

Overthorpe Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Overthorpe Parish Council held at Room 72, Chenderit School,
Middleton Cheney on Monday 11th December 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr S Baylis, Cllr R Randall, Cllr P Cavanagh, Cllr G Hughes, Clerk.

In attendance: 0 members of the public.

20) Apologies – None.

21) Declaration of any changes to pecuniary interests and interests on items on the agenda – None.

22) Public Participation session - None.

23) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18.09.23 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

24) Co-option of new councillor – No applications received.

25) Matters arising

- a) Update on Broadband Provision – Cllr Randall has continued to chase BT Openreach to find out where they are in the process in order to work out the appropriate time to close the Community Interest Company that was set up in order to take this project forward. BT have asked for it to remain open as long as possible to allow them time to try to get the remaining parishioners who agreed to use the vouchers signed up. The Parish Council (PC) are no longer in a position to influence the progress of this as all actions required can only be completed by Openreach so the PC continues to await the completion of the project and subsequent closure of the CIC.
- b) Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) update – Cllr Randall provided the data from the VAS. The numbers are down due to the closure of the road. The VAS in place is still the ex-display model while the supplier is still repairing the new device purchased.
- c) Website update – Update not yet completed. **Clerk to chase Sheerclass Ltd.**
- d) Update re meeting with West Northants Council (WNC) and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) re S106 funds and potential footpath and/or cycle pathway between Banbury and Overthorpe – Cllr Baylis, Cllr Randall, and the Clerk met with Neil Holland from WNC and Ian Connick from OCC last week. They seemed supportive of the idea but advised it will take some time and it may not be possible due to the slope of the land on the Northants side and the cost which has been quoted as at least £1k per metre. OCC will be completing some surveys of the area which should provide the relevant info regarding feasibility. It was observed that some of the land at the top of the hill levels off and looks like it may be a historical/existing footpath that has become overgrown so this should be researched further as reinstating an existing path is likely to be simpler than creating a new one. A parishioner has advised that it was known as Leper Lane. **Clerk to try to find out if there is/was a footpath/public right of way in that area.** The PC agreed that they would be happy for the PC S106 funds (£30k) to go towards making that area safer for pedestrians/cyclists and have made Neil Holland aware of this. He will consider this funding when WNC and OCC are working on their plans for the area. Neil Holland also suggested implementing a 20mph limit on the road through Overthorpe to make it safer for pedestrians. The criteria to be considered for a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph is to have 85% of drivers' average speeds already below 24mph. 100% support for a 20mph scheme also helps the application so it was agreed that a poll should take place in the village to find out if there is support for 20mph. **Clerk to contact parishioner who raised concerns on item 25f to ask if they would be willing to organise a poll.**
- e) Update re defibrillator installation – The defibrillator has now been installed. A parishioner kindly paid for the electrical installation for which the councillors are very grateful. The defibrillator is registered on the Circuit database. It was agreed that an e-mail should go out to parishioners showing them what they need to

do in the event of needing access to the defibrillator. It was also agreed to put this information on the PC website with a link to a St John Ambulance video showing how to use a defibrillator. **Clerk to put information on website. Cllr Baylis to send out note to parishioners.**

- f) Concerns raised by parishioner re parking on the footpaths in the village and the possibility of reducing the speed limit in the village to 20mph – The parishioner’s concerns are noted but the PC is also aware that parking is very limited in the village and parked cars act as a natural deterrent for speeding so practical solutions that address the needs of all villagers need to be investigated. The police will not enforce any of the traffic issues in the village as they are not ‘crimes’. As per item 25d the PC will look further into the process for reducing the speed limit to 20mph and gather more information about local support and will apply to WNC if the criteria is met. **Clerk to respond to parishioner.**

26) Finance

- a) Approval of the bank statement balances as at 05.12.23 of £54.15 and £21,552.26 – Cllr Cavanagh confirmed the balances stated are correct.
- b) To confirm completion of the first (Apr to Jun) and second (Jul to Sep) quarterly financial checks – Cllr Hughes confirmed the checks have taken place and all was found to be in order.
- c) Request from Warkworth Church for the Parish Council to make a contribution to their grass cutting costs – Budgeted amount is £385 – It was proposed and agreed to donate £385. **Clerk to arrange donation.**
- d) To note payments made since last meeting under delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

22.09.23	Simon Baylis	Domain name 1 year	£23.96
22.09.23	Defib Warehouse	Defibrillator, pads and cabinet	£1,830.00
22.09.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office September	£169.74
22.09.23	HMRC	Tax September	£41.60
29.09.23	NEST	Pension September	£18.30
31.10.23	Parish Online	Digital mapping 1 year	£38.40
31.10.23	Npower	Streetlighting Sep 23	£29.14
31.10.23	AJC Landscape	Verge mowing	£85.00
31.10.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and Office Oct	£169.74
31.10.23	HMRC	Tax Oct	£41.60
31.10.23	NEST	Pension Oct	£18.30
05.12.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary November and backpay	£248.94
05.12.23	HMRC	Tax November	£61.60
30.11.23	NEST	Pension November	£27.10
05.12.23	Royal British Legion	2 Poppy Wreaths	£70.00
05.12.23	Npower	October streetlighting	£32.51
05.12.23	Chenderit School	Room hire 18th September	£30.00
19.06.23	ICO	Data Protection Fee	£35.00

- e) To note receipts received since the last meeting: Noted.

29.09.23	WNC	Precept	£1,901.00
09.10.23	Lloyds	Interest	£19.47
09.11.23	Lloyds	Interest	£23.47

- f) To approve the following payments: None
- g) To agree the budget and resulting precept for 2024-25 – It was proposed and agreed to set a budget of £7,130 resulting in a precept of £5,976 with the difference being funded by income in 2024-25. **Clerk to submit precept demand.**

27) Planning applications received by West Northants Council - None

Planning decisions received from West Northants Council - None

28) To agree meeting dates for 2024 – It was agreed that the meetings will take place on 18th March, 14th May, 16th September, and 16th December. **Clerk to book the meeting room for all dates.**

Meeting closed @ 8:08pm

Date of next meeting – 18th March 2024

Signed..... Date.....