

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2022 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WEST
DRIVE, OXENHOPE, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr Kevin Allmond
Cllr Michelle Dawson
Cllr Ken Eastwood
Cllr Robert Goulding
Cllr Chris Pawson
Cllr Nick Pearce

In attendance: Worth Valley Ward Councillor Russell Brown
Worth Valley Ward Councillor Rebecca Poulsen
Alice Bentley, Ward Officer, Bradford Council
Sally Teasdale, Assistant Ward Officer, Bradford Council
Sgt. Mark Chapman
Alan Woodward, Oxenhope Junior AFC
2 members of the public

43/22 Election of Chair 2022/23

Cllr Eastwood was voted in unanimously as Chair.

44/22 Election of Vice Chair 2022/23

Cllr Goulding was voted in unanimously as Vice Chair.

45/22 To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting

Apologies for absence have been received from Rev. Cat Thatcher and Mark Whitaker, Village Warden.

46/22 To consider the approval of reasons given for absence

Not applicable.

47/22 Disclosures of Interest

None.

48/22 Applications for a Dispensation

None received.

49/22 Minutes of Meetings (previously circulated to Members)

- a) The minutes of Annual Village meeting and the Village Council's monthly meeting held on 13th April 2022 were confirmed as true and correct records.
- b) There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- c) The May Outstanding Issues Report was noted. Work on the Rose Garden steps has started.

50/22 Public Question Time

Alan Woodward, from Oxenhope Junior Football Club provided a background to the club, which started in September 2021. They are affiliated with the Football Association and currently have 61 children registered. The five adults running the club are all DBS checked.

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Training currently takes place at Oakbank and they are looking at entering teams in local competitions, but need funding. They are looking into sponsorship and have put a grant application into the Village Council. They have also received funding from Bradford Council.

The main issue is the lack of access to the bottom football pitch. They can use the top pitch but this is not level. He said the Senior Football team only used the bottom pitch for one match per week.

Cllr Poulsen said the Senior Football team have a lease on the bottom pitch. The top pitch could be cut and marked out for playing by the Parks Department. Dave Priestley is the contact in the Parks Department. Cllr Poulsen said it would be possible to lease the top pitch at an annual cost of around £440.

Cllr Dawson asked about the size of pitch for juniors and was told it would be a half sized pitch. While it would be possible to mark a half pitch on the top, as they plan to have five teams playing they would also want to use the bottom pitch, which could have temporary markings for two half pitches.

Cllr Eastwood congratulated the club on getting Junior Football underway. He asked Mr. Woodward to provide the Clerk with contact details at the Senior Football Club to see if a way forward can be found.

A resident thanked Cllr Poulsen for looking into the issues of the fencing round the tennis court. She replied that the Parks Department are investigating what can be done.

The resident then asked about the result of the referendum into the Neighbourhood Development Plan and was told the vote was strongly in favour of the Plan.

The resident asked for an update on the superfast broadband project. The Clerk was asked to follow this up.

Another member of the public raised the issue of Marsh Lane. This has been resurfaced but previous road warnings have not been re-painted. They mentioned the "Slow" warning, which was previously painted on the road by the top of Hoyle Syke Lane. Ward Officer Alice Bentley agreed to follow this up with Highways.

51/22 Guest Speakers

a) Worth Valley Ward Councillors

Cllr Poulsen reported that Cllr Herd has been re-elected as a Ward Councillor.

She reported that Bradford Council Highways are looking into the issue of the land drain on Mallard View, which was reported by the Village Warden.

Cllr Brown said he had been asked to find possible locations for electric light beacons to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. He reported the first choice was the roof of St. Mary's church, with the Rose Garden a possible back up option.

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Cllr Goulding stated he was planning to have a wood burning beacon by the wind turbines on his farm. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant will open the event.

Cllr Brown reported that there was funding available for schools to work on a project, which might underpin the City of Culture bid. This involved a walk from Top Withins to City Park, and involved using IT to investigate buildings on the route. The local school might need to apply to the Village Council for financial support if they get involved in the project.

Cllr Eastwood said it sounded a very interesting project.

b) **Sgt Mark Chapman**

Sgt. Chapman started by introducing himself and providing information about the Police team in the Worth Valley area. John Barker is the new inspector for the Keighley area, as the previous inspector has retired after 30 years service.

Sgt. Chapman covers the Worth Valley and Keighley East wards. In the Worth Valley team there are two Police Constables and two Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs). There is a Worth Valley Officer on duty each day.

The Police priorities for the area are to tackle anti-social vehicle use and to have a higher visible Police presence. Longer term projects are to develop links with local primary schools, which all have a link PCSO.

He reported on Operation Steerside, which tackles anti-social vehicle use. Bradford Council has obtained a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and is working with the Police to tackle this issue. Any footage of anti-social vehicle use obtained by members of the public can be submitted to the Bradford Council website or the Steerside team. He stated they are also working with Halifax Police to address this issue.

Overall he reported that, crime wise, there were no worrying issues in the Oxenhope area.

Cllr Eastwood stated that fear of crime does seem to be an issue and whenever possible the Village Council tries to set concerns in context.

Both Cllrs Eastwood and Goulding stated there have been several reports of drug dealing in the village. Cllr Goulding said there was lots of evidence of drug dealing in the Park, the Rose Garden and at the Heights Lane layby.

Sgt. Chapman said this was likely to be cannabis use. Cllr Goulding replied though this was low level drug use, it often led to issues around fly tipping of the medium for growing cannabis.

Sgt Chapman said that the Police approach to drug use depended on the age of the person involved. If it were a first offence, they would have to attend an hours programme at a weekend and would not be given a criminal record.

Cllr Goulding said there was talk of cocaine use and said it was felt to be quite a big issue in the village. Sgt. Chapman said any intelligence would be useful and would enable the Police to build up a picture.

Cllr Goulding also queried how Police resources are used, giving the example of a PCSO walking on Marsh Lane one afternoon. Sgt. Chapman explained that PCSOs do not drive, so it was likely the PCSO was responding to a call for service by walking there. They are generally deployed in areas of heavy footfall.

Sgt. Chapman said he would bring information on crime statistics and calls for service to the next meeting and see if that matches with what Councillors think is happening in the village.

Cllr Eastwood thanked Sgt. Chapman for attending the meeting.

c) **Alice Bentley, Keighley Ward Officer and Sally Teasdale, Assistant Ward Officer, Bradford Council**

Alice Bentley explained she is part of the Neighbourhood team and is a link both to other departments of Bradford Council and other organisations. She has worked with the Village Council on projects, including tackling fly tipping.

Cllr Dawson asked if there could be more information about the measures taken to tackle fly tipping. Cllr Eastwood suggested a dashboard showing the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued. These could be highlighted on the Village Council's Facebook page.

Alice Bentley replied that there had been articles in Keighley News about the successes, but agreed that there was a need to tell people about what had been achieved.

Alice said there was a particular issue with dumped tyres. These have to be stored in a locked container and once it is full, tyres cannot be collected. She was investigating whether a notice could be put by dumped tyres to say the Council is aware, so people know the fly tipping has been reported.

Cllr Eastwood asked if the Council was checking on waste transfer notices. Cllr Goulding said he has a licence to store tyres, which are used to weigh down silage and he could maybe help if there was a shortage of space to store tyres.

Alice said there needed to be clear evidence of fly tipping before a prosecution could take place. A new team has been set up to look at environmental issues including tackling fly tipping. Cllr Eastwood said the Village Council would be happy to help with any projects to tackle this issue.

Sally Teasdale introduced herself, saying she joined the team in February, working full time. She is supporting Alice with community action work.

Cllr Eastwood thanked them both for attending the meeting.

52/22 Planning Applications

- a) **22/01441/FUL** Agricultural building at Hardnaze Farm Hard Nese Lane Oxenhope BD22 9QN.

Oxenhope Village Council supports this planning application.

- b) **22/01540/FUL** Conversion and extension of a stable block to form one dwelling and construction of a detached garage at Grange Barn Black Moor Road Oxenhope BD22 9SS.

The Village Council was minded to object based on their response to an earlier planning application. However the planning application is no longer on the Bradford Council website. The Clerk was asked to investigate if the application has been withdrawn.

53/22 Safety Inspection Reports

The reports for the Horseshoe Dam and Rose Garden were noted.

Cllr Pawson reported that the Village Warden has been doing a great job at the Horseshoe Dam.

Cllr Allmond has been round the allotments and will send a report.

Cllr Goulding reported he and the Village Warden met with a resident, who has been very involved with Marsh Common. They had discussed the gullies on the site and the work needed to prevent flooding after heavy rainfall.

Cllr Goulding outlined the work that is required, including removal of a tree, installing a warning sign, putting a grill over a culvert entrance to prevent debris going into the culvert, possibly opening up one culvert as a drain and digging out an area to capture any overflow of water. Work on the fencing is also required and the gate post needs to be replaced. Mobility scooter access to the Common will also need to be looked at, possibly by the use of a RADAR padlock. There is also some knotweed, which will need treating.

He estimated the overall cost of the work would be between £2,000 and £3,000. The Clerk was asked to include the financial authorisation for this work on the next agenda,

54/22 Warden's Report

The Warden's report was noted.

55/22 Correspondence

Resolved:

- a) Email from resident about Rose Garden. Noted. Cllr Eastwood reported that the issue of youths playing football seems to have resolved itself.
- b) Email from resident about junior football. Noted. This was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

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- c) Email from resident about access to Marsh Common. Noted. This will be addressed as part of the overall work at Marsh Common.
- d) Email from Toad Patrol contact with Toad Patrol report for 2022. Councillors were very impressed by both the number of toads rescued and by the number of volunteers helping with this work. The Clerk was asked to thank everyone involved for their efforts.

56/22 Village Councillor vacancies

The Clerk reported that Bradford Council has advertised the two Village Councillor vacancies. If, by 13th May, 10 electors in Oxenhope have not made a request for an election, then the vacancies can be filled by co-option.

57/22 Appointments

To agree appointments for 2022/23 to the following positions:

Allotments Lead Cllr Allmond
Rose Garden Lead Cllr Eastwood
Horseshoe Dam Lead Cllr Pawson
Marsh Common Lead Cllr Goulding
Rights of Way Lead No longer needed
Oxenhope School Representative Cllr Dawson
YLCA Branch meeting representatives (two positions) Cllrs Eastwood and Pawson
Millennium Green Trustee Cllr Dawson
Village Council Liaison representative (for meetings with Bradford Council) Cllrs Eastwood and Pawson
Oxenhope Community Association Cllr Pawson
Staffing Committee Cllrs Eastwood and Pawson
Emergency Planning Leads Cllrs Allmond, Goulding and Pawson

58/22 Code of Conduct

Cllr Eastwood reported that Bradford Council had recently agreed an updated Code of Conduct and the proposed Oxenhope Village Council Code of Conduct was based on this.

Resolved:

To approve the Oxenhope Village Council Code of Conduct.

59/22 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a) To authorise work to prune trees and shrubs on a patch of land on Waterside, at a cost of £200.
- b) To authorise the application for a grant of £500 from Oxenhope Juniors AFC, subject to bank details being provided.
- c) To authorise expenditure of up to £300 for work in Marsh Common to treat Japanese knotweed and possible felling of a tree to provide access to one of the culverts and address access issues.

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d) To authorise the following accounts for payment: -

Payee	Cheque No. / Online	Amount	Description
Impress Printers UK Ltd	Online	£120.00	Printing 6 copies of final version of Neighbourhood Development Plan
Oxenhope Methodist Church	Online	£45.00	Room hire March and April 2022
Mark Whitaker	Online	£75.83 £22.95 £98.78	Expenses Mileage Total
Oxenhope PCC	Online	£125.00	Outreach Magazine Spring 2022

60/22 Minor items and items for next agenda

Councillors were pleased to note that the Neighbourhood Development Plan was passed at the referendum held on 5th May. The Clerk was asked to include this on the agenda for the June Village Council meeting.

61/22 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Methodist Church on West Drive on Wednesday 8th June 2022 starting at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9 o'clock.

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