



Annual Village Meeting

FOR ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF OXENHOPE

7.00 p.m. Wednesday 13th May 2022
held at the Methodist Church, West Drive,
Oxenhope BD22 9LJ

Present: Cllr Ken Eastwood (Chair)
Cllr Kevin Allmond
Cllr Michelle Dawson
Cllr Helen Hartley
Cllr Chris Pawson

1 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence have been received from Cllrs Goulding and Pierce.
2. **Report from the Chair of Oxenhope Village Council**
Cllr Ken Eastwood presented the following report:

I would like to begin my report by thanking our Clerk and my fellow Councillors for their contribution to the Village Council over what has been another interesting year, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to impact on our lives.

I would also like to thank Peter McManus, who stepped down from the Council at the end of March after 7 years' service and after enthusiastically leading development of our Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan has now been approved by Bradford Council and will be the subject of referendum in May. If adopted the plan will help to shape the future of the village and ensure any development takes account of local views and priorities.

I was sorry to hear that Cllr Helen Hartley is to resign following this evening's meeting. Helen has made a number of contributions to the Council and the Village, including leading on development of the Oxenhope Sculpture Trail and organising a well-received opening ceremony on the Millennium Green.

Signed

Date: 11th May 2022

Last year the Council again invested in additional Christmas lighting and Cllr Michelle Dawson organised a well-attended switch-on event that brought a much-needed sense of cheer to many, after the lockdowns and isolation experienced during parts of the year.

Last year we welcomed Mark Whitaker to the Council, as our new Village Warden. This was a new post and I have been delighted to see how it has developed and the positive impact Mark is having around the village.

The Council has continued to actively pursue the protection and acquisition of assets within the village. Improvements have started to be made at the Horse Shoe Dam, an asset previously purchased by the Village Council to preserve the area as a natural habitat.

We have also purchased and stocked additional grit bins in key locations and our grounds maintenance contractor has continued to stock and maintain the village planters, which have looked splendid.

On the subject of assets, we are still in discussion with Bradford Council over acquisition of the former toilets at the entrance to the park. Initial plans include re-opening of a toilet facility and possibly creating a space for pop-up local events. Negotiations with Bradford are taking longer than we had hoped, but we will continue to pursue this possibility.

The Village Council has several other projects that are at very early stages of consideration. These include the possible construction of a shelter and related improvements at Marsh Common, the provision of a green burial site, an off street Electric Vehicle charging site and a small-scale hydro power generation facility. After installing a further defibrillator at Marsh, we are also continuing to explore a possible site for another unit in Lowertown.

Fly tipping has continued to blight parts of Oxenhope and the Village Council has continued to work with Bradford Council and other partners on this issue. The Love Oxenhope community initiative was established last year and has facilitated two very well attended litter picks. Many thanks to the residents who have been involved with these and to those who volunteer at other times too.

The Village Council has recently set up a register so that we may notify potential volunteers when clean-up and other events are organised or when there is a need for an emergency response, as we experienced during the power outages affecting the village last December. Details of how to register are on the Village Council website.

It's not possible to describe all activity, but I hope I have given a flavour of our work and that you would agree, that for a small Council with 8 Members, we are making a positive difference to village life.

Signed

Date: 11th May 2022

We do not function alone and I should acknowledge the support and help provided by Ward Members, the input from Ward Officer Alice Bentley and also thanks to Headteacher Alice Jones and Reverend Cat Thatcher, for regularly attending our meetings and providing updates.

Finally, if anyone is interested in joining the Council do please contact our Clerk, Janet Foster, for further details.

3. **Public question time**

The member of the public thanked Village Councillors for their help around the village, saying they were particularly impressed with the Sculpture Trail and the Christmas light switch on.

They commented that the Village Warden was making a big difference, commenting positively on the work on the Horseshoe Dam and the tree on Mallard View.

They said that fly tipping was a particular problem, mentioning the large amount of tyres, which had been fly tipped.

4. **Village Council's draft accounts**

The draft accounts were noted.