

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY 2023 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WEST
DRIVE, OXENHOPE, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr Ken Eastwood (Chair)
Cllr Kevin Allmond
Cllr Neal Cameron
Cllr Nick Pearce

Worth Valley Ward Councillor Russell Brown
Worth Valley Ward Councillor Chris Herd
Worth Valley Ward Councillor Rebecca Poulsen
Helen Hartley, Oxenhope Straw Race Committee

In attendance: 8 members of the public

73/23 Election of Chair 2023/24

Cllr Ken Eastwood was elected as Chair for 2023/24.

74/22 Election of Vice Chair 2023/24

Cllr Robert Goulding was elected as Vice Chair for 2023/24.

75/23 To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting

Apologies for absence have been received from Cllrs Goulding and Harvie, and Mark Whitaker, Village Warden, and also from Rev. Cat Thatcher, Ward Officer Alice Bentley and Deputy Ward Officer Sally Teasdale.

76/23 To consider the approval of reasons given for absence

The reasons for absence were approved.

77/23 Disclosures of Interest

None.

78/23 Applications for a Dispensation

None received.

79/23 Minutes of Meetings (previously circulated to Members)

- a) The minutes of the Annual Village meeting and the Village Council's monthly meeting held on 12th April 2023 were confirmed as true and correct records.
- b) There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- c) The May Outstanding Issues Report was noted.

Cllr Eastwood said the Climate Action Group have asked about using one of the of toilet blocks. He said the Village Council have been pursuing a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) or an asset disposal, with Bradford Council over three years. The Clerk has prepared a timeline of communications. Cllr Eastwood suggested that the Council should perhaps consider submitting a formal complaint to Bradford Council about lack of meaningful progress.

Cllr Cameron suggested raising this as an issue with the Liaison Committee.

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Cllr Poulsen offered to follow up the matter and if necessary to raise the issue with the Assistant Director and the Strategic Director.

Cllr Herd asked about the planned use of the two toilet buildings. Cllr Eastwood said the plan was to bring one back into use as toilet. There are various ideas for the other building, including a pop up shop, storage for the Village Warden's equipment or use by the Climate Action group. Detailed plans cannot be drawn up until it is known when the transfer will be approved.

80/23 Public Question Time

One member of public started by thanking the Village Council for the work they have done over the past year.

They also thanked the Council for their support in getting a key to allow vehicle access to the Bowling Club for members with a disability.

They commented very favourably on the raised herb bed, which the Climate Action Group have built in the Rose Garden, but asked about having more flowers and roses. Cllr Eastwood said roses have been ordered and will be planted in the top bed.

Finally they mentioned on-going concerns about the fencing on the tennis court, which they stated is very unsightly and not fit for purpose. Cllr Poulsen said that Bradford Council have appointed a contractor and are waiting for them to undertake the work on the fencing.

81/23 Guest Speakers

a) **Worth Valley Ward Councillors**

Cllr Poulsen congratulated Village Councillors on being re-elected.

She stated that a retrospective planning application for the work at the water treatment works would be submitted shortly. Residents' concerns have been taken on board. It will then depend on whether planning permission is granted.

Cllr Brown said, as a member of Bradford Council's Planning Committee, he would need to leave before the planning applications were discussed.

He stated that there is funding available to spend in the Worth Valley on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) projects.

Cllr Herd reported that he is trying to organise a meeting with Highways about the state of Nab Water Lane. The edges of the road have been washed out, making it dangerous for cars.

He said there is an on-going issue with fly tipping on Nab Water Lane and he is trying to get more cameras to monitor vehicle movements in the area. There have been successful prosecutions for fly tipping. He has also asked the Ward Officer to contact Yorkshire Water about the fencing on Nab Water Lane.

The Area Committee meeting, which is due to take place in June or July, will consider the request to reduce the speed limit on Moorside and Shaw Lane. This will depend on the budget available.

Cllr Herd then mentioned the pigeon loft site at Hard Nese Lane. He has asked a planning officer to look into this as concerns have been expressed about developments on the site. Enforcement notices have been issued in the past.

The issue of speeding in the village is causing increasing concern and needs highlighting to the Police. There was a discussion on what options might be best to slow traffic down, without spoiling the village.

Cllr Herd said the City of Culture team are starting to recruit to key positions. Cllr Brown said they would also be promoting STEM subjects.

A member of the public raised queries about the outline planning application for the site on Cross Lane. Cllr Poulsen stated that in terms of pavement, the principle is that development should be within the site.

She also commented that the drainage investigations had been done in the summer, so there was no flow on the site. Bradford Council's Planning Department are asking for information on how the mill race will be dealt with, as there is currently no plan.

A member of the public commented that no tests have been undertaken to determine the course of the mill race. Cllr Eastwood stated it had been suggested it fed the Goit running across the Millennium Green. Concern was expressed that a document on this being considered as part of the application, was based on a conversation with a neighbour.

Another member of public commented about on going issues with flooding at the school and was concerned the development might make the situation worse.

Cllr Poulsen explained that the the outline planning application would go to Planning Panel for a decision and would not be decided by officers. Objectors will be able to attend the Panel and speak about their objections.

Cllr Eastwood said that the Village Council would want to attend the Planning Panel and voice their objections.

A member of the public asked if the Village Council could add to their objections already made on the planning website. They stated the developer keeps changing the plans and felt that there should be the opportunity to challenge these changes.

Cllr Eastwood undertook to speak to the Planning Officer concerned and make them aware of the resident's concerns.

b) **Helen Hartley, Straw Race Committee**

Helen started by explaining the Committee have undertaken a full review of the health and safety plan for the Straw Race. There are improved road closure plans, increased safety measures in the Bay Horse area and there will be “end of race measures” including a tractor and a sweeper, after which the roads will be re-opened. There are also simplified rules on having a full or half bale of straw.

These new measures, along with the increased cost of beer, explain why the entry price has had to be increased.

There are new members on the committee and they are working hard to increase the information about the Straw Race on social media. The Committee has developed links with the City of Culture and the Race will also be featured by Look North. The increased promotion should mean more money for the charities supported by the Straw Race.

She asked the Village Council to get in touch if any concerns were raised about the Race and said she would be very happy to report back to the Village Council after the 2023 event.

c) Other guest speakers
None.

82/23 Planning Applications

Resolved:

- a) **23/00671/FUL** Change of use of existing redundant barn to residential accommodation to form 2 bedroom accommodation as a retirement home / granny dwelling linked to Stones Top Farm at Stones Top Farm, Hebden Bridge Road, Oxenhope BD22 9QH.

While Oxenhope Village Council has no objection to this planning application as it stands, the Village Council is unable to comment until the South Pennine Moor SPA/Zone B mitigation survey and report has been submitted.

- b) **23/01279/LBC** Replacement of one late 20th Century bow window with sash windows; reinstatement of a mullion in a 17th Century window and replacement casements at 1 - 5 Upper Town Oxenhope BD22 9LL.

Oxenhope Village Council supports this planning application.

- c) **22/05026/FUL** Conversion of barn to three bedroom dwelling at Low Fold, Kennel Lane, Oxenhope BD22 9QY.

While Oxenhope Village Council has no objection to this planning application as it stands, the Village Council is unable to comment until the South Pennine Moor SPA/Zone B mitigation survey and report has been submitted.

83/23 Village Warden's Report

The Warden's Report was noted.

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84/23 Correspondence

Resolved:

- a) Email on behalf of Hazelbeck School about consultation on proposed increase in number of school places. Noted.
- b) Email from Laura Marsden, Bradford Council about briefing on Local Government Boundary Commission. Noted. Cllr Eastwood suggested looking at the information from the meeting once it is made available.
- c) Email with results of toad patrol in 2023.
Cllr Eastwood said the results of the toad patrol were very impressive. The Clerk was asked to thank the organisers for their work.

85/23 Appointments

Resolved:

To make the following appointments for 2023/24:

Allotments Lead Cllr Allmond
Rose Garden Lead Cllr Eastwood
Horseshoe Dam Lead plus Sculpture trail Cllr Pearce
Marsh Common Lead Cllr Goulding
Rights of Way Lead Cllr Cameron
Oxenhope School Representative As needed
YLCA Branch meeting representatives (two positions) Cllrs Eastwood and Cameron
Millennium Green Trustee Cllr Eastwood
Village Council Liaison representative (for meetings with Bradford Council) Cllrs Eastwood and Cameron
Oxenhope Community Association As needed
Staffing Committee Cllr Eastwood and Cllr Cameron
Emergency Planning Leads Cllrs Allmond and Harvie

86/23 Climate Change (Standing agenda item)

Cllr Eastwood said the Village Council has aspirations to do more in this area, mentioning the possible installation of electric charging points in the village, development of a green burial site, possibly jointly with Haworth, as well as research into small scale hydro schemes.

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The work undertaken by the Climate Action Group, using a grant from the Village Council, was favourably commented on.

87/23 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a) To authorise the removal of Chris Pawson from the list of authorised bank signatories. To appoint Cllr Cameron as an authorised signatory in addition to Councillors Allmond, Eastwood and Pearce.
- b) To authorise the three year insurance agreement with Zurich, at an annual cost of £460.24.
- c) To authorise the following accounts for payment: -

Payee	Cheque No. / Online	Amount	Description
Oxenhope Methodist Church	Online	£25.00	Room hire April 2023
Mark Whitaker	Online	£31.47	Expenses relating to new pedestrian gate to allotments
		£19.80	Mileage – February to May 2023
		£51.27	Total

88/23 Minor items and items for next agenda

The Clerk said one of the mature cherry trees in the Rose Garden has died. As it is in a conservation area she will submit a planning application to have it removed and will then look at purchasing a replacement cherry tree.

Cllr Herd asked if the Village Council has purchased a water pump for emergency use and was informed that they have.

89/23 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Methodist Church on West Drive on Wednesday 14th June 2023 starting at 7.30 p.m. Apologies in advance from Cllr Cameron.

90/23 Co-option to fill two Village Councillor vacancies

Three candidates applied to fill the two vacancies. The clerk read out a statement from one candidate who was unable to attend the meeting and the other two candidates both gave a short presentation to the meeting on why they wished to become Village Councillors.

Both candidates were asked if they had any questions for the Village Council and one asked what the Council was wanting from new Councillors. Cllr Eastwood replied they were looking for people who could offer different and complimentary skills and experiences.

Signed.....

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A member of the public then addressed the meeting providing information on plans for Pawson's mill. They explained that both the building and the access were no longer suitable for the business and they are looking to re-locate to a more suitable site. They are intending to submit a planning application for houses on the site of the mill and wanted to make the Village Council aware of this.

The initial plan is for 20 houses, made up of 12 town houses, 3 detached houses and 5 houses on the "bamboo field".

Cllr Eastwood suggested they contact Bradford Council's planning department to get pre-application advice on their initial plans.

The representative from Pawsons gave their contact details to the Clerk and said they would attend the next Village Council meeting to provide more information.

91/23 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved:

That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1(2)) during consideration of an item of a confidential nature.

92/23 Decision on Co-option

Following a discussion and a vote, Village Councillors decided to co-opt Joe Drury and Rachel Woodington onto the Village Council.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.