

# OAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Oake Parish Council meeting held at the Oake and District Hall, on:  
Thursday the 12th July 2012 at 7.00pm

1. **PRESENT**

Councillors: A Dyke (Chairman) C Stokes, Mrs Y Yeoell, D Roots, Mrs F Dunn,  
Mrs W Sargent, C Bishop.

In attendance: Bryan Howe (Clerk)

Also present: Members of the public.

**The meeting was digitally recorded.**

2. **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

Members of the public voiced their concerns about the condition of the stile opposite the turning to Hillfarrance that enters the Farm.

The broken sign (previously reported) by the flood alleviation scheme had not been repaired. The clerk said he would follow it up.

Concern was raised about the lack of maintenance of the grass verges in the Oake and surrounding areas. The clerk said he would report it.

Cllr Bishop said that the County Council had recently announced that each County Councillor has a fund of £10,000 to spend on health and wellbeing issues in their area and it was suggested that the Parish Council request some of this money to repair or replace various stiles. It was agreed to discuss this idea later in the meeting under the footpaths heading.

3. **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.

4. **APOLOGIES**

None

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th June 2012 were circulated and signed by the Chairman with the amendments to item 7 'Village Hall Committee' the word 'proposed' should be deleted and the 'News from the Villages' should be changed to 'Hall News Booklet'. The chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

7. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

**Police report**

P.C.S.O. Fyne did not attend the meeting, and did not provide a report.

**Shop steering committee update**

Cllr F Dunn said the steering committee were waiting on the head office at the Post Office and there was a meeting planned for the 13<sup>th</sup> July when further development should take place.

It was agreed that this subject would be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

### **Notice Boards.**

Cllr. C Stokes said he had visited the D.L.O at Taunton Deane Borough Council but the notice boards they had were not suitable. He confirmed that he had applied for some funding.

The chairman thought that something should be done about the current notice board at the school because it is tatty and unwelcoming.

Cllr C Bishop proposed that the Parish Council write to the school explaining the situation and requesting that the board be removed leaving the posts in place for a future board. This was seconded by Cllr Y Yeoell and was unanimously agreed.

### **Web site updating**

The clerk said that he had spoken to Marcia Maunder and she had agreed to update the web site with agenda/minutes and any other documents for the Parish Council. He also said for technical reasons he could not gain access to the site from home so he would need to visit the Oake hall to update the site. Due to more and more reasons to use the web site it was agreed that the clerk would look into getting access from home to the web site and he will contact Marcia and make a visit to discuss the way forward.

### **Speed watch scheme**

The Chairman confirmed that he had received another volunteer to help with the scheme and the clerk said he would contact the P.C.S.O to arrange training.

### **National Savings Account**

The clerk explained that the current account held by the Parish Council was for postal use only and therefore will not support the local post office as previously discussed.

It was agreed to leave the money in the account and investigate if there is a Post Office account which could be used locally. A final decision will be made after the outcome of the village shop/post office.

### **Village Hall Committee**

Cllr Bishop reported that the fete was very successful with over 500 people attending. Profit in excess £2,600 was made, which is shared with the school.

The chairman said some bookmarks were sold since the last meeting, but there is some remaining, therefore it was agreed to put them in the local shop for sale.

## **8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Chairman's Award for service to the community**

The clerk said he had received an email from Somerset County Council seeking nominations for the 'Chairman's award for service to the community' and a nomination was discussed. The clerk said he would find the application form and forward it to Cllr Roots for submission.

### **Road Closures**

The chairman reported that Wessex Water signs were left on site days after the work was completed and this caused traffic problems, it was agreed that the clerk would write to Somerset County Council highways division asking why a coordinated approach did not take place with Wessex Water on this occasion.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The clerk read a notification from Taunton Deane Borough Council saying that the Council is proposing to introduce a new levy during 2013, further information can be found at

[www.tauntondeane.gov.uk/corestraegy/cil](http://www.tauntondeane.gov.uk/corestraegy/cil) it was agreed to put the subject on the next agenda when more information will be available.

### **New Code of Conduct**

The clerk explained that under the new localism bill the Parish Council will need to adopt a new code of conduct. It was proposed to adopt the NALC version of the Code of Conduct; this was seconded by Cllr Yeowell and unanimously agreed. The new code of conduct and forms for registering interests will be sent to all Councillors for reference and completion.

### **Footpaths**

The Chairman reported that there is a gate in Hillfarrance that needs replacing. Cllr Bishop proposed that due to other complaints from members of the public regarding stiles the clerk should write to Somerset County Council for a quotation to install five new gates. Following that, send a request to County Councillor Tony Mc Mahon requesting funds from his new health and wellbeing budget to replace five stiles/gates to promote well used footpaths in the Oake area as the existing gates/stiles are causing difficulty for the people, particularly the elderly who want to keep fit and healthy.

The Chairman said that there is a footpath that has been covered by farmer's crops, and said he would find the land owners contact details in order the clerk can write to him.

The clerk said he had received a telephone call from local land owner Mr. Purves, inviting any Parish Councillor to inspect his land. Contact details are available from the chairman.

### **External Audit**

The clerk confirmed that the external audit has been completed and a certificate of completion will be posted on the notice board.

## **9 PLANNING**

### **Received**

#### **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.

***The Parish Council supports the principle but has concerns regarding the access to the site from a busy fast road. There is no evidence of demand. There is inadequate highway access to the site and therefore on highway ground the Parish Council objects to the proposal.***

#### **27/12/0018**

Erection of first floor extension over the Sales Office at Deane Vale Motors, Hillcommon, Oake

***The Parish Council supports the proposal as it supports local business.***

#### **27/12/0019**

Development of former builders compound and adjoining land comprising of retention of joinery workshop and adjoining yard to form reduced builders unit; demolition of storage unit and replacement with smaller unit to be used in conjunction with reduced builders unit; provision of 12 light industrial units (B1 use) with associated access and parking facilities; provision of 2 semi-detached cottages with associated parking and garage spaces on existing residential site; and provision of a new garage for Selworthy Cottage at Beaconstone, Hillcommon, Oake (resubmission of 27/12/0011)

***The Oake Parish Council stands by its previous observations and also feels that a second dwelling would be advantageous for sustainability as it would support a second family to work at the site.***

**Decided**

**27/12/0013**

Erection of stables and hay barn at Hazelmere, Hillcommon

**Planning Contraventions**

The clerk reported two Planning contraventions:

- Caravan sited in field near Hillfarrance
- Unauthorised use of land for storage of non agricultural items on land to the South of Whisperfields, Oake.

**Taunton Deane Borough Council**

**Core Strategy**

Cllr Bishop updated the meeting regarding the core strategy saying that it will be adopted by the T.D.B.C very soon and probably will be the first in the Country. The document is available on the T.D.B.C. website.

**Council Tax 2013/14**

Cllr Bishop talked about possible changes in the calculation in the Council Tax for the year 2013/14.

**10 FINANCE**

Clerks Salary (April)	£189.12
HMRC Tax for Clerk	£39.78
Moore Stephens (external audit)	£144.00

The above payments were approved by the Parish Council.

2012/2013 Budget

The clerk provided a revised budget to consider and answered questions.

The clerk provided a bank reconciliation and cash book which the chairman signed as a true record.

**11 CORRESPONDENCE FOR CIRCULATION/OTHER MATTERS**

The Clerk circulated various documents including:

- Heart of Somerset.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_