

OAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Oake Parish Council meeting held at the Oake and District Hall, on:
Thursday the 14th February 2013 at 7.00pm

1. **PRESENT**

Councillors: A Dyke (Chairman) C Stokes, D Roots, Mrs F Dunn, C Bishop, HJ Sharland, I McMath.

In attendance: Bryan Howe (Clerk)

Also present: Members of the public. P.C.S.O. L. Fyne.

The meeting was digitally recorded.

2. **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

A member of the public asked about the Parish Council working with other authorities in respect of maintenance of footpaths etc. Cllr Stokes explained that he and the chairman had attended a meeting with S.C.C which talked about a warden scheme but they thought that it was not practical for a small authority to join such a scheme; however the Council should look at new voluntary groups and grants. The chairman said he is currently looking at a voluntary group with the new liaison officer and invited members of the public to join the group.

Cllr Stokes said S.C.C. could be ceasing certain services, and these services, may need to be taken on through voluntary groups or the parish Council paying contractors to carry out the work.

Mr James Hunt introduced himself to the meeting. James is standing at the next local elections as the Conservative candidate and if successful will take over the role from Cllr Tony McMahan.

3. **WELCOME**

The chairman welcomed Cllr Ian McMath and Cllr John Sharland to their first Parish Council meeting.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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.

5. **APOLOGIES**

Tony McMahan (S.C.C.)

6. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on the 10th January 2013 and the 17th January 2013 were circulated and corrections were made to the 10th January minutes, item 6 (Withycombe replaced with Oake, delete 2014/15, replace £5,999 with £5,000. Item 7 (Village Hall Committee amend to read 'replace the floor of the stage') also record on the meeting on the 17th January that Cllr Roots did not attend but sent his apologies, the minutes were amended and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record.

7. **PRESENTATION-NEW RENDEY FARM SOLAR FARM**

The chairman invited Tim Mourant, from TGC Renewal's to talk about the proposed solar farm at New Rendey Farm and he provided the Parish Council with maps and visual impressions. TGC are going to submit a planning application to Taunton Deane Council in the next few weeks. Cllr Bishop asked about access to the proposed site as other solar sites in the area are having problems in getting the panels to sites, and he is concerned about how the company is going to get to New Rendey Farm. Cllr Bishop asked if TGC had talked to the Planning authority regarding access to the site. The chairman suggested that the company should also talk to Nynehead Parish Council. P.C.S.O Fyne confirmed that other solar farm sites in the area have caused problems to the condition of the roads and also created traffic congestion. The company confirmed that they will be providing a transport plan and they would talk to the highways team about the best way in getting to the proposed site prior to the planning application being submitted. The chairman asked about the current use of the land, and the clerk asked if there was any benefit to the community. Further discussions took place regarding flooding, sheep grazing, the life of the panels, etc.

8. MATTERS ARISING

Precept 2013/14

The clerk explained changes in the way the District Council receives its central government grants and he confirmed that he had received a letter from T.D.B.C stating that on top of the precept of £5,000 there will also be a grant payable to Oake Parish Council in the 2013/14 financial year of £231. Cllr Stokes asked if the clerk could provide a budget report for the next meeting.

Footpaths stiles and gates

The clerk asked about the improvements to gates and stiles, the chairman confirmed that some work had already been ordered to repair stiles and gates in the Oake area, the money will be used from the S.C.C grant of £690.

Flooding

The clerk read a letter regarding gully cleaning from Somerset Council and he also confirmed that he had written a letter to the chairman of S.C.C which had been passed on to the appropriate department.

Cllr Stokes said we should lobby on a frequent basis for regular cleaning of the gullies as it is proposed that they will in future be cleaned on needs basis.

Links with other Parish Councils

The chairman confirmed that he had spoken to other chairman, and talks are on-going It was agreed to meet with Nynehead Parish Council when the solar panel planning application is submitted.

Footpath at Mayfield cottage

The clerk reported that he had received an email from Tony McMahon regarding Mayfield cottage and he suggested that the owner proceed with a permissive footpath. The chairman said he had visited the Mayfield site and said the improvement work has been carried out.

9. MATTERS OF REPORT

Police report

P.C.S.O. L Fyne explained details in the police report and answered questions on the police report. The police report was circulated prior to the meeting. She also announced that there will be area re-shuffle and she will be transferred to the Wiveliscombe area including Milverton. P.C.S.O. Sharon Cridlin will be the new P.C.S.O. in the Oake Parish. The Parish Council thanked Louise for her hard work in Oake. P.C. Adrian Hooper will remain the beat manager.

Shop management committee update

Cllr F Dunn reported that the refurbishment has been carried out and there will be an official opening soon. The shop is a community benefit society and therefore there will be a membership scheme. The membership scheme will be open soon.

Web site updating

The clerk reported that he has now received some local photographs and he will pass them on to the web developer. The clerk said he would get some statistics from the current site.

Village Hall Committee

Cllr Cliff Bishop said that £6,000 of work has been carried out on the heating system in the hall. Cllr Sharland said that the heating system is now working fine.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Cllr Bishop confirmed that the levy is now out for consultation and he read out the proposed levies. The government have proposed the maximum that would be passed to Parish and Town Councils is £100 per dwelling with 25% extra for Councils with a neighbourhood plan.

10 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

TDBC – Settlement Area

The clerk said TDBC are currently asking for views on changing the settlement/boundary area in the Oake area, consultation will end on the 7th March and the clerk said he would circulate the information.

Taunton Deane Citizenship awards 2013

The clerk said he had received a letter requesting nominations for the award. Cllr Dyke said he would complete the form and return it to TDBC.

Grants awarded

At the last meeting the clerk was asked to write to organisations asking where the money was spent and he read out two replies.

Countrywide Review of recent flooding events

The clerk read a letter regarding a review of recent flooding events and it was agreed that Cllr Bishop would attend the event representing the Parish Council.

Subsidence at Allerford

The chairman said that the road had subsided at Allerford. It was agreed that the clerk would write to S.C.C. saying that the parish Council is concerned about the safety of the road after a recent incident where a car was stuck in the ditch.

Footpath at Court Farm

The chairman said he had been asked about the maintenance of the footpath at Court Farm. A discussion took place and it was agreed that it could be private land. It was agreed that the clerk would write to S.C.C. footpaths officer to find out more information about the ownership etc.

Barn Owl Box project

The chairman said that he had registered the Councils interest in the scheme and a land owner had offered to erect a box.

Affordable Housing in the Oake Area

The clerk said that the company 'First Step Homes' had been in contact with him asking to meet for discussions, it was agreed that representatives of the Parish Council would meet with the company and T.D.B.C. before the Council meeting. The clerk will arrange the meeting.

Letter from Shirley Ridgway

The clerk read a letter from Shirley Ridgway asking about local families and properties. It was agreed that enquires would be made and discussed again at the next meeting in March.

11 PLANNING

Planning Applications received

27/12/0027

Demolition of a conservatory and erection of a single storey extension to rear of 1 Saxon Close.
The Oake Parish Council supports the application as the proposal is considered not to have a detrimental impact upon visual or residential amenity and is therefore considered acceptable. However consideration must be given to the materials used to match existing.

Planning Applications refused

27/12/0012

Change of use of land for the construction of an Iron Age farmstead of thatched round houses and associated field enclosures based on archaeological evidence. To be used as an educational resource for local schools and colleges at Oake orchard

Planning Applications granted

27/12/0026

Construction of single storey link extension between dwelling and domestic outbuilding with installation of roof lights and windows at Barn Owl Farm.

27/12/0024

Erection of horticultural nursery to include poly tunnel and construction of access at land south of Harris's farm, Hillcommon (to replace extant permission 27/09/0020)

Planning Applications withdrawn

27/12/0025

Change of use of agricultural land with erection of buildings to form boarding kennels and isolation unit and temporary permission to site a mobile home to provide managers accommodation for the boarding cattery at Fiveoak boarding, Hillfarrance

12 FINANCE

Payments

Clerks Salary (Jan)	£189.12
HMRC Tax for Clerk	£39.78

Income

S.C.C. Grant (Health and Wellbeing)	£690.00
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The above payments were approved by the Parish Council.

The chairman signed the up to date cash book with bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st January 2013.

13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR CIRCULATION/OTHER MATTERS

The Clerk circulated various documents.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 14th March 2013

The meeting closed at 8.49pm

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____