

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2023 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WEST
DRIVE, OXENHOPE, COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr Ken Eastwood (Chair)
Cllr Robert Goulding (Vice Chair)
Cllr Kevin Allmond
Cllr Joe Drury
Cllr Debbie Harvie
Cllr Nick Pearce

Worth Valley Ward Councillor Rebecca Poulsen
Rev. Cat Thatcher
Mark Whitaker, Village Warden
5 members of the public

93/23 To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting
Apologies for absence have been received from Cllrs Cameron and Woodington and also from Worth Valley Ward Cllrs Russell Brown and Chris Herd, Ward Officer Alice Bentley and Deputy Ward Officer Sally Teasdale.

94/23 To consider the approval of reasons given for absence
The reasons for absence were approved.

95/23 Disclosures of Interest
None.

96/23 Applications for a Dispensation
None received.

Cllr Eastwood proposed that the planning applications were moved up the agenda. This was agreed.

97/23 Planning Applications

Resolved:

a) **23/01380/FUL** Construction of 3 detached dwellings at land (402606 435016) West Shaw Lane, Oxenhope.

A member of the public provided background information on the planning application. A planning application for a single dwelling on the site had been approved, but had not gone ahead due to cost issues. It was more economic to build three houses on the same footprint.

Village Councillors discussed the proposal, stating they would rather see development in this area than on the Cross Lane site. It was preferable, in principle, to have three houses rather than one large house. This is more in line with the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), which favours small developments.

There was a query over parking spaces. The resident replied there were two parking space per house, which is the required number and one extra space.

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Oxenhope Village Council supports this planning application.

- b) **23/00841/FUL** Retrospective planning application for the installation of a Mecana solids capture unit with a 3-sided steel framed wood clad screen and a new 2m high engineered stone wall along the frontage of the extension area at Oxenhope Wastewater Treatment Works, Keighley Road, Oxenhope.

Residents stated they have had numerous meetings with Yorkshire Water over the past two years and said this planning application represents the best outcome they could get. With a two metre high wall, the building will be hidden. Although they ideally wanted a Dutch barn structure, cladding in wood would improve the appearance. Yorkshire Water had initially stated this would not be possible but had changed their mind.

Cllr Harvie, on behalf of the Village Council, thanked the residents for their efforts to sort this issue, which will benefit the whole village. The residents expressed their thanks to Cllr Poulsen and MP Robbie Moore for their support.

Oxenhope Village Council supports this planning application.

- c) **23/01900/HOU** Formation of attached annexe within existing garage, lifting of flat roof, alteration to lean to roof to west, infill extension and rear dormer window at 8 Crossfield Road, Oxenhope BD22 9SD.

Oxenhope Village Council has no objection to this planning application.

98/23 Minutes of Meetings (previously circulated to Members)

- a) The minutes of the Annual Village Council's meeting held on 17th May 2023 were confirmed as true and correct records.
b) There were no matters arising from the minutes.
c) The June Outstanding Issues Report was noted.

Cllr Poulsen said the request for a reduction in the speed limit on West Shaw Lane should be discussed at the Area Panel on 27th June, however the agenda will not be published until a week before the meeting. The decision on which of the proposed schemes are approved will depend both on priorities and budget considerations.

Cllr Poulsen also confirmed that the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the toilet buildings would be by disposal.

99/23 Public Question Time

Following the information at the May Village Council meeting about Pawson's plans to move out of the village and look at putting in a planning application for houses on the site, a resident made the following comments.

They pointed out that planning permission was refused in 2000 and would be contrary to numerous village plans. In the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), which was approved by referendum in May 2022, the site is identified as a non-designated heritage asset. The NDP states:

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“Support will be given to proposals that retain Pawson’s mill for non-residential uses. The Neighbourhood Plan encourages its continued use as a place for economic activity.

The particular significance of any Non-Designated Heritage Asset (including its setting), as listed below and identified on The Policies Map, will be taken into account when considering the impact of any development proposal on such an asset. Any conflict between the asset’s conservation and any aspect of the proposal should be avoided or minimised”.

They felt the proposed number of properties was too many for the site and would change the neighbourhood. They queried whether town houses were appropriate in a village context.

Access was a further concern and the local roads were unlikely to be adequate for the traffic, with up to 40 additional cars. This would be much more disruptive than the traffic currently using the mill and would extend over a greater part of the day.

The footpath is an important and much used route between Lower Town and Back Leeming. Also the green space is important, creating separation between elements of the village, an important characteristic of Oxenhope. The trees and wildlife in the area also need to be considered.

A further consideration is drainage and water courses in the area, some of which have unknown courses.

The resident finished by quoting from Reg Hindley, who wrote a book on the history of Oxenhope. His book has the following comment on Wadsworth Mill (Pawson’s):

“It is not strikingly attractive, but it is in a conservation area and in its setting its composite sequential structure is mildly picturesque and interesting with its workers cottages adjacent”

Cllr Eastwood thanked the resident for raising all the issues that would need to be considered if a planning application is submitted. The resident asked that the Village Council publicise the information if a development is proposed.

99/23 Guest Speakers

a) Worth Valley Ward Councillors

Cllr Poulsen said she had a meeting with the Head of Planning and Highways and raised the issue of planning enforcement. She stated many cases go on for several years. If the applicant appeals to the Planning Inspectorate, enforcement cannot start until after the appeal. There have been a number of such cases in the Oxenhope area.

Cllr Eastwood was concerned that the lack of enforcement sent a message to residents that planning rules were not being enforced. The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Department about the principle of enforcement.

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Cllr Poulsen ended by saying she had attended a very positive meeting about the Yorkshire Swim works project.

b) **Other guest speakers**

Rev. Cat Thatcher started by thanking the Village Council for the bench, which is in the church field next to the sculpture.

She said there is a musical event at the Church on Friday and in the summer a children's craft event is planned.

In the autumn she is hoping to have a confirmation event.

101/23 Safety Inspection Reports

The Safety Inspection Reports for the allotments, Rose Garden and Marsh Common were noted.

Cllr Allmond reported he has received complaints about the state of some of the allotments and he will be contacting the allotment holders concerned. There are also issues with the boundary fence.

The Village Warden reported that all the water tap posts are rotten. He is planning to replace them later on in the year. He will also look at the boundary between the first allotment and the garden area.

The quote for work on the paths in the Rose Garden has not been received and due to the amount of work needed, it may require a different contractor. Cllr Eastwood agreed to try and find the name of a contractor who would be able to undertake the work.

The Clerk stated that permission has been obtained to remove the dead cherry tree. A quote for this work will be brought to the next Village Council meeting.

Cllr Goulding reported that although the fencing on the left of Marsh Common and the wall on the right are not in good condition, there is no immediate work required. All the planned work in connection with the drainage and fence at the front of the Common has now been completed.

102/23 Village Warden's Report

The Warden's Report was noted. The Clerk reported that Bradford Council's Trees Officer had no objection to the removal of the ash tree at the bottom on Mallard View.

Resolved:

To obtain a quote for the removal of the ash tree on Village Council land at the bottom of Mallard View. The Warden was asked to inform the neighbouring property.

**103/23 Correspondence
Resolved:**

- a) Email from Rural Services Network (RSN) about RSN Community Service. Cllr Eastwood explained that Bradford Council used to be a member of the network but has now left. He stated the Village Council could have ten months free membership and then decide if they wanted to continue with paid membership.

Resolved:

To join the RSN Community Service.

- b) Email from Karen Lewis, Cultural Programmes and Grants Officer, Bradford Council about LiT 2023 Festival. Noted.
- c) Email from WHP Telecoms Ltd about wind turbines consultation. Noted.

104/23 Village Council ID Badges

Cllr Eastwood reported he had been invited at short notice to represent the Village Council at a recent royal visit. He was the only official person without an ID badge. He suggested that it would be useful for Village Councillors and staff to have ID badges to use for official events. Cllr Goulding said they would also be useful for emergency events.

Resolved:

To provide ID badges and lanyards for Councillors, the Clerk and Village Warden to be used in public meetings, civic events and the village fete etc. To authorise related expenditure estimated at £185 (plus VAT).

105/23 Climate Change (Standing agenda item)

Cllr Goulding said he will re-visit the natural burial project and report back at the July Village Council meeting.

Cllr Harvie reported that the Climate Action Group had done some bio-diversity work in the Pawson's Mill area and planted more trees in the paddock.

A resident reported there are an increasing number of beehives in the village.

106/23 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a) The internal audit report for 2022/23 and list of audit checks undertaken was noted.
- b) The Annual Internal Audit Report part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2022/23 was noted.
- c) Following a review of the effectiveness of internal controls, to authorise the Chair and Responsible Finance Officer to sign Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 of the AGAR.

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- d) Having considered and approved Section 2 Accounting Statements 2022/23 of the AGAR, to authorise the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 and authorise the Chair and Responsible Finance Officer to sign the 2022/23 return.
- e) It was noted that the payment to Zurich Insurance needed to be made before the start of the insurance policy (01/06/23) and the payment of £460.24 approved at the May Village Council meeting has been made.
- f) To authorise expenditure of up to £500 to advertise the Clerk vacancy.
- g) To authorise the following accounts for payment: -

Payee	Cheque No. / Online	Amount	Description
Steve Thorpe and sons Ltd	Online	£72.00	Rose Garden grass cutting in March
Bradford MDC	Online	£5,304.00	Youth Club 34 sessions @ £130 in 2022/23 (plus VAT)
Digital Nomads	Online	£556.67	Annual charge for emails plus hosting, support and maintenance
Mark Whitaker	Online	£68.15	Expenses – wood for allotment gate and petrol for brush cutter
D. Holmes	Online	£110.00	Fencing Marsh Common

107/23 Minor items and items for next agenda

Cllr Almond asked for an item on preparedness be included in the July Village Council agenda and approval for expenditure of approximately £2,500 for the printing of a preparedness booklet. He agreed to circulate the information on preparedness.

The Warden reported the planters have been installed at the bottom of Cross Lane and the top of Moorhouse Lane. The Clerk was asked to order signs for the planters, as well as signs to mark the route of the Sculpture Trail.

Cllr Eastwood reported he has spoken to the Planning Officer at Bradford Council about the outline planning application to build nine houses on Cross Lane. The planning application is due to go a Panel for a decision. This will probably be in early July.

The Planning Officer has said it is unlikely that the mill race would affect the Millennium Green.

Cllr Eastwood emphasised the importance of referring to the Neighbourhood Development Plan at the Panel meeting and, if the application is refused and goes to the Planning Inspectorate, also at the appeal.

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Cllr Eastwood then welcomed Cllr Drury to the meeting and apologised for not introducing him earlier.

The Clerk reported she has received an email asking for the path from Moorhouse Lane to Bents Lane to be strimmed to reduce the vegetation.

Both Village Councillors and the Warden stressed that clearing paths is the responsibility of Bradford Council. Particularly at this time of year the Warden receives lots of requests to help clear paths. Cllr Eastwood said the Warden should use his judgement as to whether it is a minor issue that he can clear, or whether he should contact Bradford Council to undertake the work.

108/23 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Methodist Church on West Drive on Wednesday 12th July 2023 starting at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.