

**Minutes of the Annual Oving Parish Meeting held at All Saints Church, Oving  
on Thursday 28 May 2009 at 8.00pm**

Present: **Cllr Roger Ball – Chairman Oving Parish Council**  
**Cllr Ambrose McGinn –Oving Parish Council**  
**Cllr Stuart Nicholls – Oving Parish Council**  
**Cllr Jack Peeters – Oving Parish Council**  
**Glyn Thomas – Oving Parish Clerk**

**AVDC Cllr – Sue Polhill**

**Attendees: 31 Oving Residents – Attendees signed in on arrival.**

**Item 1 – To accept Apologies for absence**

Cllr Chris George, John Watts

**Item 2 – To agree the Minutes of the meeting 20 May 2008**

These were agreed and signed subject to the amendment of the Section 106 amount from £10k to £9600.

**Item 3 - Review of Oving Parish Council 2008/2009 and plans for 2009/2010– Ambrose McGinn/Roger Ball**

Cllr Ball thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reported that at the recent Parish Council Annual General Meeting, Ambrose McGinn had stepped down as Chairman. Roger Ball had been elected Chairman and Ambrose McGinn Vice Chairman. He introduced the other Cllrs - Jack Peeters and Stuart Nicholls as well as Glyn Thomas, the Clerk and Michelle Jackson, the Clerk's assistant.

Cllr McGinn presented his report

"I would like to start by thanking all the councillors for their hard work and dedication – a thankless task sometimes. Specifically thanks are due to Roger for not only chairing the funding group for the new pavilion but also acting as Vice chairman to the PC and chairman of the Rec Ground cmte. He has been an invaluable asset to the village. Additionally thanks to Jack Peeters for leading the design and location group of the new pavilion – an often controversial and well attended group with lots of competing views to be managed.

Also the excellent support and guidance of our clerk Glyn Thomas - often ably assisted by Michelle Jackson. Thank you.

I would like to give everyone a headline view of what was achieved over the last year in the village and that which is proposed for the next 12 months.

Last year we managed our resources to produce a surplus of £7226 with the specific intent of putting this together with a special one off precept value of £5000 toward renewing our decrepit and unreliable street lighting. For the avoidance of doubt the precept has not been used to raise money for the pavilion project. This current year the precept was raised by 4% and the street light project is being funded through a lump sum cash requirement of £5k to go with the carried forward surplus of £7226

Roger will be speaking about the finances of the council and so I will not cover further at this point.

With regard to the street light replacement project we have taken great care to weigh up the competing requirements of light pollution against providing a safe well lit environment when required. The new installations will be in keeping with the charm of the village and we will replace on a rolling basis starting shortly. One benefit of the new lights is that they will require less electricity, require less maintenance and the light can be better directed all of which will be to the benefit of the village. This represents a long term investment in the infrastructure of the village and Chris George on the PC is leading this initiative.

Additionally last year we completed the refurbishment of the village pump wall, removing an unsound wall and making good in a style consistent with the surrounding boundary wall.

We also replaced litter bins in the village and have started the process of updating the OPC map locations and contents which Rachel Barnett has kindly agreed to manage on our behalf.

The council has revisited its grass cutting requirements and agreed to stay with its current specification. The tender for this work will be issued again shortly in keeping with best practice for procuring services and in the meantime Reg Porter continues to provide an excellent service for the benefit of all in the village I am sure you will agree.

The recreation ground has been well used and we have turned down further requests for use by other football teams in view of keeping the surface in a decent condition. To that end it is proposed over the summer to do some extensive improvement work to the pitch in readiness for next season. The smaller goal provided for children's use has been well utilised and another has been purchased recently. We await a recent ROSPA report, performed annually on the children's playground however we expect that much of the equipment is coming to the end of its useful life and will need replacement in due course. How this will be achieved will be considered in the context of any pavilion development

Since the last annual meeting we have made considerable progress on our proposed new pavilion. The funding whilst tough to gain nationally has been a fantastic success locally with very many well attended events and a fund now standing at around £27k. I would like to thank all those in the village who have taken part in fundraising either through organising or taking part in these events which have been great fun in their own right and really pulled the village together in a way I have not witnessed in my time in the village in the last 15 years. Jacks group has also made good progress on the design and location and both he and Roger will brief you further on progress and plans in a moment.

Once the final design, location and costs has been agreed by the PC it will be put to the village - we still anticipate providing a choice of locations with relevant supporting information and we are calling on the assistance of AVDC election officers to ensure that this is done in a satisfactory and conclusive way. Once this has been concluded which we hope will be over the next few months the PC will make a final decision and then we can go after external funding from the big charities. We came very, very close to a significant funding from WRG Communities challenge for £250k and we came down to the last three beaten only by QRS and Bletchley Park - both tourist attractions - we feel confident that the quality of our application will gain us access to whatever scarce funds are available even in this tough economic climate. Overall funding may take longer than anticipated but we have made a great start and the feedback thus far is very positive.

Over the last year there have been several planning applications which have been considered actively and Oving is taking an active part in the Eastern Arc development around Watermead monitoring the impact on our local area and feeding in appropriately.

Oving PC has with other local parishes purchased a SID a speed indicator display unit which you may have seen in use locally recently. This will be available for use in the parish and will be managed by Stuart Nicholls who will be seeking volunteers to help in manning the SID when available to us periodically. Reducing speeding is still a major theme for the PC and regularly seeks assistance from TVP and BCC to achieve this.

Going forward then under the watchful eye of our new chairman Roger Ball we will complete the first phase of the streetlight replacement project, we will continue to look after the assets of the village either on the recreation ground or around the village and we will move ahead to finalise our plans for the new pavilion and go ahead with our efforts to raise further external funding as well as keep up the tempo on locally based event funding eg tennis tournament in the summer."

Cllr Ball circulated copies of Income and Expenditure for 2008/2009 and reported on the figures which had been approved by Oving Parish Council but had not yet been audited.

A parishioner queried the difference in the figures for the Tennis Club Contribution to Costs. It was reported that the Parish Council had purchased new benches and the Tennis Club had reimbursed Oving Parish Council for costs.

#### **Item 4 – Update of proposals for new Pavilion/Improvements to Recreation Ground – Ambrose McGinn/Jack Peeters/Roger Ball**

Cllr Peeters reported that the main task for the Design & Location Group had been to finalise the design with accurate costings and to compare the costs of each site. No monies had been spent on the Pavilion project until the current financial year when OPC had authorised appointing an architect and quantity surveyor to cost the design. Five architects had been contacted to quote and 4 had responded. Quotes varied from £16k to £52k and the group had decided to go with the cheapest. The architect had been requested to produce designs up to the planning stage and costs on 2 locations. The designs had been presented to the group a few months ago and a further 8 minor changes to the design had been requested by the group. The final version drawings for the 2 preferred sites were displayed together with costs for parishioners to view. Advantages and disadvantages of each site would be drawn up. The drawings and costings would be added to the website for the benefit of those who had not been able to attend the meeting. Total costs were estimated at £390k. Jack thanked the members of the Design & Location Group for their time and efforts.

Roger Ball thanked Jack and his team for the hard work put into the project so far.

Roger Ball reported on fundraising within the village and circulated a summary of funds raised to date. The funding group had organised a number of events over the last 14 months which had raised £13.5k. He thanked the organisers and those who had supported the events. The total amount including the Section 106 payment and subscriptions held by Oving Tennis Club and Oving Football club was £27,400. Once a location had been agreed and planning permission granted, then applications could be made to major funders – WREN, Sport England and European money for rural projects.

Forthcoming village events included the Tennis Tournament in the Summer and the Great Oving Run to continue to raise as much as possible.

Roger reiterated that if it was decided not to proceed with the Pavilion project all funds raised would go towards improving the Recreation Ground.

#### **Item 5 – Open Forum for Issues not Previously Covered**

##### **Income and Expenditure**

A villager queried difference in the Section 106 figure which in the minutes for last year had been reported as £10k but in the Income and Expenditure for this year was reported as £9600. Cllr Ball reported that he had rounded the number up and that interest had not been included on this figure.

##### **Minutes**

It was requested that minutes of this meeting be circulated to all attendees as soon as possible. Parishioners were requested to provide their address/email if they wished to receive the minutes. The Clerk advised that the minutes would be in draft form and would not be approved until next year's Annual Parish Meeting.

##### **Pavilion**

A parishioner commented that last year it had been projected that the Pavilion project would cost approximately £275k and funds would be raised within 3 years. Costs had now increased to £390k. He queried the difference in the figures and whether it was anticipated that funds would still be raised within 3 years. It was reported that the difference in costs was due to the fact that previously estimates had been crude and that the plans were now much more detailed.

A parishioner queried how much more local fundraising was needed and how long it was anticipated that this would take. It was reported that the funding providers looked favourably on projects where funds had already been raised locally and that 2 or even 3 large funders would be needed to top up the funds.

A parishioner queried the timescales for the money from the Section 106. It was reported that the monies had to be spent by mid 2011. It was suggested that this be the point at which it was decided whether the Pavilion project was viable. This was thought to be a reasonable suggestion.

A parishioner queried whether a site location would be agreed after asking the village as previous minutes had said the Council would go with the majority. It was reported that Oving Parish Council has to make the ultimate decision but that it was hoped that the decision would be on the basis of the majority. Advice was currently being taken from AVDC regarding how best to conduct a survey. A yes/no vote was discussed and it was advised that this would be taken into consideration. It was requested that results of the survey would be published.

A parishioner was concerned that Oving Parish Council had a preferred site – 7½ . It was reported that it did not but that it was considering proposals put to it by the Design & Location Group. The parishioner wished it to be minuted that “Oving Parish Council does not have a preferred site for the location of the Pavilion”. It was also reported that of those surveys which had been returned, the majority of parishioners were in favour of a new Pavilion. Local fundraising events had been well supported and people were aware that the proceeds would be going to the Pavilion project.

The issue of running costs of the new Pavilion were raised and it was queried whether such information would be included in the survey. It was reported that this would be considered. It was anticipated that running costs would be relatively efficient with a new building. It was also reported that it was Oving Parish Council's policy not to raise the precept to fund the Pavilion project.

A parishioner reported that Chilton View Bungalow, a residential home for handicapped people, had expressed an interest in using such a facility.

A parishioner queried how much had been spent on architects fees/quantity surveyor fees. It was reported that £4k had been paid so far.

A parishioner queried if the Football Foundation grant had been turned down. It was reported that they would not consider such a large sum.

### **Play Area**

A parishioner queried the plans for the play area if the Pavilion is to take 3 years or more to complete. It was felt that some of the equipment was unsafe. It was reported that most of the equipment was safe for another 3 or 4 years but that an inspection from RoSPA was expected within a few weeks.

### **Paths/Pathways**

A parishioner reported on problems on the path near the bus-stop at the junction of Bowling Alley and Stone View, and at the top of Marston Hill opposite Kennels. The Clerk would contact Highways on Call. Hedges outside Windmill House were overhanging the path and needed clipping back. The Clerk would follow up on this.

### **Bus Shelter**

A parishioner queried whether the costs of replacing the bus shelter had been covered by insurance. It was reported that it was not insured. It was added that Public liability insurance was in place in the event of injury to persons.

### **Streetlights**

The style of the new streetlights was queried. It was suggested that Cllr George contact the parishioner on his return from holiday. One in Pitchcott Road had already been replaced if the parishioner wished to view prior to this.

### **Speeding**

Cllr Nicholls reported on the speed detection equipment obtained with neighbouring parishes. The equipment needed to be manned by villagers and a site decided upon. Registration numbers of offenders would be recorded and reported to police who will take action. Three or four volunteers were sought. Anyone interested should contact Stuart Nicholls on 641209.

### **Oving House**

Cllr Peeters reported that the grounds of Oving House were being opened on 19 July as part of the Tennis Tournament. Entrance fee to the grounds was £2.50 and tickets needed to be purchased in advance. A flyer would be distributed in the next newsletter.

There were no further issues.

A parishioner wished to thank Cllr McGinn for his efforts as Chairman over the years, thanks were also extended to the whole Parish Council.

Cllr Ball thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

DRAFT