

MINUTES OF OSGATHORPE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT HARLEY HALL, OSGATHORPE AT 7.30PM TUESDAY 15TH MAY 2024

These minutes remain DRAFT until signed by the Chairman.

Present:

Chair: Councillor A. Bate (Chair)

Officer: M. Mitchell (Parish Clerk/RFO)

Members: Councillors J. Elson, S. Olsberg, A. Dodson, J Lowth.

Electors: There were no electors present at the meeting.

1. Welcome - Introduction by the Parish Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Explanation of a Parish Meeting – Parish Clerk.

The Parish Clerk provided an overview of the Annual Parish Meeting, explaining that the Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of electors and is detailed in the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, Part III (14-22).

What is the Annual Parish Meeting?

The Annual Parish Meeting can be an opportunity for electors and members of the community to come together to celebrate everything going on in the parish.

It's a chance to receive reports from organisations active in the community, including the parish council and other representatives, on what they have done over the previous twelve months and what their plans are for the next year. It can also be an opportunity to bring in speakers and presentations on topics of interest to residents, to ask questions and involve all members of the community.

When?

Your Annual Parish Meeting is held at any time between the 1st March and 1st June each year as detailed in the Local Government Act 1972 s12 (14)(1).

The date and time are decided in advance by the Parish Council. The meeting cannot start before 6pm.

Who calls the meeting?

An Annual Parish Meeting can be called by

- The chairman of the parish council
- Any two parish councillors
- Any six local government electors of the parish.
- During this meeting, all parish councillors are electors of the parish, like everyone else.

3. Presentation of Parish Council activities during 2023/2024 – Parish Chairman.

The Chairman provided an overview of parish Council activities undertaken during 2023/24

Procedural

- Started the year with no Parish Clerk as Sian had tendered her resignation just prior to last year's council election.
- Five councillors were elected by the village. Two of these resigned before taking up their positions. This left Cllr's Elson, Olsberg and Bate as the parishes elected Councillors. The Council

was only just quorate as a minimum of 3 councillors are required at each meeting. It was imperative that the two vacancies be filled. We needed to go through the formal process of asking residents if they wished there to be an election for the two vacancies. By early July, Andrew and James joined as co-opted councillors.

- A new Parish Clerk was recruited following an advert placed in the weekly LRALC news-letter and interview process.
- The public participation element of Parish Council meetings has been revised to facilitate improved public engagement.
- Procedures and policies have been reviewed and/or revised & new ones adopted during the year.
- Information contained on the Parish Council website is regularly updated.
- Parish Council meetings now commence at 7.30pm in an attempt to make them more accessible especially to residents who work.

Finance

Opening Balance

Current Account balance of	£601.95
Reserve Account balance of	£2,514.31
Account balance of	<u>£6,072.70</u>
Total	£9,188.96

Closing Balance

Current Account	£1,863	not including £247 of unexpended UK-SPF grant
Savings Account	<u>£4,010</u>	
Total	£5,873	

Expenditure in excess of income (£3,316) Mostly arisen from unbudgeted Parish Clerk costs, but an unpaid cemetery related invoice for £675 has not assisted us getting closer to a balanced budget.

Banking

- Identified how to access the Council's 'Reserve' Account. This was actually a savings account held with HSBC.
- Started the year by only having an ability to make payments by cheque. This was causing administrative issues and was inefficient. We have therefore opened electronic banking accounts with Unity Trust bank and closed our HSBC accounts.
- The Council now holds its money in one of two accounts, a current account, which is used to hold money that will be required in the 'short-term'. Financial reserves and funds not required in the short-term are held in an interest bearing account, which currently pays 2.75% pa.

'Internal' Audit undertaken by LRALC & Play Area Safety Inspection by Wickstead

- All matters identified in both of these were addressed during the year.

Planning Application Consultations

- The Parish Council has responded to NWLDC in relation to all planning applications submitted in the Parish. Two have been of particular note, The Storey Arms, change of use application and 29 Main St.

Village Events

- During the May 2023 Parish Council meeting it was agreed that we wished to see more village events. The Council has assisted this by securing a £3,125UK-SPF grant for the purchase of event related equipment and activities, e.g. 2 gazebos, a PA system and a 2.2Kw petrol generator.
- A village meeting was held last autumn jointly with the Church.

Public Highways

- At public request we have worked to establish a public footpath group aligned with the Council.
- We are exploring how to improve footpath links between areas of the village.
- We successfully lobbied LCC to undertake safety works to the road surface on Meadow Lane and Breedon Lane.
- We have successfully worked with LCC to ensure gulleys and drains in the village have been thoroughly cleansed and become fully functional.
- We have 'worked with' Severn Trent Water to ensure lorries servicing its pipeline project do not access the works through the village centre.
- We have ensured STW has made footpath crossings over its pipeline works are dog friendly.

Broadband

- We have continued lobbying and liaising with Leicestershire County Council with the objective of securing the introduction of Fibre to the Premises broadband into the village ASAP.

Storey Arms

- We have engaged with the owner and OCPL in attempts to secure the future of the Storey Arms as a public House.
- In December we successfully applied for the Storey Arms to be registered again as an Asset of Community Value.
- We are monitoring the Local Planning Authority's enforcement action.

Village Voice

- Following the resignation of Mark Robinson, Kevin Legg kindly offered to edit the Village Voice. Two editions have been published during the past year. A decision was taken to make this more community focussed and less led by the Parish Council.

Harley Trust

- The Parish Council has a nominated representative on the Harley Trust to ensure the village / residents are not inadvertently overlooked.

Flood Risk

- Extensive work has been undertaken since last October to identify and address and issues which increase flood risk. The Parish Council has been liaising (lobbying) with LCC (Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority) and STW with the objective of ensuring the proper maintenance of drainage and sewerage systems.

Cemetery

- The good work of former Cll'r Fairlamb has been continued. Most regrettably a Funeral Director has still not settled an invoice for £675, which has now been outstanding since 29th January.
- Access and environmental improvement works to the cemetery are being investigated.

Severn Trent Water

- We have established personal points of contact with STW, which are proving most helpful. CPC Civils, the STW pipeline contractor kindly provided a number of bird boxes to villager

4. Questions/comments from electors in relation to the running of the parish.

There were no question or comments from electors as none were present.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:39pm, with the Annual parish Council meeting following straight after.