**MINUTES OF THE ODDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

**HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**ON 18 MAY 2023 AT 7PM**

Present: Cllr David Thorpe (Chairman), Janet Eustace (Clerk), CDC Cllr Cunningham, three representatives from Daylesford (James Roberts, Lisa Parry and John Westerman) and thirty six members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Village meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2022 were agreed and signed.

 **Reports**

1. **Report from Oddington Parish Council**

Cllr David Thorpe reported on activities since the last meeting. He said that the growing popularity of the area is impacting residents’ way of life – parking, speeding, the growth of holiday lets, construction and development sites in the village are all taking their toll. The Parish Council would continue to try to strike a balance between the pressures for change and the village way of life.

The Fox parking continued to dominate in Lower Oddington. The Council had explored many options. It continued to engage with Daylesford and had indicated that, subject to conditions and detailed plans, it would support a car park opposite Oddington Lodge.

He thanked all those involved in the Coronation Celebrations and in the installation of the new slide. The Council had been actively involved with planning applications for Banks Barn, Latimer Farm, Berrybank and many more.

He thanked the Village Hall Committee for the activities they arrange and those involved in the Spring Litter Pick, the volunteers who work to keep the village tidy and to Mark Penfold who maintains the verges.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the County and District Councillors, his fellow Parish Councillors and the Clerk who have helped him over the year.

1. **Report from Gloucestershire County Council**

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington had sent his apologies as he was at another meeting. His report was tabled.

The Chairman said that he would ask Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington to take up three issues on behalf of the village:

* the relocation of the gigaclear box
* the subsidence on the bridge at Adlestrop and
* speeding on the A436

The Chairman said he would contact the Cabinet Member for Highways at GCC about the creation of a master plan for dealing with HGVs

1. **Report from Cotswold District Council**

Cllr Cunningham had recently been re-elected for a new 4 year term. He gave details of his areas of responsibility. He said that the new administration would be pursuing a green agenda and was likely to review the Local Plan. Improvements were being made to speed up the processing of planning applications. Council tax and green bin charges were likely to continue to increase.

In answer to questions about missed bin collections, Cllr Cunningham asked residents to contact him by email with details.

1. **The Village Hall Committee**

Sara Griffiths reported on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. She reported an increase in bookings. There had been delays in introducing wifi but it was hoped progress could be made soon along with the introduction of an online booking system. The surface of the car park had been redressed and social activities, particularly the Jubilee and Coronation Celebrations, had been a great success. She thanked her fellow Committee members for their help and support.

1. **Oddington and Adlestrop Charities**

Alan Cox, a Trustee reported on the Charity. The Oddington and Adlestrop United Charities exists to help anyone in sudden need or distress in the two villages. The trustees are authorised to make grants of money or to pay for items, services or facilities which will reduce the need, hardship or distress of such people. The charity had awarded grants of £1,250 in 2022 and a further £1,000 to date in the current year. There was a little over £30,000 in the account. Mr Cox asked that people contact one of the Trustees if they became aware of anyone needing assistance.

1. **Gloucestershire Police**

The Police were unable to attend the meeting but had provided Crime Comparison Statistics which were tabled.

1. **Parking at the Fox and other village matters.**

The Chairman introduced the representatives from Daylesford and asked them to update the meeting on latest developments. John Westerman, a planning consultant, provided details of the proposed location for a car park opposite Oddington Lodge. He said that the Planning Officer would consider a whole range of issues including heritage, trees, access and Highways. Harm caused to the area by the construction of a car park would need to be matched by public benefit and it was crucial that the Parish Council and individual residents supported the application. The car park would take a maximum of 40 cars. Residents felt that it needed to be considerably larger but Mr Westerman said that anything bigger would not, in his opinion, receive planning consent.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council had offered its support for a car park in this location subject to various conditions. He reported that the owner of Oddington Lodge remained opposed to the location. It was recognised that the onus would be on the Fox to ensure that patrons use the car park.

Mike Clark had consulted the residents between Sawpits and Church Road and summarised collective opinion as:

* a total dislike of the removeable cones, but agreement that they have generally been successful in restricting the parking and have kept the pavement clear.
* Most residents are in favour of the erection of permanent wooden bollards only where needed.
* All are in favour of a dedicated off-street carpark for the Fox patrons being the only practical solution.

Identified problem areas reported: -

* Clear pavements required for pedestrians and for access to buildings.
* Clear areas to the entrance to Sawpits Lane are required to allow clear vision on exiting.
* “No Parking” lines need to be painted outside the bollards to keep the carriageway clear.
* Erect bollards opposite some driveways to enable access.
* The permanent planters have made the situation outside the Fox worse as cars now park in the road, restricting the road width and vision on the bend.
* The narrow road between Foden Lodge and Forge Barn should be kept clear for good vision and safe passage.
* Properties without off-street parking would be restricted by bollards when dropping off or having deliveries.
* Clear access is needed at all times for emergency and public service vehicles, and for deliveries to residences and business.

It was recognised that all the residents needed to work together to alleviate the problems and that everybody needed to park considerately.

In response, James Roberts said that Daylesford would do whatever it could to provide adequate provision. They would provide the maximum number of spaces in the car park that they felt would be acceptable to planners but emphasised that planning approval would be difficult to secure. In the short term, he undertook to provide a member of staff to supervise on-street parking during busy periods (Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday lunchtime). Once the car park was open, the pub would take all possible measures to ensure that their patrons used it. He confirmed that the area behind the blue gates was not an acceptable location for a car park as it is a private residence.

The Chairman asked for an indication of the strength of support for a car park. This was unanimous. There was also unanimous support for bollards and white lines although it was noted that the exact locations had still to be agreed. The Chairman and Clerk would take this consultation forward.

James Roberts said that now it was clear that the proposed location had such strong report, Daylesford would take forward the planning application. He undertook to get back to the Chairman within a week with a detailed timetable.

**Berrybank Amphitheatre**

Residents stated their opposition to the Berrybank Amphitheatre. It was noted that a retrospective planning application was outstanding and that there were Highways concerns. As close neighbours they were suffering from noise and light pollution and their livestock were suffering disturbance. Berrybank had not responded to any of the concerns raised and the number of events was increasing. They were disappointed at the lack of support they had received from the Parish Council.

The Chairman emphasised that although the Parish Council had been broadly supportive of the development it had suggested a number of restrictions. He urged all those at the meeting to look at the planning application and make comments.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

                                                                                    ………………………………….