

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly On Monday 13th May 2024, at 6.45pm at St Aidans Church

Present

Councillor A Walker	(AW)
Councillor E Gratton-Rayson	(EGR)
Councillor L Chambers	(LC)
Councillor I Stanley	(IS)

In Attendance

Mrs S Tolson (Clerk).

Apologies.

Councillor G Sedgwick.

Councillor Walker in the Chair as retiring Chairperson of Oxspring Parish Council read the Notice of the Annual Assembly.

The Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023

These together with the Internal and External Auditors' reports and certification of accounts were circulated.

Reports of the Parish Council Representatives and Associated Bodies.

Oxspring Parish Allotments Manager.

Mrs Steph Tolson.

There are no vacant plots. All allotments for the Year starting 1st April 24 have been fully paid apart from one which has been paid since the meeting.

During the year two plots changed hands.

There are currently 21 names on the Waiting list. 6 of those on the list are Oxspring residents.

Three people joined the waiting list in the last year.

Following the report, the allotments were discussed and it was **resolved** to:

- Check with non Oxspring presidents whether they want to stay on the list.
- Enquire with Penistone how many allotments they have.
- Find out which plot has a bee hive at West Crescent.
- It is noted that the tenancy agreement does not mention whether fires are permitted or not.

The Titivators

Councillor Gratton-Rayson reported the following:

There have been three new titivator members, A Hartley, I Yems and D Shirliffe. Further volunteers are needed. Cllr Chambers will advertise on Facebook.

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The footpath on upper Roughbirchworth Lane has been cleared with the help of TWIGS.

The hedgerow that was planted in the playingfield is maturing nicely.

The trees in the Orchard have plenty of blossom and there has been minimal vandalism in the last year.

General maintenance has taken place at Bower Dell bridge, the Pinfold and Gordon's Garden.

It is noted that BMBC have been spraying Japanese Knotweed on the TOP and Mayfield, but it is not enough to prevent it growing.

Oxspring Friends

Jane Harding submitted the following report:

Oxspring Friends continues to grow and we are now offering more and more events and occasions for our residents.

In September last year, the Friends hosted its first Drop in Cafe event and although not hugely attended, those who did attend found the event very useful. We had a guest speaker talking about Internet Scams and as a result of this session, at least one of our residents avoided being scammed by a company purporting to be their electricity supplier. So, job done!!

We have another Drop in Cafe organised for 16th September 2023 and hopefully our guest speaker will be advising people on how to use the Defibrillator equipment at the front of St Aidans.

The Friends also arranged the Picnic in the Park event for the 7th May to celebrate the King's Coronation. The event was an absolutely fantastic success and we had a really good turn-out of approximately 250 – 300 people who came to enjoy the sun and activities. The children from the local school participated in the Crowning of the May King and Queen and also in demonstrating their maypole dancing skills. We also had live music provided by Angel Voices from Penistone (not to be missed) and the Ukulele Lady.

Our next event, which is a fund raiser, is a car boot sale in the football field on the 8th July. This involves a lot less work on the day but still needs to be organised correctly and we will only be accepting cars who have pre-booked so that we can keep a check on the number of vehicles attending.

We have also planned our usual Christmas events and will be repeating the Christmas tree light up event but with an added twist. We will be finishing the lighting up event by carol singing at a number of venues across the village, namely The Willows, The Wagon and Horses, and the Smithy Arms followed by drinks and a chat at the Smithy Arms afterwards.

Finally, we have arranged our annual Christmas Carol Concert at St Aidans for the 16th December and, learning from last year, we will be improving our drinks offer

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and also improving the sound quality by ensuring that the compere is appropriately microphoned up.

We have lots of new ideas for the following year including the possibility of a tea dance and a beetle drive on the agenda for discussion.

Volunteers are always welcome so please encourage your friends and families to come along and join us.

Oxspring Parish Council Chair's Report.

Councillor Walker submitted a written report as follows:

Welcome to the Assembly meeting for 2024

2023 has been another very interesting and in some ways challenging year. We have undertaken some new projects and have more projects on the horizon for the coming year.

Items covered this year include:

- the introduction of additional SID to improve the traffic calming through our village, the readings of which show that although we can never fully eradicate the speeding issues, we are greatly improving matters.
- Road repairs – after a number of years we finally managed to get the repairs between Cross Lane and Back Lane completed and although we still have a massive pot hole issue, this repair will hopefully make accidents happening at this cross roads much less likely.
- As your Chairman (through the Ward Alliance) I was instrumental in the appointment of the new environmental support service (Twiggs as was). I was on the interview panel for the new appointments and also part of the proposal to change the specification so that we can get jobs done without the need to always have volunteers to hand.
- We also took the decision last year to discontinue the Newsletter and thanks to Lisa Chambers for her help in setting up the new Parish Council Facebook page. I personally have not heard any complaints regarding the cessation of the newsletter service and obviously it does save the Parish Council money.
- Precept – unfortunately, we had to take the difficult decision to significantly increase our precept this year and although I have had one or two negative comments, I think we can very safely justify how we spend our residents' contributions to improve and maintain the facilities that we have in Oxspring.

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- We have also dealt with several planning applications including another one for the Millstones site which we are still awaiting decisions on. As part of the Little London building site, we have also been very successful in getting approval for our application for S106 funding to improve the facilities in the children's playground. The figure is in the region of £56,000 and will go a long way to helping replace some of the larger items in the play area. This money will be forwarded to us when the criteria for houses sold has been reached.
- Yet again, we had another very successful year with the hanging baskets and have further increased the number of people wanting to sponsor new baskets this year. The baskets at the Willows were perhaps a little more challenging as it is difficult to get people to water the boxes and to look after them. A further discussion regarding this project is on the agenda for this month.
- We undertook a whole Parish Council training session earlier this year and although some of us had reservations about the session, I honestly believe we all came away having learned lots of new things and I suggest we keep our eyes open for further opportunities to train together as a whole Parish Council.
- Other issues we have dealt with this year include: Anti-social behaviour at the fishing pond car park, unauthorised camping, again at the fishing pond car park, white lining the children's play area car park, repairing dry stone walls on Parish owned property and re-surfacing the football field car park.

Unfortunately, we finish the year on a bit of a low as we have had two parish councillors step down. This will be reported to the May Parish Council meeting. However, we hope to be able to fill the two vacancies in due course and hope that we can carry on with the good work that we have done during the last year.

Our thanks go to Norma McKay and to Gareth Hinchcliffe for their contributions to the Parish Council and we wish them all the best for the future.

Lastly, I need to say a massive thank you to our Clerk, Stephanie Tolson, whose work is hugely appreciated., and a big thank you to all of the parish councillors for your contributions large and small over the last year. I also must not forget the work of other volunteers who help keep our village in order – Alan Walker for his help with the Titivators and David Shirliffe for all his voluntary work in and around the village, but particularly around the football field.

Here's to lots of new projects and a successful 2024.

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Observations from Members of the Parish.

There was no further business.

This meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Signed this day _____ 2024