

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024  
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WEST DRIVE, OXENHOPE, 7.30 PM**

**Present:** Cllr Ken Eastwood (Chair)  
Cllr Neal Cameron  
Cllr Debbie Harvie  
Mark Whitaker (Warden)  
Jill Eastwood (Clerk & RFO)

**Also Present:** Worth Valley Ward Councillors Chris Herd and Russell Brown

**Minutes**

**332/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ashwaan Joomun, Rachel Woodington, Robert Goulding and Nick Pearce, and Ward Cllr Rebecca Poulson. The reasons given for absence were approved.

**333/24 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.

**334/24 Minutes of Meetings**

- a) The minutes of the Village Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record.
- b) The outstanding issues report was noted.

**335/24 Public Question Time**

- a) A member of the public commented on how well the village fete had been organised. Also welcomed that the bunting had not been immediately removed as it brightened up the village over the Summer. The Chair thanked him for his comment, but noted that the Council had also received a complaint about the bunting being left up.  
The member of the public also commented on two boxes that were located in the Horseshoe Dam area. The Warden stated that they were bat boxes.  
The member of the public also commented about a meeting held regarding the Calderdale Wind Farm proposals and asked when villagers were going to be informed about the proposals. The Chair stated that until such time as a planning application was submitted, the Council's view was that further consultation was not required. Campaigners were actively raising awareness of the possibility of an application and the Village Council had hosted an informative presentation at the last meeting.
- b) A member of the public mentioned there would be a Climate Action Group meeting at the Community Centre on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024, between 2.00 and 4.30 pm.  
They also stated that there will be a special service at St. Mary's Church on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10.00 am, to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the Church.

**336/24 Guest Speakers**

- a) Worth Valley Ward Councillors
  - i. Cllr Chris Herd stated that:
    - i. The setts on Harry Lane are to be replaced.

- ii. That the fete was really good this year and suggested that maybe a charity auction could be introduced into the proceedings. At other events he has auctioned off such items as produce, baking, flowers etc.
  - iii. That he had also attended the latest presentation of the Wind Farm proposals and would be keeping an eye on developments.
  - iv. That fly tipping is as bad as ever. Found some near the Dog & Gun that had evidence of who it belonged to, which he had provided to Bradford Council.
  - v. That there would be a litter pick on Penistone Hill on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10.00 am. All welcome.
  - vi. Stones Lane track widening does not appear to be unlawful, but will keep an eye on it.
  - vii. There are a lot of dog poo bags left lying around. Some members of the public seem to think that if they are bio-degradable, they can be left in the country side. Unfortunately, they don't degrade for a significant amount of time and it also has to be the correct conditions i.e. in landfill or composting facilities. It was felt that this needed to be conveyed to the public in some way.
  - viii. EV charging points within the village were discussed and due to no known funding being available at this time, the Village Council will progress it's own scheme.
- II. Cllr Russell Brown stated that:-
- i. There is an advert currently out by Bradford Council for extra enforcement officers to help tidy the gateway routes for the City of Culture. Suggested that this may be a way to access resources to help with the fly tipping issue.
  - ii. He had also attended the latest Wind Farm meeting and pointed out that no final decision had been made as to the number of windmills to be proposed, if the scheme does advance to the planning stage.
  - iii. As regards speeding within in the village, he pointed out that the PCSO now has their own speed gun located at the contact point in Haworth. There is also moves to obtain a police vehicle for the area.
  - iv. The City of Culture launch will be happening tomorrow (Thursday) so should have more information shortly.

### **337/24 Planning Applications**

#### **Resolved:**

- a) **24/03073/FUL** - Formation of new vehicular access to land and closure of existing substandard access at The Yard, Shaw Lane, Oxenhope, BD22 9QR.

Oxenhope Village Council has no objection to this planning application.

- b) **24/03025/FUL** - Replacement of 3 camping yurts with 4 holiday pods, re-siting of 3 existing pods to be used for ancillary function space in association with the bar restaurant and reinstatement of 4 touring pitches and single storey extension to existing kitchen at Upwood Park, Black Moor Road, Oxenhope, BD22 9SS.

Oxenhope Village Council supports this planning application.

- c) **24/03151/HOU** - Removal of existing conservatory and shed; construction of single-storey rear extension at Merlot Cottage, 18 Hill House Lane, Oxenhope, BD22 9JH.

Oxenhope Village Council has no objection to this planning application.

### **338/24 Safety Inspection Reports**

- a) The Marsh Common Safety Inspection Report was noted.

- b) The Rose Garden Safety Inspection Report was noted.
- c) The Allotments Monthly Safety Inspection Report was noted. Cllr Debbie Harvie is looking at producing an allotments policy, to ensure that the plots are kept in a safe and presentable condition.

**339/24 Marsh Common – Maintenance and Improvements**

**Resolved:**

Cllr Neal Cameron to produce a report with costings outlining the proposal to provide a bird hide/picnic area for the next Village Council meeting (9<sup>th</sup> October 2024).

**340/24 Rose Garden – Maintenance and Improvements**

Noted that the paths are now in very good condition following the resurfacing works. The areas affected by Mares Tail have been treated and eradication is progressing well.

**Resolved:**

Approved Cherry tree trimming works to take place and once complete the Christmas lights will be re-installed.

Lights will not be replaced into the central conifer group of trees as these have grown too large and damaged the previous lighting installation. Suggestion to remove these trees completely, in line with Rose Garden improvement plans, but will have to check with planning if permission is required due to inclusion in the conversation area. If removed suggestion made to replace with a shrub bed, as an interim measure whilst long term options are considered. Possible improvements previously considered could include making a paved area and, or, a bandstand or similar facility.

Steve Thorp to be consulted on planting recommendations.

To ascertain if the 'new' tree is now mature enough to accommodate Christmas lights.

Climate Action Group to be contacted to see if they wish to take over more ground.

Cllr Neal Cameron enquired if improvement works could contribute to the Dementia Friendly project.

**341/24 Oxenhope Community Centre**

**Resolved:**

Until issues with ownership are resolved, the Village Council are unable to consider taking on board the governance of this building. Cllr Neal Cameron to make further enquiries into ownership, responsibilities and rent payment with Bradford Council.

**342/24 Council Improvement and Modernisation**

**Resolved:**

To adopt updated Financial Regulations.

**343/24 Village Warden's Report**

The Warden's report was noted.

**344/24 Correspondence**

**Resolved:**

- a) Information from Bradford Council's Energy Team regarding EV Charging funding was noted.
- b) Speeding on Marsh Lane was discussed and comments noted. To be progressed with officers at Bradford Council.
- c) Oxenhope Enclosures Act. Cllr Debbie Harvie to appraise herself of the contents and report back at a future meeting if required.
- d) Police Consultation information noted.

**345/24 Council Vacancy**

Two candidates were invited to introduce themselves and describe what they could bring to the Council.

**Resolved:**

To co-opt Adrian Farley onto the Council.

**346/24 Financial Matters****Resolved:**

a) To authorise the following payments: -

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
Sign & Design	76.80	Deep Water signs for Horseshoe Dam
Ken Eastwood	75.46	Steel and clamps for Horseshoe Dam signage
Bradford Council	1,100.00	Summer Play Scheme
Steve Thorpe	388.80	Mowing and Weeding Rose Garden

b) To note the balances and bank reconciliation reports.

**347/24 Minor items and items for next agenda**

None.

**348/24 Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in the Methodist Church on West Drive on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.