

OAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Oake Parish Council meeting held at the Oake and District Hall,
on Thursday 13th March 2014 at 7.00pm

1. PRESENT

Councillors: A Dyke (Chairman), Mrs F Dunn, C Bishop, I McMath, Mrs S Woodbury & D Roots.
In attendance: Jill Loader (Clerk), SC Cllr J Hunt, Tim Leach & 3 members of the public.

2. **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME** - Concerns were raised by a member of the public regarding the proposed new driveway at Higher Knapp Farm together with information that another proposed kennel application would be forthcoming. It was suggested that property prices close to noisy businesses fall as people don't want to live near them. Until the PC had received the proposed application to discuss, the concerns raised could only be recorded.

3. APOLOGIES

Cllr J Sharland, PC Adrian Hooper and PCSO Sharon Cridlin

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllr C Bishop declared an interest in all planning issues stating that if he says anything in respect of planning issues he reserves the right to alter that opinion when the application is put to the planning committee and the full facts are available. Cllr Woodbury declared an interest in planning application 27/14/002.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2014 were circulated and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Rights of Way – Tim Leach had nothing to report.
- b) Gate in field – the clerk had received a response from Rights of Way regarding the gate. After discussion, it was agreed to remove the gate. A copy of the email would be sent to Cllr Hunt to find out why the original gate had been removed and why the fool proof latches had not been fitted as asked.
- c) Highway issues – it had been reported that members of the public were not allowed to place flooding signs on highways for legal reasons. There was however a possible training scheme being organised by SCC Highways to allow this to happen, which Oake PC were keen to attend once details were known.

7. MATTERS OF REPORT

- a) **Police Report - Crime Report – GT021 – Oake, Bradford On Tone, Nynehead, Hillfarrance & Langford Budville from 01/02/14 – 28/02/14**

Crimes Reported

- 1 x Burglary in a Building (other than a dwelling) – Items of equipment, money and fodder stolen from an insecure outbuilding – Chipley, Langford Budville.
- 1 x theft of Mail – Bradford on Tone

Other calls/incidents

- 9 x Traffic Offences – mainly caused by flooding / storms
- 2 x Animal related –
- Loose Horse – Langford Budville
- Dog worrying cattle/sheep – Heathfield
- 1 x RTC – Nynehead

1 x Suspicious – Male attended vulnerable couple's home address, asking to read meter. No ID seen.

1 x welfare – Elderly female collapsed at home, police assisted with entry.

Other Work

High Visibility patrol regarding rural thefts

Flooding/trees down/cables etc, plus abstraction to Burrowbridge/North Curry areas most badly affected by flooding.

Internet Safety Week – Primary and secondary schools visited.

Bath & West Show attended, agricultural show, promoting Farmwatch.

This is a security initiative which is free to rural farming businesses, increasing information sharing, text alerts regarding sus vehicles, recent crime in area etc. in the hope of reducing further incidents. Please contact me for further info if you know of anyone wishing to be part of the scheme.

Test Purchasing Operation in off-licensed premises in the Wellington area.

Sharon Cridlin PCSO 9511

07825125108

Reminder to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity/persons through the 101 number or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

b) Shop management committee update – nothing to report, other than the AGM is on 7th June and there was going to be drive to get more volunteers.

c) Village Hall Committee – nothing to report.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

a) Affordable Housing Survey – these had been circulated via the Hall News on 7th March.

b) Annual Parish Meeting – the proposed agenda and attendees were discussed for this meeting to be held on 10th April at 6pm. Clerk to send out invitations for reports. The PC agreed to donate £20 to the WI to provide the teas and cakes at the meeting.

c) Somerset Levels Relief Fund – after discussion it was agreed to donate £150 to this fund which was being managed by The Royal Bath and West of England Society. Additional leaflets would be left in the shop and hall for members of the public to be able to donate.

d) Membership to the CPRE – it was agreed this organisation was more appropriate for individuals to join rather than the PC.

e) Bridge Barrier Repair at Hillfarrance – after discussion it was agreed to contact SCC Bridge Dept for advice and permission regarding the repairs to this bridge. Clerk to contact the resident who has an interest in this issue to inform him that the PC were not prepared to provide a donation until SCC had responded.

f) Potential Unauthorised Building Works at Hillfarrance – following a discussion regarding an issue raised by a resident. It was agreed to find out from TDBC Enforcement Officer where people stood legally regarding having utility buildings on wheels and whether planning permission was required. This issue involved three separate instances which had occurred over a period of time. Clarification was required.

g) The Somerset Levels and Moors Flood Action Plan - A 20 year plan for a sustainable future – The Chairman agreed to the proposal made by Cllr Bishop to respond to the consultation as a matter of urgency due to the close deadline. Cllr Bishop proposed the Council support the aims and principles of the plan and to urge all authorities to put pressure on the Government to find the necessary funding to enable this plan to be put in place. The Councillors agreed to this unanimously.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a) Application 27/14/0002 – Formation of vehicular access to serve dwelling and boarding cattery and blocking up of original access at Higher Knapp Farm, Hillfarrance. Cllr Woodbury left the meeting due to declaring an interest. After discussion the Councillors voted by 3 votes with 1 abstention to object to the application.

- There were continuing concerns with flood issues with water running off the concrete driveway onto the road which already floods.
- The drainage ditch is inadequate to support flooding that occurs at present. The loss of more hedging takes time to establish and should be monitored.
- The existing entrance was adequate for the current needs of the property and questions were raised as to why the owners wished to move it.

b) Application 27/14/0005 – Change of use of land from agricultural to timber (firewood) business and erection of two storage containers at Daisycroft, Pontispool, Norton Fitzwarren (retention of works already undertaken). The Councillors voted to support this application.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – DECISIONS – None received

11. a) FINANCE

Payments

Clerks Salary	£200.85
Clerks expenses	£ 30.00
Hall News Donation	£ 25.00

The above payments were approved by the Parish Council.

b) Income Received – £7.75 from NS&I Account.

c) Budget Update - no queries were raised regarding the finances to date.

d) Internal Auditor – it was agreed to ask P. Archer to carry out the internal audit for this year.

12. CORRESPONDENCE FOR CIRCULATION & OTHER MATTERS

a) SCC Cllr James Hunt reported the Taunton Half Marathon would be coming through Oake on 6th April as usual. The SCC 20 year flood plan was welcomed due to the recent flooding issues. There was no news regarding the Well-Being Fund for the shop being allocated yet. SCC and TDBC had approved the Somerset Growth Plan for 2014 – 2020 which were aspirations for the Future.

b) David Grieg – it was agreed to write a thank you letter to David Grieg for all his help and support to Oake PC.

c) Bus Shelter – agreed to discuss this item at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 10th April 2014, following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____