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| **ODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2015** |

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| Present: Cllr S Watkin - Chairman  Cllr A Every - Vice Chairman  Cllr A Cox  Cllr P Davis  Cllr M Green  Cllr J Sawyer |
| Apologies: Cllr A Betts  CDC Cllr J Beale |
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**42. Minutes of the Meeting** held on 29 October, copies of which had been previously circulated, where agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that 5 Villager buses had been vandalised rather than 3 as stated in the Minutes.

**43. Matters arising from the Minutes.**  Cllr Cox said he would chase the contractor about the cutting of the bank in Upper Oddington. Highways had said that ’20 is Plenty’ signs were being trialled in Broadwell in the first instance. They had promised to cut back vegetation along the main road. The cost of gates at the entry to the village would be between £2,000 and £5,000, half of this to be funded by the Parish Council. It was decided not to pursue this idea. The traffic lights on the Fosse Way had been to restrict vehicles on a damaged bridge.

44**. Declarations of Interest**. There were none.

45**. Adjournment for public to raise issues**. A member of the public thanked the Editor for all her work on the village newsletter and asked if Oddington Parish Council news could be included. It was explained the space is an issue.

Simon Taylor, a planning consultant, spoke on the Banks Farm planning application. In objecting to the application he said there was a presumption against new development in villages such as Oddington. He also mentioned the adverse impact on the conservation area and the need for new development to be sustainable. It was also mentioned that the applicant had received planning advice from CDC which he had not followed.

46. **Planning Application – 15/04464/FUL Banks Farm Demolition of barn and erection of dwelling.** It was noted that a number of residents had submitted objections to this planning application.In discussion, Councillors noted that there had been two new dwellings built in the conservation area in recent years and that a large number of existing buildings had been extended. The proposed new dwelling was just outside the conservation area and was more in keeping than the two new buildings between Upper and Lower Oddington. It was felt that there was a need for a number of smaller, and relatively cheaper, dwellings in the village. The Council noted concerns that the applicant might not have followed informal planning advice in the alignment of the new dwelling. The Council Resolved to object to the planning application and to make the following comment:

‘The Council has concerns about the height of the proposed dwelling and would ask that the applicant consider reducing the ridge height to minimise the impact on neighbouring properties. The alignment of the new dwelling should be as suggested by the CDC planners in pre-application discussions to ensure that the new dwelling forms part of a harmonious group with the two existing barn conversion.’

Cllr Davis left the meeting at this point.

**47. Financial Issues**.

1. **Budget and Precept 2016/17**. Councillors received a report from the Clerk forecast expenditure to the end of the financial year and a draft budget for 2016/17. It was noted that there was a substantial reserve which would be used to fund village projects and that other expenditure could be contained within budget. It was therefore RESOLVED to leave the precept unchanged at £6,385.
2. **Risk Management**. Councillors received a report from the Clerk setting out details of the measures in place to reduce risk across a number of areas. It was agreed that the measures and checks in place were commensurate with the expenditure and assets involved.
3. **Bank Mandate**. It was Resolved that Cllrs Betts, Davis and Sawyer be appointed as signatories on the two HSBC accounts.
4. **Accounts for payment**. The Council RESOLVED to pay the following accounts

Oddington VH cq 183 £10

M Penfold cq 184 grass cutting £155

J Eustace cq 185 salary £166.74

J Eustace cq 186 website £11.99

**48. Purchase of Audio Visual Equipment**

The Chairman reported that following discussion at the previous meeting she had obtained quotations for the purchase of Audio Visual equipment from APi Communications Ltd and from TVHIFI-Microtec Ltd. The first company mentioned carried out the installation in Holy Ascension Church and the second company works for CDC and was recommended by them. The quotation from TVHIFI was considerably cheaper coming in at £4431 inclusive of VAT of £738.50 compared with £6517.20 from APi communications.

It was agreed that such equipment would increasingly be of use the Council as more business was being conducted on line. The equipment would be installed in the Village Hall and would be available to the Village Hall Committee and hirers provided they had received training. The equipment would be listed on the Parish Council’s register of assets and insured by the PC. There was sufficient in the reserve to fund the purchase of this equipment and this was felt to be a good use of funds generated by the fete. It was Resolved to purchase the equipment from TVHIFI at a cost of £4431 inclusive of VAT and installation.

**49. Village Amenities and Facilities.** It was noted that the footpath between Holy Ascension Church and Kitsbury Cottage had been blocked by the construction of a new paddock. The Clerk said she had raised this with GCC.

**50.** **Planning**. 15/04999/FUL Sandles Cottage. Construction of an oak garage. The Council had no objections to this application provided the neighbours were content.

**51**. **Date of next meeting.** 25 February at 7 pm**.**

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

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Chairman

25 February 2016