

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024  
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WEST DRIVE, OXENHOPE, 7.30 PM**

**Present:** Cllr Ken Eastwood (Chair)  
Cllr Nick Pearce  
Cllr Debbie Harvie  
Cllr Rachel Woodington  
Cllr Ashwaan Joomun  
Cllr Adrian Farley  
Mark Whitaker (Warden)  
Jill Eastwood (Clerk & RFO)

**Also Present:** Worth Valley Ward Councillors Rebecca Poulson and Russell Brown.

**Minutes**

**349/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Robert Goulding and Neal Cameron, and Ward Cllr Chris Herd. The reasons given for absence were approved.

**350/24 Disclosures of Interest**

- a) No declarations of interest from councillors were received.
- b) No written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest were received.
- c) No requests for dispensation were received.

**351/24 Minutes of Meetings**

- a) The minutes of the Village Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record.
- b) The outstanding issues report was noted.

**352/24 Public Question Time**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**353/24 Guest Speakers**

- a) Worth Valley Ward Councillors
  - I. **Cllr Rebecca Poulson stated that: -**
    - i. **CCTV Water Lane**

The column for the camera to be installed on has been erected. Environment Enforcement to install camera once electrics have been connected. Funding has been in place for this to happen. Northern Power Grid now need a road closure which adds extra cost. Environment Enforcement are to apply for extra funding from Bradford Council. Awaiting approval. In the meantime Cllr Poulson to clarify costs. Cllr Eastwood suggested the Village Council would consider making a contribution if it proved necessary.
    - ii. **Heights Lane Fly Tipping**

Information was found which has been sent to the Fly Tipping Team. Unfortunately the registration plates on the vehicle involved had been cloned.
    - iii. **Litter Picking**

There is to be a litter picking event on 26<sup>th</sup> October at Penistone Hill.

- iv. **West Shaw Speed Limit**  
This is progressing and a proposed speed reduction scheme is out to consultation.
  - v. **Cricket Club Fun Day**  
This had been a successful event in the village.
  - vi. **Road Works and Road Closures in Oxenhope**
    1. Location at junction between Station Road and Yate Lane. Main Gas repairs. Company requested 3 weeks but it has been agreed with Network Resilience for 2 weeks. Closure will now commence on 28<sup>th</sup> October instead of 21<sup>st</sup> October. It is unknown whether the bus service will be affected.
    2. Once completed a section near the Lamb Inn will have road works, but traffic lights will be used to keep the road open.
  - vii. **Wall rebuild Keighley Road**  
HS2 money is being used to facilitate this rebuild. Concern was raised regarding the drainage, as a lot of water runs off the fields behind this wall causing flooding on the road.
  - viii. **City of Culture 2025**  
Oxenhope may feature as it is proposed to publicise some walks in the district. Cllr Poulson to find out who needs this information in the City of Culture Team.
- II. **Cllr Russell Brown stated that:-**
- i. **Sculptures**  
Oxenhope to have four sculptures installed as part of the City of Culture events but they may not be a permanent feature.
  - ii. **Walks**  
Cllr Brown commented that the City of Culture Team appear to be struggling to engage with local communities. Cllr Brown to keep the Village Council in mind if he comes across anything of relevance to Oxenhope.

#### **354/24 Safety Inspection Reports**

- a) The Allotments Safety Inspection Report was noted. Cllr Harvie commented that separate accesses need creating for plots that have been divided into two. Funding authorised for this to take place. Cllr Harvie to chase outstanding payments from allotment holders.
- b) The Rose Garden Safety Inspection Report was noted.

#### **355/24 Marsh Common – Maintenance and Improvements**

##### **Resolved:**

Discussion took place regarding the construction material to be used for the proposed shelter after receiving an offer of free stone from Cllr Goulding. Cllr Pearce to progress a plan. The Warden also suggested that the structure could have a natural roof. May also have access to a professional dry stone waller able to build the structure. Item to be placed on Outstanding Issues Report.

#### **356/24 Rose Garden – Maintenance and Improvements**

##### **Resolved:**

Expenditure approved for all items: -

- a) To renew damaged and faulty light strings and install in cherry trees. £1,502.
- b) To supply and install lights to the new Christmas tree. £872 (15 sets of multi colour lights suggested to create an attractive contrast to the warm white in the cherry trees).
- c) Supply and connect power supply to the new tree at the top of the Rose Garden and fix lighting supply box to wall. £350.
- d) To dig trench to 500mm to allow for sand under and around new armoured power cable. £440.
- e) To repair the power enclosure, providing a new timber frame and door. £120.

The Warden to contact the electrician and arrange the works. Cllr Eastwood stated that an application had been made to Bradford Council to remove the central bed of conifers, as previously agreed by Council.

**357/24 Village Warden's Report**

The Warden's report was noted.

**358/24 Correspondence**

**Resolved:**

- a) West Shaw Lane - The proposed changes to the speed limits in that location were discussed. Resolved to respond to Chris Herd from Bradford Council putting forward an option that Oxenhope Village Council believe better suited the Village concerns i.e. starting the 40mph section further along Moorside Lane, above the hamlet and Lee Lane and Marsh Lane cross roads.
- b) Bradford 2025 - Noted that funding is available for community led arts and culture projects as well as festivals.
- c) To note allocation from Bradford Council of £1,245.32 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to Oxenhope Village Council, from the development at the former Social Club. The Village Council is required to update Bradford on allocation of the funding in due course. Agreed this be used to partially offset expenditure on Christmas lights.

**359/24 Financial Matters**

**Resolved:**

- a) To authorise the following payments: -

Payee	Amount	Description
YORgreencic	220.00	Treatment for Mares Tail
NASLG	66.00	Allotment Society membership subscription
Steve Thorpe (3 invoices)	1,311.84	Mowing, weeding and planters
Colin Moses	450.00	Prune Rose Garden Cherry trees
Ken Eastwood	19.90	Mileage and expenses

- b) To note the balances and bank reconciliation reports.

**360/24 Minor items and items for next agenda**

- a) Cllr Eastwood reported back from a meeting that had taken place with Richard Hollinson, Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation, Bradford Council regarding planning matters and enforcement cases within the village area.
  - I. **Baby Born Farm**  
Planning Enforcement intend to progress the case. File currently with Legal Services.
  - II. **Caravans on Hebden Road**  
Bradford Council assured Cllr Eastwood that they are not being used for residential purposes. Unable to enforce the poly tunnel. If evidence comes to light that caravans are being used for a residential purpose it will be provided to Bradford Council for consideration. All members asked to make observations when passing the site.
  - III. **Highways Issues**  
A new contact for Head of Highways has been provided by Richard Hollinson. Cllr Eastwood to email a summary of issues raised and discussed with the Village Council and to copy Richard Hollinson.

- b) **Bradford Council / Local Council liaison meeting**  
Cllr Eastwood attended. Asset transfer was discussed and Cllr Eastwood raised the issues being experienced with regards to the transfer of the Shaw Lane Toilets. Neighbourhood Services Assistant Director, Noreen Akhtar, is to take this matter up on Oxenhope Village Council's behalf.
- c) **Windfarm Consultation Meeting (Calderdale)**  
Cllr Nick Pearce to attend.
- d) **Support / Information for vulnerable people**  
Cllr Rachel Woodington raised a concern regarding the lack of information available in one place for the vulnerable within the Village. Age UK and Modality no longer have capacity to provide this information or guidance. They can supply leaflets and packs for our use. Cllr Woodington to take the lead on pulling a pack together.
- e) **First Bus**  
Cllr Debbie Harvie mentioned a consultation re. bus services.
- f) **BRSK Broadband Services**  
Discussion took place. Some uncertainty about the technical solution being offered and whether it will differ to that available from other suppliers in due course. Members with an interest in the issue to make further enquiries.
- g) **Christmas Lights Switch on**  
Date agreed – 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Start time 6.00 pm switch on at 6.30 pm. Cllr Rachel Woodington stated there was an issue with the supply of hot water and cups last year. Agreed to purchase more flasks and cups. Cllr Woodington has arranged for the Oxenhope Primary School to sing some carols. All members requested to assist, if available.
- h) **Hard Naze Lane**  
Cllr Rachel Woodington stated that the track appears to be being made into a lane as there is a notice displayed. Cllr Eastwood summarised advice received from Bradford Council, indicating that no further action was necessary.

#### **361/24 Staffing Matter**

A staffing matter was considered under closed session. Cllr Harvie provided an update on recruitment to the Clerk & RFO position. Advice had been sought from the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA). Members discussed the recruitment process and unanimously agreed a way forward.

#### **Resolved:**

To progress recruitment to the vacancy, in line with advice provided.

#### **362/24 Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in the Methodist Church on West Drive on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024, starting at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.