

MINUTES OF OSGATHORPE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT HARLEY HALL, OSGATHORPE AT 7.30PM TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024

Present:

Members:

Councillor A. Bate (Chair)
Councillors J. Elson (Vice Chair), S. Olsberg, A. Dodson.

Officer: M. Mitchell (Parish Clerk/RFO)

Members of the Public:

There was one member of the public present

140/23-24. Apologies.

An apology was received from Councillor J. Lowth. This was received and noted by the Parish Council.

141/23-24. Public participation (1).

Mr Marshall, who kindly looks after the village defibrillators provided an update on the defibrillator located at Harley Hall as the unit had ceased working. After testing the battery and having contacted the supplier the unit has reached the end of its serviceable life. The least expensive replacement unit would cost £834 inc. VAT to purchase. Consumables such as pads would need funding throughout the unit's life. There is also the option of renting a unit at £30 a month which would include maintenance and part replacements.

Councillor Bate thanked Mr Marshall for all of his efforts in trying to rectify the issue.

142/23-24. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

143/23-24. Requests for Dispensation.

There were no applications for dispensation.

144/23-24. Police.

There were no police present to provide a verbal update on police and crime in & around Osgathorpe.

145/23-24. Minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting.

On the motion of Councillor Elson, seconded by Councillor Dodson;

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 14th November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

146/23-24. Neighbourhood Watch.

No verbal update was provided regarding Neighbourhood Watch.

Financial Matters

147/23-24. Summary of Accounts.

The Clerk provided a verbal update on the accounts, explaining that the closing balance in the current account is £12,864 but this included the reserves for playground, general reserves and the UKSPF. Both accounts have now been closed and the monies transferred to the main current account.

Councillor Bate suggested it would be helpful to create additional tabs on the accounts spreadsheet to show monies spent and set aside for the playground and the reserve fund. All agreed this was a good suggestion and Councillor Bate said he would action this.

148/23-24. Revisions to bank accounts.

The Clerk provided a verbal update, explaining that there is now just one account left with HSBC and the process of transferring funds from this account to the new online bank account with Unity Trust could now commence. She explained that there was a service charge against the new current account for £2.35 so funds would need to be transferred imminently.

149/23-24. Cheques / Payments for approval.

On the motion of Councillor Dodson, seconded by Councillor Elson,

RESOLVED: that the following payments be made/approved;

Retrospective approval:

- a) Payment to Ian Stone £8.66 (Cheque no. 100851) for petrol for mowing of Orchard Close 'Play Area',
- b) Councillor training (Cllr Lowth) to LRALC Ltd - £50 (chq.100856),
- c) D Summers £56.22 (chq no.100852) for consumables – play area/cemetery 1/1/23 to 31/7/23, D Summers £66 (chq no.100855) for consumables – play area/cemetery 1/8/23 to 31/12/23.

New payments:

- a) Hire of Harley Hall on 9th January 2024- £25 (cheque no.100857). E. A Scotney
- b) Clerk's salary (chq no. 100862) & HMRC (chq no. 100863) – total £800.
- c) Transfer of funds from HSBC of £5,000 to Unity Trust Bank (100860)
- d) Mr N Sydenham for the event licence for 22nd December 2023 - £21 (100861)

150/23-24. Draft Budget for financial year 2024/25.

The draft budget was discussed. Councillor Bate explained that the draft budget does not include expenditure for replacing any defibrillator units. It was agreed to relocate the defibrillator unit currently located on Main Street to the Harley Hall and then consider the option of hiring a unit at the next meeting in March 2024.

During recent years the Parish Council's financial reserves have been depleted. It was recognised that this approach is no longer sustainable and good practice is for Parish Councils to hold a financial reserve to cover one year's budgeted expenditure. This position is budgeted to be achieved over a period of some years rather than in a single year,

On the motion of Councillor Bate, seconded by Councillor Elson;

RESOLVED: to approve the Parish Council's draft budget for the financial year 2024/25.

151/23-24. Draft Precept for financial year 2024/25.

On the motion of Councillor Bate, seconded by Councillor Elson;

RESOLVED: to approve the Parish Council's draft precept demand, which included a £3k increase to the financial reserves, for the financial year 2024/25. The total in the sum of £13,590.

152/23-25. General Correspondence Received.

Councillor Bate gave an update on the gift of bird boxes from CPC Civils who are carrying out work on behalf of Severn Trent. A photograph of villagers receiving their bird boxes had been taken which is to be uploaded onto the website

153/23-24. Planning Applications.

23/01322/FUL - Land Adjacent To 29 Main Street Osgathorpe - [Change of use of land to garden land \(retrospective\) and erection of garden shed to rear of dwellinghouse](#)

Councillor Bate explained that this application had generated much interest in the village. The owners have recently commissioned a topographic survey. The Environment Agency has advised NWLDC that no raising of the land should take place without a risk assessment on the likely impacts.

154/23-24. Planning Decisions.

There were no planning decision outcomes from NWLDC.

155/23-24. Updates on current planning applications.

Councillor Bate provided an update on 22/01611/FUL - [Erection of a custom-build dwelling, garage and associated works \(Revised Resubmission of application 21/02030/FUL\)](#)- The Warren, 6 Chapel Lane Osgathorpe. The owners have appealed the planning decision to refuse consent. The Parish Council has not submitted any further comments as the primary issue relates to the Planning Authority's Self-Build policy / register.

156/23-24. Cemetery.

The Parish Clerk provided an update on two recent interments – a body burial (December 2023) for Mrs Margaret Stock and an ashes interment for Mr Dean Bray (January 2024). She added that she would be contacting those who had verbally secured a plot (exclusive rights) to see if they still required this and to formally book the plot and obtain payment.

Councillor Dodson commented that the circular bench around the large conifer tree is damaged due to an expansion of the tree's trunk. Discussion arose around removing the tree as well as the general maintenance of the cemetery, for example where storm water collects at the entrance. It was agreed to carry these agenda items over to the next meeting in March.

157/23-24. Play Area

There were no issues with the play area, therefore no verbal update.

158/23-24. Highways & Footpaths

The Parish Clerk commented that she had requested a replacement street sign from NWLDC for Orchard Close.

The Parish Clerk provided a verbal update on correspondence she had received from the Highway Authority regarding the Parish Council's request for additional safety measures at the junction between Snarrows Road, Ashby Road and Gracedieu Lane. As a large tree had been cut back substantially near the junction it would seem that there are no apparent safety issues so the Highway Authority concluded that no further action was necessary.

Comment was made that a section of footpath on Main Street has leaf debris on it. It was suggested that the quickest means of clearing the leaf litter would be for volunteer residents to sweep the affected section of footpath. A post could be made via the village WhatsApp Group.

In his role of Village Flood Warden, Councillor Bate provided an update on the recent flooding issues on Breedon Lane and other areas in the village. He explained that the barrier opposite Woodside is damaged and that the County Council, as has been notified about this. He added that one of the residents off Meadow Lane had paid for the culvert under the lane and two properties to be cleaned. Councillor Bate commented that there are sections on Main Street where the main sewer appears to be leaking. This will be raised with Severn Trent Water and the Lead Local Flood Authority.

159/23-24. Village Voice.

It was agreed that it would be helpful if an issue of the Village Voice can be published in March. Councillor Olsberg said he would coordinate this.

160/23-24. UK-SPF Community Grant.

Councillor Bate provided a verbal update on the grant, explaining that £63 had been spent to date. As soon as the new bank account has sufficient funds in it the major purchases agreed can start to be made.

161/23-24. Harley Trust.

Councillor Dodson provided a verbal update, explaining that he had now taken on the position as the Parish Council (Trustee) representative. The Harley Trust has confirmed that it is considering selling of its land and buildings. There is thus a question mark over the future of the Harley Hall as a village asset.

162/23-24. Storey Arms.

Councillor Bate provided a verbal update, explaining that, on behalf of the Parish Council, he had submitted an application for an ACV (Asset of Community Value) at the beginning of December. The Parish Council is now waiting for NWLDC to determine this application.

163/23-24. Defibrillators.

It was agreed to defer further discussions around the number of defibrillators within the village until the March Parish Council meeting. With regards to potential defib training it was agreed that June or July would be better months to carry this out, but a date would be agreed at March's meeting.

164/23-24. Flood Risks

Councillor Bate had already covered various flooding issues in agenda item 158. 'Highway Issues'. He added that sections of; Breedon Lane, Dawsons Road, Meadow Lane and Main Street had recently been subject to flooding. However, as other parts of the County had been more seriously impacted than Osgathorpe the village is unlikely to be considered a priority by the County Council.

165/23-24. Risk Assessments.

Councillor Bate agreed to annotate and provide feedback on both the:

- a) General risk assessment and management document and;
- b) Ride on mower risk assessment.

The Parish Clerk commented that she could not find a copy of a risk assessment for the Thomas Harley play area. It was suggested that she contact Jill Ella, one of the previous Parish Councillors, to ascertain whether she had a copy of this. If not, a risk assessment for the play area would be created.

On a separate note, Councillor Elson agreed to ask Nick Ashman if he would be prepared to service the ride on mower.

166/23-24. Public participation (2).

A member of the public commented that he had managed to obtain the paperwork relating to the Parish Council's defibrillators and would pass this onto the Parish Council.

The village 'Social Committee' has advised that it is planning an 'Open Gardens' event on the 1st and 2nd June. The Parish Council has been asked if it can liaise with the County Council, as Highways Authority' to cut the village's verges in late May 2024.

167/23-24. Action log.

The Action Log was reviewed and updated.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed by Chair:

Date:

Date of next meeting: 12th March, 7.30pm, Harley Hall