

## **Overthorpe Parish Council**

Minutes of a meeting of Overthorpe Parish Council held in **Room 72, Chenderit School**, Archery Road, Middleton Cheney on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021** at **7pm** to consider matters as set out below.

Present: Cllr S Baylis, Cllr R Randall, Cllr R Hawkins, Clerk, District Cllr Rebecca Breese.

In attendance: 0 members of the public.

**19) Apologies** – Cllr Cavanagh.

**20) Declaration of any interests on items on the agenda** – None.

**21) Public Participation session** - None.

**22) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13.09.21** – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

### **23) Matters arising**

- a) Councillor Vacancy – The Parish Council (PC) sometimes finds it difficult to get the minimum requirement of 3 councillors available for meetings so it is really important to fill the councillor vacancy to ensure meetings are quorate. A Cllr has spoken to a parishioner who may be interested so he will follow this up.
- b) Update on Broadband Provision – The voucher claim validation funding target of £152k has been met. We have sufficient value in vouchers claimed for DCMS to instruct BT Openreach to proceed with the upgrade project. The next step is for the DCMS to approve the allocation of the funds and assign the contract for project delivery to Openreach. **Cllr Randall will monitor the scheme progress** and will continue to challenge through Openreach to maintain project traction.
- c) Section 50 licence for Vehicle Activated Signs – The application forms have been accepted and the payment for the licence has been made. The final step is to sign the licence with a witness which will be completed after tonight's meeting.
- d) Flower trough planting – request from current volunteer to find a new volunteer to plant the flower troughs – A volunteer has been found for the next year. **Clerk to pass on relevant info to new volunteer.**
- e) Request from parishioner to increase the size of the flower trough near the village sign as it currently does not hold enough soil/water for the plants to thrive – Defer to the next meeting to discuss with feedback from the new volunteer.
- f) Cherwell Local Plan: Action required by West Northants Council (WNC) to curb eastward commercial development – The Cherwell Local Plan includes the possibility of a change of use of the fields between Nethercote and the M40 for use for commercial development. If this were approved it would mean that Nethercote would be surrounded on 3 sides by commercial buildings. This would also have a knock on effect on the local roads including in Northants which the potential development site borders. The Cllrs asked District Cllr Breese if she can ensure that the villages on the border of Northants are not forgotten by WNC and that they try to protect the small villages on the outer borders of Northants from the potential development that could add to the road issues already causing concerns. Cllr Breese advised that she is the cabinet member for planning and has attended a number of meetings relating to planning with Cherwell and is doing what she can to try to ensure that the impact on Northants villages is considered as part of their plan. Cllr Breese advised that

there is a lot more to be done on the Cherwell Plan including reviewing sites, many of which will be rejected at that stage, but as some may be approved Cllr Breese is ensuring that representations from WNC officers are submitted to CDC to try to protect Northants villages and to encourage mitigation, particularly in relation to road/traffic issues. Highways planning doesn't come under the planning team at WNC so Cllr Breese has ensured that Highways are aware of the issues and asking that they ensure suitable consideration is made and responses are made to the plan on behalf of WNC Highways.

- g) WNC Spatial Plan: Call for sites – The purpose of the Spatial Plan is to update the joint core strategy that was completed in 2014. There are no sites currently proposed in or around Overthorpe but a Cllr raised concerns about the fact that lots of housing is suggested for Brackley which, if approved, is likely to lead to higher volumes of traffic driving in to Banbury so again mitigation should be considered in relation to improving local roads.

## 24) Highways issues

- a) Feedback from Helen Howard (Highways representative) following meeting with councillors – advised estimated costs for footpaths is £250k – The Cllrs expressed their frustration that there is S106 funding available to them for Highways improvements in Overthorpe but any project they suggest appears to be rejected immediately or they receive an excessively high quote which is out of the reach of a small PC. If the funds are not spent within a specific period of time they must be returned to the developer hence why the PC are keen to get a project started to make improvements for the benefit of Overthorpe residents. Cllr Breese requested that the **Clerk forward the estimate provided to her in order for her to get a second opinion on the costs suggested.**
- b) Damage to supplementary road signs – The signs have now been put higher to make it more difficult for anyone to damage them.

## 25) Finance

- a) Approval of the bank statement balances as at 08.12.21 of £61.95 and £24,975.31 – Cllr Hawkins confirmed that the balances stated are correct.
- b) Confirmation of completion of the second quarterly (Jul to Sep) financial check for 21/22 – Cllr Hawkins confirmed that the check has taken place and all was found to be in order.
- c) Proposal to make a donation of £350 to Warkworth Church – Proposed and agreed.
- d) To agree the budget and resulting precept for 2022-23 – It was proposed and agreed that the budget for 2022-23 is £10,037.48 resulting in a precept of £6,097 with the shortage being covered by the underspend this year on the VAS which is being carried forward.
- e) To note payments made since last meeting under delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

17.09.21	WNC	Uncontested election	£90.00
17.09.21	E-on	Streetlighting Aug 21	£15.36
17.09.21	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog waste bags	£70.50
17.09.21	Kirsty Buttle	September salary	£143.21
17.09.21	HMRC	September tax	£37.04
30.09.21	NEST	September pension	£15.86
01.11.21	Simon Baylis	Domain	£22.94
01.11.21	DKM Garden Services	Mowing of verges	£145.00
01.11.21	Chenderit School	Room hire 13.09.21	£30.00
01.11.21	E-on	Streetlighting September	£17.09
01.11.21	Royal British Legion	Donation re poppy wreaths	£70.00
01.11.21	Kirsty Buttle	Salary October	£143.01
01.11.21	HMRC	Tax October	£35.80

04.11.21	NEST	Pension October	£15.86
01.12.21	E-on	Streetlighting Oct 21	£17.66
01.12.21	M Stead	Plants	£25.44
01.12.21	Kirsty Buttle	November salary and expenses	£143.80
01.12.21	HMRC	November tax	£35.80
03.12.21	NEST	November pension	£15.86
07.12.21	West Northants Council	S50 licence fee	£321.00

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

09.09.21	Lloyds	Interest	£0.19
29.09.21	WNC	Precept	£3,986.50
11.10.21	Lloyds	Interest	£0.19
09.11.21	Lloyds	Interest	£0.18

## 26) Planning applications received by West Northants Council

**WNS/2021/0726/FUL – Land East of Warkworth Road, Overthorpe.** New plans and heritage impact assessment. **Notwithstanding Overthorpe Parish Council’s original objection to this Application.**

We note the amendments made to the plans for the east, south and north elevations of the property in response to WNC’s Arboricultural Officer’s report (which appear to have moved the proposed structure less than 1 metre to the west), but the changes fail to sufficiently address the proximity of the proposed structure to the north-eastern boundary of the plot and the root protection area of the adjacent ash tree. In addition, the proposed structure will now be closer to the boundary of the site at its western edge and consequently less than 2 metres from the eastern elevation of the neighbouring property (The Chase). We note the proposed garage has now been withdrawn; if approval for this application is given, Permitted Development rights should be withheld and no subsequent approval for a garage allowed. The applicant has also provided his own Heritage Impact Assessment. Whilst it contains many facts, most appear out of scope of this application, and none appear to invalidate WNC’s own Conservation Officer’s grounds for refusal of this Application. We maintain our objection to this application. (Response made using delegated powers). **APPROVED.**

### Planning decisions received from West Northants Council

**WNS/2021/0302/FUL and WNS/2021/0303/LBC – Beech House, Overthorpe Road.** Conversion of the Barn/Outbuilding to an artists studio and workshop. **Approved.**

**WNS/2021/0478/FUL – 6 Chetwode, Overthorpe.** Single storey rear extension. **Approved.**

**WNS/2021/0726/FUL – Land East of Warkworth Road, Warkworth.** Proposed single storey dwelling house. **Approved.**

**WNS/2021/0784/FUL – Rolincroft, Overthorpe Road, Overthorpe.** Replacement and changes to garage doors. **Approved.**

Meeting closed @ 8:09pm

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