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| **ODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2023** |

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| Present: Cllr Thorpe - Chairman  Cllr Griffiths – Deputy Chairman  Cllr Cox  Cllr Every  Cllr Green  Cllr Sawyer    GCC Cllr Mackenzie Charrington  CDC Cllr Cunningham  Apologies: Cllr Canning  11 members of the public.    51. **Minutes of the Meetings** held 26 October and 23 November which had been previously circulated were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.  52. **Matters arising from the Minutes**. The Chairman reported on:   * the Remembrance Service and thanked Cllr Every for planting up the War Memorial) * the very successful Switch On of the Christmas Lights * the public consultation on the Fox Car Park had now closed. There were more than 60 comments of support and seven of objection. It was noted that the CDC Conservation Officer did not support the proposal. * The Larkswold Licence had been granted but with sales restricted to those attending courses * Ms Ericksson had attended the first meeting of  the Police Liaison meeting and has arranged for the local PCSO to attend the January meeting.   The Clerk reported that a hand rail had been installed at the steps of the footpath leading into Back Lane. Councillors had agreed this work by email between meetings. Several residents had expressed their thanks. The broken seat had been removed from the Top Green. Cllr Cox and Bob Smith were thanked for the removal and making good the site. The Clerk said that she had just received from Highways a plan for the bollards which she had posted on the web site. Highways advised that the work was scheduled to take place before then end of the year and would need a road closure.  53. **Declarations of Interest**. Cllr Thorpe and Cllr Sawyer declared an interest in planning application 23/03736/FUL (Agenda Item 63) as immediate neighbours and took no part in the discussion.  54. **Adjournment for members of public to raise issues.** The Vicar spoke about the need to promote Holy Ascension church as a venue and it was agreed that this be an item in a future newsletter. A resident raised concerns about the state of the gullies and there was a general discussion about the need for Highways to be more responsive. A resident spoke in favour of planning application 23/03736/FUL  55. **Financial issues**.   1. Budget and precept. The Clerk reported on expenditure against budget to date and her best estimate of expenditure to the end of 2023/24. The main variations to both income and expenditure related to the new slide and two CIL payments which could only be used for infrastructure projects. Councillors then considered expenditure for 2024/25 and noted increases under staff costs (to reflect and increase in wages to £14 per hour and in subscriptions to cover the costs of improved communications). After discussion it was greed to increase the precept to £8,000 drawing £800 from the general reserve to cover the predicted short fall. RESOLVED to set the Precept at £8,000. 2. Accounts for payment. Council RESOLVED to pay the following accounts:  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Penfold | 14/12/2023 |  | 198 |  |  | £ 350.00 | | OVH x3 | 14/12/2023 |  | 199 |  |  | £ 33.00 | | JE wages | 14/12/2023 |  | 200 |  |  | £ 229.90 | | JE web site | 14/12/2023 |  | 201 |  |  | £ 19.20 | | Travis Perkins | 14/12/2023 |  | 202 |  |  | £ 56.49 |   (c ) The Council RESOLVED to appointment Ian Selkirk as internal auditor  56. **Review of Asset register**. The Council reviewed the asset register and noted the new slide had been added and the bench on the Upper Green removed.  **57. Review of Risk management policy**. The Council reviewed the Risk Management Policy and agreed that the checks in place were commensurate with the size of the Council ad its expenditure.  **58. Biodiversity policy**. The Council noted the new responsibilities placed on public authorities by the 2021 Environment Act. It was agreed that biodiversity should be consider as part of the planning application process. It was noted that the Council had very limited land ownership but that the maintenance of this, and verges, should be considered when the grounds maintenance contract comes up for review. The Council RESOLVED to adopt the policy.  **59.To receive report from the Communications Working Group**. Cllr Griffiths reported on the meeting of the Working Group. The Village Hall is to develop its own web site. The Clerk was updating the Oddington web site and would look to make use of the Upper and Lower Oddington facebook page. The Clerk had produce the first edition of an e-newsletter using mailchimp and reported that she had built the data base up to 125 email addresses. She would continue to look for ways of publicising this new initiative.  **60.To receive report from the Community Planning Working Group**. The Chairman reported that this Working Group had met and had had a discussion around the merits of statutory versus advisory plans. It had been agreed to seek a meeting with CDC forward planning officers.  **61.Regulation 16 Consultation on the Stow-on-the-Wold and the Swells Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Cunnigham gave an update. This consultation was being carried out by CDC and closed on 4 January. There was discussion about the scope of the plan which was driven by the perceived need to affordable housing. It was noted that an application for 37 Affordable houses on Land North Of Oddington Road, in Stow had been approved the previous day. It was agreed that the Council should submit previous comments and that residents should be urged to look at the plan.  **62.Village Amenities and Facilities**   * Path along Church Road – Cllr Cox suggested that a few entry points were added to give pedestrians the ability to cross from the road to the footpath. Agreed. Cllr Cox to contact the fencing contractor. * Gullies and verges – Cllr Griffiths raised concerns about blocked drains and gullies. Reports had been made via Fix My Street and we have been promised the gully cleaner would be in the village but this had not yet happened. CGG Cllr to action.   **63.Reports from Councillors.**  CDC Cllr Cunnigham reported on the Planning Roadshows and on the increase in planning fees. He mentioned that the expiry date for Village Hall grants was 8 January.  GCC Cllr Mackenzie Charrington Reported on the proposed £42m uplift on the GCC budget.  **64.Planning Applications**:  23/03675/FUL Full Application for Change of use of existing general/heavy industrial site (use class B2) to flexible use (use class E(g)i [offices] and E(g)iii [light industrial]) at Berry Bank Main Road Oddington. **The Council agreed it had no objection to this application but that the Clerk should ask about possible future uses.**.  23/03736/FUL | Erection of a dwelling and associated works - Variation of condition 2 (plans) of permission 20/04549/FUL to enable amendments to approved design | Juniper Barn Upper Oddington. **The Council agreed to submit a neutral comment**. The Council opposed the May 2019 planning application for a house on this site as it was on agricultural land in the conservation area. CDC approved this application which was for a dwelling with a very modern design. In 2021 the Council supported the proposal for a house  (20/04549/FUL) which it felt was more in keeping with the village setting. It is therefore very disappointed to receive a retrospective application for the house which has been constructed and which does not comply with the planning approval. The Council notes that this new application is for a very substantial house that runs the full width of an extensive site creating considerable mass. It has lost the agricultural references present in 20/04549 with its two separate linked  'barns'. The Council did discuss whether this change represents a material consideration which impacts on the village amenity but felt it did not have a full enough understanding of the technical planning conditions to reach a conclusion. It was therefore decided to refer the matter back to CDC Planning Officers for their consideration.    **65.Schedule of meetings**: The Schedule of meetings for 2024 was noted.  66. **Date of next meeting**: Thursday 18 January 2024.  The meeting ended at 8.00 pm .  ………………………………..  Chairman  18 January 2024 |