



**Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
for Electors of the Village of Oxenhope
held on Wednesday 12th April 2023
at the Methodist Church, West Drive,
Oxenhope BD22 9LJ commencing at 7.15 p.m.**

Present: Cllr Ken Eastwood (Chair)
Cllr Kevin Allmond
Cllr Michelle Dawson

No members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence have been received from Cllrs Goulding, Harvie, Pawson and Pearce.

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 the past year.

I would particularly like to thank Michelle Dawson, Chris Pawson and Caroline Kindy who, sadly, have chosen to stand down as Councillors before the next term of office. Many thanks to you all and best wishes for the future.

I would also like to thank our Village Warden, Mark Whittaker, who has continued to have a positive impact around the village. Mark undertakes a wide range of activities, ranging from litter picking, cutting back vegetation, leaf clearing, checking assets and reporting blocked gullies and faulty street lighting to Bradford Council.

The Village Council organised our second Christmas lights switch on event, which was very well attended. Thank you to all involved, including Santa for his surprise visit. Given the popularity, I think this should now be considered an annual village event.

The Council has continued to actively pursue the protection and improvement of acquired assets within the village. Welcome

improvements have been made at the Horseshoe Dam, Marsh Common and the Rose Garden, with further works planned.

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. Further planters are due to be installed at the bottom of Cross Lane and on Marsh Lane, at the top of Moorhouse Lane.

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 far longer than we had hoped, but we will continue to pursue this possibility.

After a somewhat protracted technical challenge, we were pleased to recently install a further defibrillator in the village, with the new unit located by the bus shelter on Best Lane.

This means the Village Council now maintains five public access defibrillators, which are located at: -

- Phone kiosk at Leeming
- Lowertown, by bus shelter
- KVWR station, outside the Exhibition Shed
- Community Centre
- Phone kiosk on Marsh Lane

The defibrillators are checked regularly and are registered on 'The Circuit' website, which is the national database of defibrillators used by the Ambulance Service.

In an emergency to use a defibrillator, ring 999. The ambulance service would advise on the nearest defibrillator location and provide the code to unlock the cabinet. Instructions on how to use the defibrillator are given by spoken instruction and video on the defibrillator.

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.

The Council is keen to further explore how we can play our part in fighting climate change and we are working with and have provided

some support to the Oxenhope Climate Action Group and we would welcome suggestion from anyone in the village with regard to further actions we could take locally to address this important issue.

Fly tipping, whilst reduced somewhat, has continued to blight parts of Oxenhope and the Village Council has continued to work with Bradford Council and other partners on this issue. There have been a number of successful prosecution and enforcement outcomes, which are very welcome.

The Love Oxenhope community initiative has continued to respond to occasional calls for assistance, including recently repairing the Leeming Water bank in the Millennium Green, adjacent to the weir. Many thanks to the residents who have been involved and to those who volunteer at other times too. Anyone interested in getting involved can register on the Village Council website. There is no regular commitment and no obligation to help with every project – registering simply adds you to a distribution list to be notified when a volunteering event arises. I'm pleased to report we have just had our 50th sign-up.

The Village Council does not function in isolation and I should also acknowledge the support and help provided by Ward Members, the input from Ward Officer Alice Bentley and Assistant Ward Officer Sally Teasdale. Also, I would like to thank Headteacher Alice Jones and Reverend Cat Thatcher, for attending our meetings and providing updates.

3. **Public question time**
None.

4. **Village Council's draft accounts**
The draft accounts were noted.