

## **Overthorpe Parish Council**

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm at Warkworth Church

Cllr Simon Baylis, Cllr Paul Cavanagh, Cllr Richard Hawkins, Cllr Richard Randall, Cllr Gill Hughes,  
2 members of the public, West Northants Cllr Rosie Herring.

- 1) Welcome – Cllr Baylis welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2) Chairman’s report from the Parish Council

<b>Councillors</b>	<p>Firstly, I would like to welcome Gill Hughes as our newly appointed Parish Councillor. We now have a full complement of five Councillors, although we are always keen to hear from any residents who may be interested in becoming Councillors in the future.</p>
<b>Financial Statements</b>	<p>The Council has set a Precept for the year ending March 2023 of £6,097, a reduction of £1,900 compared with the year just ended, equivalent to a reduction of £31 per year in the Council Tax charge for a Band F property.</p> <p>We have completed the year ended March 2022 with net reserves of £15,000, comprising government-recommended 2 years typical running costs, plus ring-fenced reserves in respect of legal advice, election costs and amenity. In addition, a sum of £4,500 has already been committed to acquisition of a new Vehicle Activated Speed display and additional post.</p> <p>There were no significant increases or decreases in items of expenditure compared with the previous year. Our internal auditor has confirmed that all necessary financial controls are in place, and relevant rules and procedures have been observed.</p> <p>All of the Councils financial statements are available on the website.</p>
<b>Highways</b>	<p>We continue to try to have a constructive dialogue with the District Council’s Highways representative, to propose changes that would improve road safety throughout the Parish. The Parish has a sum of £30,000 available for road safety improvements that were a condition of the development of the warehouses beside the motorway, however we have been unable to agree with Highways how this can be used cost-effectively.</p> <p>The crossroads at the eastern end of the village remains a concern. We currently pay for additional cutting of the verge, over and above the four cuts completed by Highway’s contractor, in order to improve visibility, and last year we increased the area maintained, although this was somewhat undermined by Openreach installing an additional cabinet on the verge. We submitted a proposal for a 40mph speed limit on Warkworth Road, but this was rejected by Highways/Police.</p>

	<p>Traffic using the village as a rat-run is monitored on an ad-hoc basis. The most recent survey shows average hourly number of vehicles has returned to pre-lockdown levels, but remains at 20% less than the 2008 base-line prior to the dualling of Hennef Way.</p> <p>Whilst we are still participants in the Speedwatch scheme, we were unable to take part in 2021 due to lack of volunteers. Please get in touch with the Parish Council if you are willing to commit to training.</p> <p>Cherwell District Council are looking at investing in Cycle Paths around Banbury, including routes from surrounding villages. Overthorpe features in one of the proposed routes, and CDC are inviting suggestions from members of public for improvements required to the roads along which it would run. This will require co-operation with West Northamptonshire Council, but may enable improvements to the road into Banbury, and from Overthorpe to Middleton. Details are on our website.</p>
<b>Planning</b>	<p>We have asked our District Council to object to the proposed change of use of the farmland around Nethercote (and below Blacklocks Hill) to permit commercial development. We are particularly concerned at the prospect of increased traffic around M40 junction and Ermont Way, and the inevitable spill over onto adjacent roads through Overthorpe, Warkworth and Chacombe.</p>

3) Reports from West Northants Councillors – None.

4) Open forum – members of the public are welcome to raise any items they wish to discuss with the parish council/other parishioners – A parishioner raised an issue about the Conservation Area having been changed resulting in a large willow being put at risk as it is no longer within the Conservation Area. The parishioner has contacted West Northants Council (WNC) to ask if they can get a TPO put on the tree but was advised that you can't put a TPO on a tree unless it is at risk. The parishioner is concerned that as there has been approval for a new property to be built near the tree there is a possibility of it being at risk from the new owners as they may feel the tree is impacting their property and want it removed. Cllr Rosie Herring agreed to try to get someone from WNC to visit the parish and discuss the various issues with the parish council.

Meeting closed @ 8:15pm