

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST 2022 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH,
WEST DRIVE, OXENHOPE, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr Ken Eastwood (Chair)
Cllr Kevin Allmond
Cllr Michelle Dawson
Cllr Debbie Harvie
Cllr Chris Pawson
Cllr Nick Pearce

In attendance: Worth Valley Ward Councillor Russell Brown
Worth Valley Ward Councillor Rebecca Poulsen
PC Tiffany Butler
PCSO Nola Moran
Mark Whitaker, Village Warden
3 members of the public

97/22 To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting
Apologies for absence have been received from Cllrs Goulding and Kindy, as well as Worth Valley Ward Councillor Chris Herd, Rev. Cat Thatcher, Ward Officer Alice Bentley and Deputy Ward Officer Sally Teasdale.

98/22 To consider the approval of reasons given for absence
The reasons for absence were approved.

99/22 Disclosures of Interest
None.

100/22 Applications for a Dispensation
None received.

101/22 Minutes of Meetings (previously circulated to Members)

- a) The minutes of Oxenhope Village Council's monthly meeting held on 13th July 2022 were confirmed as a true and correct record.
- b) There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- c) The August Outstanding Issues Report was noted. The Clerk reported she had been in touch with Bradford Council about the Community Asset Transfer of the toilet buildings. She was told they are once again considering using the disposal route, but written confirmation has not yet been received. Once information is received, the Clerk was asked to update Cllr Poulsen, as it is now nearly three years since the original application was made to Bradford Council.

Cllr Herd has informed the Clerk that he is due to meet Bradford Council Highways next week (week commencing 15th August) to discuss Shaw Lane, as well as Mill Lane and Station Road.

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102/22 Public Question Time

A member of public updated Councillors on the Oxenhope Climate Change Action Group. They will achieve their aim of planting 400 trees in the area. Planting will take place from the autumn, with local Scouts helping.

They are planning to send a leaflet to every house in Oxenhope asking people to sign a climate action pledge. The leaflet will cost £120 and it was requested the Village Council provide funding. The Clerk was asked to include this on the next agenda for formal consideration but Councillors indicated they would wish to support the Group.

Cllr Harvie asked if the leaflet was printed on recycled paper. She was told that unfortunately that was not possible, but the paper has come from a sustainable source.

The Group are also working on a project involving low energy cooking, to also help with energy bills. They are working with the Worth Valley Food Bank to produce a cookbook showing how to use low energy cooking techniques.

103/22 Guest Speakers

a) Worth Valley Ward Councillors

Cllr Brown reported a bid has been made to the Institute of Physics for a project on turbines. Cllr Eastwood said there have been early stage discussions about harnessing water power in Oxenhope, with the possibility of utilising reservoir overflows and the drop in levels where Leeming Water passes under Station Road, for micro generation schemes.

Cllr Poulsen confirmed that Cllr Herd is due to meet with Highways next week. She commented that the village was not built for cars. Cllr Eastwood said a resident had contacted the Village Council raising concerns about speeding and noise from vehicles and asking about enforcement of the 20 mph speed limit.

PC Butler said the 20 mph speed limit was not enforceable. She was told the roads that were of greatest concern were Denholme Road, Hebden Bridge Road, Station Road and Shaw Lane, with the worse times being rush hours.

PCSO Moran said the information was very useful and will feed into a schedule of areas she will patrol in the village. She said she lives in the village and is aware of the issues raised.

Members also discussed the road improvement works between the village and Hebden Bridge which had made the road even faster in places. There have been a several fatal accidents along this road, clearly speed related.

PC Butler promised to feed back concerns to the Police Officer in overall charge of roads in the area.

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A member of the public who has moved to the area commented on how shocked they were at the driving in the area. They also reported that drug dealing was taking place in the Waggon and Horses car park at night. It was also reported that Muffin Corner and the Heights Lane layby are also allegedly used for drug dealing.

It was stressed that it is important to report all such concerns to the Police, as it helps them to build up intelligence which will feed into allocation of their resources.

Cllr Poulsen said she was still chasing for repairs to the tennis court fence. She also reported that the yellow bin on Moorhouse Lane has disappeared. She is hoping that a new bin will be installed shortly.

She said that planning enforcement were dealing with a carport, which did not have planning permission. There may also be a new access being built at the same property.

Cllr Eastwood asked if an appeal had been made against the refusal of planning permission for the unlawful Baby Barn farm development on Hebden Bridge Road. If no appeal had been made, he asked if enforcement action could be progressed as the development was a blatant infringement of the Green Belt. Vehicles stopping by the site and goats regularly escaping were causing a serious hazard to road users, on a stretch of road where there have been fatalities (as discussed earlier in the meeting). Cllr Poulsen agreed to follow this up.

b) **Police**

PC Butler provided the crime statistics for the whole of the Worth Valley for the last six week period. She said the statistics for the whole Worth Valley sounded high. However, she pointed out that if an allegation is made, this is recorded as a crime.

Cllr Eastwood asked if it was possible to get Oxenhope specific figures. He mentioned the fear of crime and how this can escalate on social media. She agreed to provide the statistics for Oxenhope.

Cllrs then asked about Operation Steerside. Cllr Pawson mentioned noisy quad bikes using a nearby field, while Cllr Eastwood said on Sunday afternoons quad bikes were frequently seen speeding through the village, with riders often shouting obscenities.

PC Butler said she was not aware of any recent theft of quad bikes in the area. She said they were looking to support the Farm Watch Initiatives. Cllr Harvie stated she was aware of a recent quad bike theft. Councillors voiced support for further Farm Watch activity.

Councillors mentioned that the Police may find the Fields of Vision Rural Intelligence Whatsapp group and Facebook page a useful intelligence resource. PC Butler said she will look at linking with them but expressed mild concern as similar groups have had a vigilante element.

A member of the public asked about trespass issues if going to rescue a lamb. If an animal is stuck in a conduit or injured, it was suggested the best approach would be to contact the Oxenhope Online Facebook page, who will then attempt contact the farmer.

The Clerk was asked to contact Yorkshire Water to ask about ramps being installed in conduits as the issue of trapped livestock was frequently occurring.

Cllr Eastwood thanked PC Butler and PCSO Moran for attending the meeting.

104/22 Planning Applications

Resolved:

- a) **22/03310/HOU** Installation of a 18 x 375 W panel solar PV array, adjacent to the riding arena at Upper Royd House Farm, Black Moor Road, Oxenhope BD22 9ST.

Oxenhope Village Council supports this planning application.

- b) **22/03381/HOU** Single storey rear extension at Whitehill Cottage, Sawood Lane, Oxenhope BD22 9SP.

Oxenhope Village Council has no objection to this planning application.

105/22 Safety Inspection Reports

The safety inspection reports for the allotments, Horseshoe Dam and Rose Garden were noted.

The Clerk reported that one allotment was due to become vacant and was being offered to the person at the top of the waiting list. There are currently 19 people on the waiting list.

The Warden said the dandelion sculpture in the Horseshoe Dam needs new fronds. It was suggested these would be better in metal. The Warden was asked to look into this.

Cllr Pierce said the recently installed plaques have sharp corners. The Warden was asked to see what can be done to make them less sharp.

The pedestrian gate at Marsh Common has been removed for safety. A new two-way gate, which will allow mobility scooter access, will be ordered.

The Warden said the new sign has been put up at the allotments. He said a warning sign was needed at the Horseshoe Dam. He agreed to liaise with the Clerk about the wording of this and then get in touch with Cllr Eastwood re. design work.

106/22 Warden's Report

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The Warden's Report was noted. The Warden reported there will be a volunteer event the Horseshoe Dam on Saturday 20th August between 10.30 and 12.30. The main aim is to clear the Himalayan balsam.

107/22 Correspondence

Resolved:

- a) Email from Northern Gas Networks inviting to Northern Gas Networks' online stakeholder conference: 8th September 2022. Noted.
- b) Consultation from National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on short term holiday lets. Noted. Cllr Pierce to check and see if response is needed.
- c) Email from resident about Parish Poll in Keighley Town Council area. Noted. Cllr Eastwood said Keighley Town Council had organised a local poll, which had cost in the region of £40k. The poll showed support for a new medical centre, but not on the site in the centre of Keighley. The poll was in favour of keeping this as a public open space.

Unfortunately, Oxenhope residents had not been consulted even though they would be likely to use any new medical facility. He said he shared the resident's concern, but the poll has already taken place.

- d) Email from Peter Howarth, Circuit Steward, on behalf of Oxenhope Methodist Church about works in Lowertown Burial Ground. Noted. Cllr Eastwood said he was pleased at the response to concerns raised by the Village Council.
- e) Email from Alice Bentley, Ward Officer, Bradford Council about Community Governance Review. Noted. Oxenhope Village Council has no views on this review.
- f) Email from resident about village traffic. Noted. These issues were discussed earlier in the meeting. The Clerk was asked to reply to the resident.

108/22 Play in the Park

Cllr Dawson had attended the first Play in the Park event and reported it had been well received, with most of the attendees being Oxenhope residents. She raised the issue of the two events being held on week commencing 15th August.

There will be a "free" event on Monday 15th with a further event paid for by OVC on 17th August. As the events were only on for three weeks in the summer holidays, Cllr Dawson said it would have been much better if they had been spread out. The Clerk was asked to contact Bradford Council and ask for a response.

109/22 Climate Change (Standing agenda item)

There have been two power outages lasting over 24 hours in the last few months. There was particular concern about the impact on vulnerable people in the village, including patients at Manorlands. There was also concern about the poor communication from Northern Powergrid about when power was

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likely to be restored. Councillors queried whether Northern Powergrid had sufficient resources in place to properly respond to such incidents, which are likely to increase with climate change. The Clerk was asked to contact Northern Powergrid and ask for a response to these concerns.

110/22 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a) The annual statement for the Prudential Investment Bond was noted. The initial investment was £20,000 and the current valuation is £24,796.07.
- b) To authorise expenditure of £1,127 to install a defibrillator in Lowertown and to decide on the preferred location (agreed to be by the Best Lane bus stop if possible).
- c) To authorise expenditure of £550 (estimated amount) for the replacement of plastic junction boxes and some of the cable glands in the Rose Garden (Christmas lights).
- d) To authorise the following accounts for payment: -

Payee	Payment method	Amount	Description
Bradford Council	Online	£3,600.00	Contribution to staffing at Youth Club £120 per session for 25 sessions to March 2022 (plus VAT)
Janet Foster	Online	£160.86	Expenses July 2022
Steve Thorpe	Online	£172.80 £356.40 £432.00 £961.20	Plants for planters Watering village planters Grass cutting Rose Garden April, May and June 2022 Total
Colin Moses	Online	£130.00	Hedge trimming – Mallard View

111/22 Trial Balance

Noted.

Heading	Budget	Spend to date	Budget remaining currently	Projected Year End Shortfall (-) / Surplus (+)	Notes
	£	£	£	£	
Expenditure					
Salaries	19,800	7,334	12,466	0	
Village Warden (Equipment)	1,000	333	667	0	
Clerk's home working allowance	300	100	200	0	
Stationery and Printing	500	117	383	0	
Mobile Phone	200	75	125	0	

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Postages	320	46	274	0	
Travel and Subsistence (Staff)	200	45	155	0	
Internal and external audits	500	185	315	115	
Subscriptions	950	737	213	0	
Room Hire	260	85	175	0	
Insurance	545	545	0	0	
Training	400	0	400	0	
Marketing	500	0	500	0	
Outreach	400	125	275	25	
Christmas Lights	5,000	0	5,000	2,840	1
Youth Club	4,800	0	4,800	-2,600	2
Neighbourhood Development Plan	500	118	382	382	
Website	900	499	401	0	
Contingency Fund	500	252	248	0	
Community Initiative Fund	1,000	1,000	0	0	
Maintenance of Village Council Assets	15,000	3,115	11,885	0	3
Toilets - Community Asset Transfer	5,000	0	5,000	0	
Sculpture Trail	1,000	920	80	0	
Allotments	500	199	301	0	
Book - Publishing and other costs	100	0	100	0	
Bank Charges	0	18	-18	-72	
Defibrillators	500	0	500	0	
Summer Play Scheme	3,600	0	3,600	0	
Section 137 Expenditure	0	0	0	0	
Millennium Green	0	2,000	-2,000	-2,000	
Refurbishment of Leeming phone kiosk	500	0	500	0	
Total Expenditure	64,775	17,850	46,925	-1,312	
				Year end Shortfall (-) / Surplus (+)	
Income	Budget	Income to date			
Reduction In reserves	25,570	0	-25,570	0	
Precept	36,645	36,645	0	0	
Allotment Grant	310	313	3	3	
Allotment rents	450	0	-450	0	
Book Sales	0	65	65	0	
VAT refund	1,800	2,538	738	738	
Total Income	64,775	39,562	-25,213	742	

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Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)					-571

Notes:

1. Saving on Christmas lights budget as not planning to purchase any new motifs this year.
2. Invoice to be paid this month relates to 2021/22 expenditure. Budget may be overspent when received invoice for 2022/23.
3. Budget includes sum for shelter at Marsh Common.

112/22 Bank Reconciliation

Noted.

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per bank statements as at

01/08/22

Unity Trust - Current Account £57,878.59
 Unity Trust - Instant Access Account £0.00

£57,878.59

Net balances:

£57,878.59

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance 1 April 2022 £37,054.46
 Add: Receipts in the year £39,561.76
 Less: Payments in the year (incl. VAT) -£18,737.63

Closing balance per cash book:

£57,878.59

113/22 Minor items and items for next agenda

Cllr Pawson asked if the information about sources of help with the cost of living had been published. Cllr Eastwood agreed to check on this.

Cllr Harvie asked about support for having a Costa coffee in the Co-op. She thought this would be popular. Councillors thought this would be a welcome addition and it was suggested that perhaps a Facebook poll could be organised on Oxenhope Online to provide some evidence to share with the Co-op.

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Cllr Harvie asked if Village Councillors would like a report from Mountain Rescue about rescues in the local area. Cllr Eastwood said he would welcome a presentation on the work of Mountain Rescue. Cllr Harvie agreed to provide contact details and the Clerk was asked to invite them to a future meeting.

114/22 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Methodist Church on West Drive on Wednesday 14th September 2022 starting at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.51 p.m.