

**Minutes of the Annual Oving Parish Meeting held at All Saints Church, Oving
on Tuesday 20 May 2008 at 8.00pm**

Present: Cllr Ambrose McGinn – Chairman Oving Parish Council
Cllr Roger Ball – Oving Parish Council
Cllr Chris George – Oving Parish Council
Cllr Jack Peeters – Oving Parish Council

Attendees: Oving Residents – Attendees signed in on arrival.

Item 1 – To accept Apologies for absence

Glyn Thomas, Cllr Stuart Nicholls, Sue Polhill – AVDC, John & Susannah Palmer

Item 2 – To agree the Minutes of the meeting 10 May 2007

Cllr Peeters proposed that the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Ball.

Item 3 - Review of Oving Parish Council 2007/2008 and plans for 2008/2009– Ambrose McGinn

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Ambrose McGinn, thanked villagers for attending and presented his report.

He welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting where OPC can feedback on what has been done in the last year and also plans for the coming year

Review of 2007/2008 - Finance

- Income £16,454
- Precept of £13,125
- Expenditure £12,235
- Administration £5,154
- Facilities £7,081
- Carry Forward £4,219
- Excludes Pavilion funds on deposit

Review of 2007/08

- He thanked Councillors for their hard work
- Care and maintenance, Recreation ground, bus shelters, children's playground, Church Lane village pump.
- Issue of dogs on the recreation ground.
- Speeding on surrounding roads
- Many applications to use the recreation ground.
- Plaque to Peter Tombs in the Pavilion
- Continued development of Pavilion project

Thanks were given to Councillors especially Roger as Vice Chairman and both Roger and Jack for pavilion work. Also to Reg Porter for his diligent grass keeping around the village. Roger ran the Recreation ground sub committee and we had good engagement with the tennis club and football club and look forward to this continuing. Plus Planning applications - Agrivert successfully aborted and we lobbied hard and a number of applications in the village. Thanks to Jack for his oversight in this area.

Plans for 2008/09

- AGM last week, Ambrose McGinn - Chairman and Roger Ball - Vice Chairman.
- Care and maintenance/ improved facilities
- Plan for rolling programme of streetlight replacement from 2009/10
- Develop fully costed Pavilion Proposal to a village ballot – continue fundraising
- Precept + 5% - no specific precept element for Pavilion project at this time

Funding Group

The Funding Group comprises Roger Ball, David Smith, Roger Hawkins, Susie Hawkins, Stephen Stokes and Adrian Wilson.

We are grateful for the additional assistance provided by residents at fundraising events, but more input is required.

So far, we have:

- £10,000 from the Church Farm payment
- £3,000 collected as additional subscriptions by the Tennis Club
- £700 from the Race Night
- £1,000 from the Book Sale and Farm Teas
- £15,700 total
- If the new pavilion is not built, these funds will be spent on the Recreation Ground

Roger Ball has attended AVDC Funding Advice Days in 2007 and 2008.

An application for a Grant of £250,000 from WRG Communities Challenge is currently being prepared.

Further applications to the Football Foundation and AVDC are envisaged

Pavilion - process from here

- Complete design work
- Agree final & full specification
- Cost the detailed specification
- Cost the top three location options
- Final recommendation to be agreed by OPC
- Recommendation with location and costings to village ballot.
- Go/no go based on response

Issues Raised by Villages

Income and Expenditure

A villager queried the carry forward amount for the previous year. This was reported to have been approximately £1500. It was then queried that if the carry forward amount became too high whether the precept would be reduced. It was reported that there was flexibility and this was possible.

Streetlights

A villager queried whether the streetlight replacement programme included areas where there was currently inadequate lighting, eg, The Plightle. It was reported that all areas would be taken into consideration with sensitivity to possible light pollution and maintaining the current aesthetic lighting.

Fire Hydrants

A villager was concerned that very few of the hydrants were functioning in the village. It was reported that the map of the hydrants had highlighted that 2 were missing but that the matter was in hand.

BT Telephone Box

A villager raised the issue of BT plans to remove the telephone box and that there were 3 weeks left for any one who wished to make comment. It was reported that OPC were aware and believed that the telephone box was underused.

Pathways

A villager raised the issue of the poor condition of the pathway to the telephone box. It was reported that the matter would be looked at under Parish Paths.

Vandalism

A villager raised the issue of problems occurring with trick or treaters - there had been vandalism to the telephone box. It was reported that in such circumstances OPC would endeavour to find the culprits and pass on any cost for repairs.

Speeding

The issue of speeding was raised and it was queried whether this meant in the village or around it. It was reported that it included both.

A villager reported that the weight limit restriction on Pitchcott Road had been removed. It was reported that OPC would look into the issue.

It was queried whether the survey on speeding had been undertaken before or after the new signs had been erected. It was reported that surveys had been undertaken before and after and that the average speed had reduced (although still speeding) from 60/70 to 50/60.

The size of the signs was raised and whether they could be made any bigger. It was reported that the issue would be taken up with BCC.

A villager reported on the number of speeding cars along Bowling Alley and specifically an incident which had taken place outside her house involving a car speeding and overturning off the road. She also reported disturbances with horn honking early in the mornings.

A villager queried where the speed surveys had been carried out. It was reported that it had included a number of areas within the village.

The possibility of a speed camera was queried. It was reported that there was insufficient space for a vehicle to safely stop to do this.

It was queried whether individual complaint or representation carried any weight. It was reported that sadly it would appear not unless there were serious accidents or fatalities.

It was queried whether the Neighbourhood Action Group would have a better influence. It was reported that this was possible and that OPC were actively involved in the NAG meetings.

Item 4 – Update of proposals for new Pavilion – Ambrose McGinn/Jack Peeters/Roger Ball

Alan Saunders commented as follows:

“Most residents I hope would agree that the existing changing rooms are in need of some upgrading. It would seem that some want more than just changing rooms. The proposed new pavilion will incorporate amongst other things a veranda with a width of 2.4m (7ft 10”). The existing changing room veranda is 1.5m (4ft 11”) and is quite sufficient to allow for the flow of people in and out and is wide enough for wheelchair access. Is there an ulterior motive, maybe an application for a licensed bar at a later date because we are informed that subsequent committees may apply.

My view is that a costing for an upgrade on the present changing rooms be made together with a costing for a new structure on the existing site to be considered, whichever, be the cheapest option. The present changing room could be extended along the back to a depth of 2.5m which would increase the floor area by 50%.

A more sensible option would be to erect a new pavilion on site 2 as there is more open space and more room for car parking. At present this is an unused area of the park and also it would be in open view and less likely to suffer from vandalism.

Services to site 2 in terms of finance should not present a problem. The costs could be offset from monies saved by not relocating the floodlights £7,500 your estimate. Also money saved laying a road to your preferred site £30,000 my information received. This money saved should cover the cost of electricity, sewerage etc, a costing for site 2 should be made.

As regards the 3m wide road that will be required for access for ambulance and fire services to your preferred site, will mean disturbing the root systems of the sycamores, cherry and other trees along the front fence. The roots grow a little thicker each year and in some cases the roots of the trees will grow the same length as its height. The trees have side roots that grow nearer the surface in order to

get air and water to make sure the tree does not blow over. To put a 3m road between the trees and the football pitch would cause damage to the root system.

At the meeting on Tuesday 13 May, a member of the committee stated that choosing the preferred site would screen the proposed new changing rooms from the road so as not to spoil the view of passing traffic. May I suggest that the motorist should be looking along the road and not into the park especially as most exceed the speed limit. It would seem that no regard for the residents was taken into account when choosing the preferred site. Perhaps the pavilion committee could have requested a view from the rear of those properties. I wonder if another site would have been chosen if they had homes close to the proposed site.

At the Methodist Chapel is close to the tennis courts, it would have been a convenient and large enough building for changing room, showers and a meeting room would have been sufficient for the tennis club needs. Was a costing for purchase and refurbishment considered?

In the Location and Design Group Meeting no 9 of 7 April 2008, I quote "Advice has been received from AVDC which suggests that as the Methodist Chap was no longer available the Village would be in a better position to seek funding for a meeting room". Was the Methodist Chapel dismissed because the Design and Location Group knew they would have a better chance of funding by not bidding for this building?

It has been suggested that a village cricket club be formed to make use of and help contribute towards the running costs. No decent cricketer would consider playing cricket on a bumpy football pitch. I doubt very much whether a cricket club would be formed for the reasons stated.

It was mentioned at the meeting last Tuesday, 13 May that the car park facilities will remain by the tennis courts and more ground could be made available in that area for an overflow to service the new pavilion on the preferred site. At that meeting the concern was raised that drivers would not use the car park but would leave their cars by the Reading Room because it would be too far away from the pavilion. One of the Parish Councillors stated that players would be encouraged to walk from the car park to the pavilion and not park on the roadway by the Reading Room unlike the Parish Councillors with the exception of one, parked on the road outside the Reading Room rather than use the car park!

When the residents living near the proposed preferred site purchase their properties, they accepted that a football pitch and changing rooms were close to their homes. However, the erection of a substantial building closer to their homes would restrict views over the recreation ground and adjoining fields. With the football and tennis this will create more noise for the residents close by.

The distance from The Barn in Bowling Alley to the proposed site is approximately 100m. The distance from the proposed site to the properties beyond the tennis courts and children's play area is 500m. That to me seems an anomaly.

If a new pavilion is erected will the Oving residents have their precept rates increased or will the football and tennis clubs pay to offset such increases.

How many footballers and tennis players live in Oving or will we be subsidizing those from outside the village?

Unless other groups decide to use the facilities, the changing rooms will be more than adequate. We do not require meeting rooms as the AGM could be held in the Church and the Parish Council can continue using the Reading Room."

Cllr Peeters responded as follows:

There is no ulterior motive on the size of the veranda and could be reduced. It would allow disabled access.

The existing pavilion was in need of repair and costings to do so would be similar with a much less satisfactory result.

A new road would be needed as the current one is unsatisfactory and this would be 3m wide without any damage to tree roots.

The proposed design would need to be fully costed but could not accurately be done so until a design had been agreed.

Whichever site was chosen, not everyone would be pleased. OPC would proceed with the majority of the village.

The Methodist Chapel had been considered unsuitable as an alternative due the amount of private land inbetween.

Issues Raised by Villagers

There was concern that the covered veranda would encourage further alcohol abuse. Incidents had been reported at the meeting on 13 May regarding youths arriving by taxi and taking their alcohol onto the recreational ground.

It was reported that OPC were aware of the issue and that the problem needed to be managed as a separate issue irrespective of the new pavilion. It was also reported that the veranda need not be covered but it had been felt that it was more attractive and better for spectators to watch under cover. It would also be more visible than the existing veranda for policing purposes.

There was concern than the police would not be interested in any alcohol problems if there was lack of interest in speeding.

It was queried whether there would be any added security with the new pavilion. It was reported that there would be security lighting.

A villager queried the size of the proposed pavilion in feet in inches. This was reported to be approximately 80ft by 30ft.

The villager felt that this would be a monstrosity and an eyesore. It was reported that the size reflected what villagers had requested.

The height of the pavilion was queried.

It was reported that this would be approximately 20ft (6m) It was reported that two-thirds of the proposed design could not be any smaller due to funder specifications.

It was queried whether a 3D design could be available on a computer. It was reported that this was planned and also taping out the area on the ground for villagers to see.

The size of the meeting room was queried and whether it would be large enough for badminton. It was reported that it was unlikely to be large enough for badminton and that the size proposed had been reached by way of compromise.

A villager stated that such a meeting room could be used by a larger proportion of the village than just the football players in the village. Hire costs were raised.

It was reported that it was hoped various groups would use the facilities and that being a newer facility it would carry lower running costs.

A villager commented that the recent Race Night had had to be held outside of the village due to existing facilities not being large enough.

A villager queried the use of alcohol and queried whether they were currently any signs stating "no alcohol on the recreation ground". It was reported that currently there were not.

A villager queried whether a license application would follow in the future. It was reported that there were no plans for this.

A villager queried whether site 7½ was the final location and whether the issue of noise had been/would be taken into account.

It was reported that site 7½ was the preferred site but a final decision had yet to be reached. All concerns raised would be taken into consideration.

A villager reported that the Quinton Memorial Hall had proved very successful without noise problems arising.

A villager commented that he had not been involved in the project but as a result of the presentation now had a better understanding. He thanked the committee for their presentation. He queried whether the estimated cost of £340k/370k was inclusive of VAT and what proportion of the funding was realistically expected to be raised by the community.

It was reported that OPC would meet the costs but that the VAT could be reclaimed. Grants would obviously be the much larger proportion but funders tended to favour projects where funds were also being raised locally in the village. An estimate of 20% from the community was suggested.

A villager queried whether OPC would oversee the project and specify rules for use. It was reported that OPC would do both.

A villager was concerned that future Cllrs on OPC may have different opinions and the usage may change.

It was reported that this was possible but hoped that future Councils would act in the interest of the village.

A villager commented about the football ground being used on Sunday mornings and was concerned by the language being used.

It was reported that written agreements were in place with the football clubs and that Cllr Ball would report any problems back to users.

The cost and position of floodlights was raised.

It was reported that they would be moved and that the £7.5k included groundworks to the pitch.

A villager queried whether there were any planning restrictions, eg, keeping within certain boundaries.

It was reported that any proposal would have to be discussed and reviewed with planning officers.

Item 5 – Open Forum for issues not previously covered - All

There were no further issues.

Cllr McGinn thanked villagers for their interest and concerns.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.