Valley Ward Councillors

Cllr Poulsen gave an update from Alice Bentley, Ward Officer about the support hub in Keighley. This has mainly been helping people by doing their shopping. They are looking into alternatives to stop dependency on the hub as it starts to wind down. There have been a lot fewer calls recently.

The staff who have been undertaking the work, are now returning to their normal roles. Neighbourhood wardens are now back on their normal duties and civil enforcement, for example, in relation to double yellow lines, is starting again.

Signed.....

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She commented on the events of 9th June, which had sadly resulted in the death of a villager. There had been a lot of disruption and the community centre had been opened up for residents by the Village Council.

The other issue for Cllr Poulsen has been the A6033 road from Oxenhope to Hebden Bridge. Both she and Cllr Herd were really concerned about the lack of notice from Calderdale Council of the proposed 20-week closure of the road.

However, she stated that Calderdale Council have taken notice of the concerns raised. The road will now be closed for 6 weeks and the rest of the work will be a contra flow with traffic lights. There is also a four-week contingency built into the plan. She said that credit needs to be taken for the concessions obtained.

She is waiting to get the exact dates of the work from the engineer in charge and will then pass on this information.

Cllr Eastwood thanked Cllr Poulsen for getting Calderdale Council to look again at the plan for the road works. He said once the dates were known they would be shared on Facebook.

Cllr Poulsen said she had also been involved in the issue of the access on Shaw Lane.

Cllr Herd reported that the gate across the bridleway has been removed. In addition the problem horse has been removed from the field and the field has been fenced.

b)

Police

The crime report provided by the Police was read out by the Clerk. For the period from the 1st May to 8th June the crime figures for Oxenhope were: -

3 residential burglaries. In relation to these 2 males have been arrested and are on bail pending further enquiries.

1 burglary business.

1 theft of vehicle. This was a moped, which was recovered by the owner.

1 vehicle interference .

1 criminal damage.

1 blackmail. This was over the Internet.

c) **Rev. Cat Thatcher**

Rev. Thatcher had provided a report which was read out by the Clerk: -

You may have noticed at the weekend (10 pm on Saturday night, in fact!) the government announced that churches MAY open for what they called 'supervised private prayer' from the week of the 16th June.

We have taken the view that we would like to be cautious on this, and so St Mary's will remain closed while we continue to observe infection rates in the local area.

We are sorry if this upsets anyone - although no one has been in touch with me to urge that the church building is swiftly reopened - but our primary calling as Christians is to care for each other.

At this time, our view is unanimous that caring for each other means doing what we can to prevent the spread of infection. If infection numbers continue to go down, we are hopeful that we may be able to begin re-opening the church for supervised private prayer in July.

89/20 Correspondence

Resolved:

- a) Email from Tonya Ward, National Careers' Service about the National Careers Service – Still here to help. Noted.
- b) Email from Alice Bentley, Ward Officer about Lottery/Government Funding Information. Cllr Eastwood said he thought organisations in the village might struggle to meet the criteria required to benefit from these funding streams.
- c) Emails between Ward Councillor Rebecca Poulsen, Oxenhope Village Councillor and Dan de Tute, Enforcement Officer, Bradford Council about access at Shaw Farm.

Cllr McManus stated that Dan de Tute from Bradford Council is following up the Village Council's concerns. Having had concerns raised by a resident, the Village Council is satisfied that Bradford Council is now investigating the issue.

- d) Emails between Ward Councillor Rebecca Poulsen, Cllr Dawson and Calderdale Council about the closure of the A6033 road. Noted. The issues were dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- e) Email from Chris Barker, Community Action Bradford and District (received via Alice Bentley, Ward Officer) about the Give Bradford resilience fund now open (deadline for applications is 17th June). Noted.

90/20 Corona Virus update

Cllr Eastwood reported that there had not been any further developments in the village in relation to corona virus.

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Call takers are in place nationally for the track and trace system, which could possibly lead to local lockdowns if local outbreaks occur. Information from Public Health England and Directors of Public Health suggests the virus may be with us for some considerable time and we should all do our best to observe the advice on hand washing and social distancing.

91/20 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a) To note the internal audit report for 2019/2020 and list of audit checks undertaken.
- b) To note the Annual Internal Audit Report part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).
- c) Having reviewed the effectiveness of internal controls, to authorise the Chair and Responsible Finance Officer to sign Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 of the AGAR.
- d) To approve Section 2 Accounting Statement 2019/20 of the AGAR, authorise the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2020 and authorise the Chair and Responsible Finance Officer to sign the 2019/20 return.
- e) To authorise the following accounts for payment: -

Payee	Cheque No. / Online	Amount	Description
Came and Company	Online payment	£545.40	Annual insurance
J.I. Kinsella	Online payment	£100.00	Rebuilding 3 cheek ends Rose Garden wall
Imperative Training Limited	Online payment	£297.90	Annual service of two defibrillators
HMRC	Online payment	£11.59	Employer's NI contribution on homeworking allowance
Town Parish Audit	Online payment	£180.00	Internal Audit 2019/20 Accounts
Business Stream	Online payment	£0.85	Estimated allotment water bill 18 th Feb - 21 st May

- f) To authorise a change to the method of paying the Clerk's salary. The standing order for the salary payment will be cancelled and future payments will be by BACS. The payment for June 2020 will include the back pay for the one point increase in the salary scale, which took effect from 1st April 2020.

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g) To note the following payments previously authorised: -

Clerk's salary and home working allowance (01.06.20 - 30.06.20)

Clerk's mobile phone (£11.29 per month direct debit)

92/20 Minor items and items for next agenda

Cllr Eastwood said the Village Council passed on their condolences to the family of the Oxenhope resident who had sadly passed away the previous day in the incident on Shaw Lane.

He thanked the Councillors who had been involved in the response, which had included opening up the community centre for residents who were evacuated and for members of the emergency services who were responding to the incident and providing refreshments.

Cllr Goulding said the Village Council's emergency plan worked well. Cllr Allmond agreed that the plan worked well. He suggested that it might be useful to have emergency heat blankets. Cllr Dawson stated the community centre was cold.

It was agreed to have a review of the emergency plan on the next agenda so that it can be updated if needed.

Cllr Dawson asked for information on the best way to report concerns about sewerage on the Green to Yorkshire Water.

Cllr Eastwood asked for authorisation to subscribe to Zoom to be included on the next agenda so that meetings can be longer than 40 minutes.

93/20 Date and time of next meeting

The next monthly meeting of Oxenhope Village Council will take place on 8th July 2020 starting at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.