

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Oxspring Parish Council held on the 19 May 2025, following the Annual Assembly at 6.45pm in St Aidans Church Hall.

Present: Cllr Ann Walker (Chair)
Cllr Emily Gratton-Rayson
Cllr Lisa Chambers
Cllr Ian Stanley
Cllr Graham Sedgwick (Vice Chair)
Cllr Ian Yems
The Parish Clerk
Lesley Gornall (Spring Vale resident)

1. The retiring Chair opened the meeting and provided a reminder to all in attendance on the Council's expectations about audio or visual recordings of the meeting.

Public Participation

Lesley Gornall spoke to the Council about a local Japanese Knotweed infestation. This is minuted under section 9.8. Lesley left the meeting after the discussion.

2.1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Harley.

2.2 To consider the approval of reasons for absence given by councillors

The reason for the apologies was accepted.

3.1 To receive, consider and decide upon any applications for dispensation

No members of the council had any requests for dispensation.

3.2 To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or a member's Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

4.1 Appointment of Chair of Oxspring Parish Council

Nominations for the coming year were called for, Councillor Walker was the uncontested nominee, and she declared herself willing to stand and so was **elected** unopposed. Councillor Walker continued the meeting in the Chair.

4.2 Declaration of Acceptance of Chair

Councillor Walker read her declaration of Acceptance of Chair which was witnessed by the Clerk.

4.3 Appointment of Vice Chair of Oxspring Parish Council

Nominations for the coming year were called for, Councillor Sedgwick was the uncontested nominee, and he had declared himself willing to stand prior to the meeting and so was **elected** unopposed.

4.4 Declaration of Acceptance of Vice Chair

Councillor Sedgwick read his declaration of Acceptance of Chair which was witnessed by the Clerk.

4.5 **Confirmation of Appointment of Internal Auditor and membership of the Finance Sub Committee and the staffing Committee.**

The following were agreed:

Internal Auditor - Barry Riley, Internal Audit Services Yorkshire.

Finance Sub Committee Members Councillor Stanley, Councillor Sedgwick, Councillor Gratton-Rayson.

Staffing Committee Members Councillor Stanley, Councillor Lisa Chambers, Councillor Ian Yems.

5. **To confirm the minutes of meeting held on 7 April 2025, as a true and correct record**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Oxspring Parish Council held on 8 April 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6. **To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary**

6.1 In Cllr Harleys absence it's not known if his email up and running.

6.2 The first invoice from the new contractor, Garden Style, for the playing field has been received and OUFC have been invoiced for their share. This has been paid.

6.3 The Chair updated on the Sheffield Road wall repairs that it is hoped that they are done this week. Thornley Taylor have been notified.

6.4 The double yellow lines on Sheffield Road were painted.

RESOLVED that the Clerk request that the lines are completed where a gap has been left.

6.5 The flailing of the Anthills 3 times per year was added to the BMBC contract for £150. It was noted that G Hinchcliffe has cut it also recently.

6.6 It was RESOLVED to contact Tim Rivett re the accessibility updates to the website.

7. **To consider and decide upon the following planning applications**

2025/0284 – Development of six residential dwellings with landscaping and associated infrastructure - Land West of Millstones – the application was discussed, and the basis of objecting was discussed.

- It was RESOLVED to object to the application. Cllr Sedgwick abstained from voting.

Planning enquiry: 2025\ENQ\00306 Erection of clubhouse and storeroom, Oxspring Sports Field, Sheffield Road – the planning enquiry was discussed in terms of the planned size and location.

- It was RESOLVED to respond in support of the enquiry. It was agreed to contact J Sparrow at OUFC re the container and storage of the goal posts.

8. **Planning Decisions and information**

8.1 2025/0038 – 6 Mount Pleasant: single storey and first floor rear extension to dwelling – under consideration.

8.2 2025/0266 - 23 Longley Ings, Oxspring - Erection of a single storey side and single storey rear extension – under consideration.

9. **Matters requested by councillors**

9.1 **To approve a grant making policy**

The draft grant making policy was discussed and a number of revisions made. It was agreed to consider grants twice a year.

RESOLVED to make the changes and create an application form, for adoption at the next meeting.

9.2 **To discuss allotment issues**

Item discussed in the annual assembly.

9.3 **Community Allotment & Orchard**

Cllr Gratton-Rayson reported that both sites are fine, and planting would be taking place soon.

9.4 **Titivator Report**

It was reported that Adam from Greenotes CIC would be getting involved with further Titivator projects and activity sessions.

Cllr Gratton-Rayson reported on plans to makeover the Pinfold.

It was agreed to purchase more mulch for Gordons Garden and the Rose bed.

Cllr Yems reported on the new Titivator work schedule and had added it to the shared one-drive.

Dates to note are the 6th June for the Duck race at Bower Dell, and 21st June for the Picnic in the Park at the Village Green. The Clerk will request that the grass is cut prior to these dates.

9.5 **Play area Inspections**

The latest inspection report was reviewed, and a number of items were noted to observe/investigate; top bearing & clearance in arms at Roundaplay Lapset Waltz, swing barriers need attention, and swing has movement on the top beam.

The quote for parts to replace the 3 timber platforms on the toddler multi-unit was noted and accepted.

RESOLVED to purchase the parts and the work will be done by the Titivators.

9.6 **Damaged bench Castle Dam**

A photo was circulated of the damage. One bench slat needs replacing. Cllr Stanley reported that he will take a look at what needs to be done.

9.7 **Ash Tree sapling donation**

The Chair reported about an Ash Tree sapling that had been offered to the Parish Council by a resident.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would accept the sapling and Cllr Gratton-Rayson would find a place to plant it. The Chair will put Cllr Gratton-Rayson in contact with the resident.

9.8 **Japanese Knotweed**

This item was discussed in public participation.

Resident Lesley Gornall reported the extent of the Japanese Knotweed infestation from Spring Vale Community Gardens downstream as far as the Rocher. She has checked regularly and seen new shoots growing at an alarming speed. She has reported to the Environment Agency, BMBC, Local Borough Councillors, the Local MP, Penistone Town Council, and local landowners whose land it is on. She also informed the Council of a local company, Nimrod Environmental who could eradicate the weeds. It was agreed that a cohesive plan on how to deal with the problem is needed. Lesley reported that she believed that BMBC does have enforcement powers. The Environment Agency recommend reporting to the police - all forces have a wildlife officer - allowing it to spread carries a £5000 fine & potential custodial sentence.

She reported that she is writing to MP Marie Tidball & SY Mayor Oliver Coppard as she hopes that there should be some help for councils to treat it on non-council land and claim back the cost.

RESOLVED that the Chair speak with Borough Cllr Burnett to see if a joint meeting can be arranged with all the main parties.

10. **To receive and consider for decision any recommendations from the Council's Committees**

None.

11. **Financial Matters**

11.1 *To receive and note current bank balances*

Bank balances in the current and savings accounts were noted.

11.2 *To receive and note a bank reconciliation/finance report to 30 April 2025*

Relevant documents had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

11.3 *To approve the following accounts for payment*

RESOLVED to approve payment to:

Payments				
Date	Ref	Name	Description	Gross amount
Current Account				
25/04/2025		7 Myyers Building supplies	Topsoil PF garden	88.48
25/04/2025		8 Myyers Building supplies	Mulch PF garden	414.00
19/05/2025		9 S Tolson	Clerk expenses	25.72
19/05/2025		10 Garden Style	Ground Maintenance Field	300.00
19/05/2025		11 Signs Xtra	hanging basket signs	79.20
				907.40
Deposit Account				
NONE				0.00
				0.00
Receipts				
Date	Ref	Name	Description	Amount
Current Account				
07/04/2025	cr	Cadent Gas	peppercorn rent gas governor	5.00
07/04/2025	cr	BMBC	Precept	24370.00
07/04/2025	cr	BMBC	Precept LCT Grant	1070.00
30/04/2025	cr	various	Allotment rent	169.00
30/04/2025	cr	Various	hanging basket sponsorship	109.00
19/05/2025	cr	T Fisher	Allotment rent	33.00
19/05/2025	cr	Wade	hanging basket sponsorship	49.00
19/05/2025	cr	O UFC	Pitch maintenance contribution	210.00
				26015.00
Deposit Account				
None				0.00
Transfers				
Date	Ref	Name	Description	Amount
10 Apr 25	trf	HSBC	bank transfer	24000.00

11.4 *To note payments already authorised*

It was noted that the Clerk's salary as per the contract of employment, had been paid for the month of April.

11.5 *To receive a report on Earmarked Funds*

Relevant documents had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The report was noted.

12. **Correspondence received**

12.1 A quote was received from Ridgwick Tree Services to clearing self-set trees in the Rookery and for tree work around the TPT bridge on Roughbirchworth Lane. (This work had been requested of Vital Services and previously approved to be done). It was agreed to get the tree work near the TPT done and to consider the Rookery work at a later date.

13. **To receive items to report from Councillors**

- 13.1 Cllr Chambers asked who looked after the planter near the playing field. It was confirmed that this one is still sponsored.
- 13.2 Cllr Chambers reported that she is keeping an eye on the biking at the Anthills.
- 13.3 Cllr Chambers reported residents parking on Lower Roughbirchworth Lane near the junction with Bower Hill. The Clerk will report to BMBC.
- 13.4 It was reported that the area land next to Bower Dell has been cleared, for unknown reasons.

