

OAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Oake Parish Council meeting held at the Oake and District Hall, on:
Thursday the 8th November 2012 at 7.00pm

1. **PRESENT**

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

In attendance: Bryan Howe (Clerk) Cllr T McMahon (SCC)

Also present: Members of the public.

The meeting was digitally recorded.

Presentation

Prior to the meeting Cllr Tony McMahon presented the Somerset County Council's chairman's award for services to the community to Mrs Kirsten Horton. Photographs were taken and Cllr Dyke thanked Kirsten on behalf of the Oake Parish Council for all her hard work.

2. **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

No member of the public wished to speak. But Cllr Fern Dunn reported that Mrs Woodbury had reported her neighbours had been burning rubbish around the time of bonfire night. Mrs Woodbury has reported it to the environment health. Cllr Bishop read a letter from a resident concerned about traffic problems around Oake Manor Golf Club on the night of the Fire work display. The resident was very concerned about access to residents for emergency services.

Cllr Tony McMahon said that organisers should carry out a risk assessment of the event and provide traffic control. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the Chief Executive of Taunton Deane Council with a copy of the letter asking if the District Council will in future be liaising with the police and the organisers of the event. The clerk will also write to the resident explaining what action has been taken.

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. Cllr Dyke declared an interest in planning application 27/12/0022.

4. **APOLOGIES**

P.C.S.O.L Fyne.

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th October 2012 were circulated and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

Footpaths

Cllr Tony McMahon confirmed that the application for funds to improve the gates and stiles in the Oake Parish is still waiting for a decision, and he will inform the clerk the outcome as soon as possible.

7. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Police report

P.C.S.O. L Fyne did not attend the meeting, but provided a report. The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Shop steering committee update

Cllr F Dunn reported that the opening of the shop has been changed to the 1st December 2012. The delay has been due to handing over the responsibility and that a manager has been appointed to start on the first December.

Notice Boards.

Nothing to report

Web site updating

The clerk reported that he had transferred all the text on to the new website and was currently transferring the photographs. He hoped that the new site will be available live with effect from

2013. Cllr Stokes asked about users of the web site and the clerk said he would obtain the data from the web developer.

When the new site is live it will be reviewed by all Parish Councillors in order to possibly change the image and way it is presented, to make it more user friendly and attractive to advertisers. The new community shop will also have a feature on the site.

Village Hall Committee

Cllr Cliff Bishop said that there has not been a meeting since the last Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Fern Dunn asked if there will be a celebration to mark ten years since its opening.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Nothing to report

Vacant Parish Council Posts

The clerk said he had received the notification to be able to co-opt two new councillors after the 20th November 2012. Posters will be displayed on the notice boards and it will be advertised in the 'News from the villages' booklet.

Vacant Vice Chairman

Cllr Fern Dunn was nominated by Cllr Chris Stokes and seconded by Cllr Cliff Bishop and Fern was unanimously voted into post

Youth Service

Cllr Stokes asked about the history of a youth service in the Parish and it was confirmed that there was a scheme in the past.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Setting the 2013/14

Cllr Stokes presented a proposal setting the 2013/14 budget. The report recommended increasing the reserves with a target of 50% of precept by the end of 2013/14 and 100% of precept by the end of 2018/19. To do this the precept would increase by 2% in 2013/14. Cllr Stokes provided a detailed breakdown of budgets for 2013/14. Cllr Bishop reminded the meeting that there could be a capping limit imposed and therefore the decision to set the budget should be delayed until the January meeting. A debate took place with detailed discussions on individual budgets particularly grants from Taunton Deane Borough Council and grants that are paid by Oake Parish Council.

The new proposed budget included new headings for enhanced projects £250 and allocated £500 to reserves and contingency £378.50. No allocation was made for future elections; however the build of reserves will cover any future election costs.

It was agreed to accept the proposed budget in principle but delay setting the budget until the January 2013 meeting.

Footpaths and Highways

The clerk reported that he had received an interest from two people in helping with footpaths. The clerk said he would write to them thanking for their interest and asking if one of them would like to take on the liaison officer role.

Links with Bradford and Cotford Parish Council

Cllr Stokes proposed creating links with neighbouring Parishes where sharing information and services will benefit the whole community. Detailed discussions took place and it was agreed that the Chairman will contact other neighbouring Councils to discuss the way forward.

Taunton and District CAB funding

The clerk said he had received a request for funding from the Citizens Advice Bureau. A discussion took place and it was proposed by Cllr Bishop that the Parish Council give £25 to CAB this was seconded by Cllr Roots and was agreed.

West Somerset and Sedgemoor static diversion routes

The clerk informed the meeting that Somerset County Council are introducing static signage to indicate the diversionary routes of the A39 should this major route be closed.

Local Choices

The chairman said that he and Cllr Stokes had previously attended a meeting regarding SCC and Taunton Deane talking about devolving and sharing services etc, he thought it was a good meeting

and said he and Cllr Stokes will be attending another meeting on the 20th November, and will report back.

9 PLANNING

Planning Applications granted

27/12/0020 Application to fell and replace 4 Oak Trees included in Taunton Deane Borough (Oake2) Tree preservation order 1998 in fields north of Manor Farm, Heathfield.

Planning Applications received

23/12/0032. Installation of 19,640 No Ground mounted Photovoltaic solar panels to provide a 5MW installation with power inverter systems, transformer stations, sub stations, security fencing and access gates in a field of Grange Farm, Nynehead.

The Oake Parish Council supports the proposal but consideration must be given to the material used regarding colour to blend into the landscape. Also landscaping should be considered to screen the panels from public view.

27/12/0022. Outline application for the erection of No. Live works units at High Orchard, Hillfarrance.

Cllr Dyke declared an interest and left the room.

The Oake parish Council objects to this planning application for the following reasons.

- ***The site is divorced from the hamlet of Oake.***
- ***The site is in the open countryside.***
- ***Access and visibility: Access to the highway is very poor and limited, very narrow lane to Court farm and visibility is poor with high hedges etc.***
- ***The site is located on a slope with poor drainage and flooding could affect other properties.***
- ***The planning application is contrary to current planning policy.***
- ***The development is unsustainable due to its location.***

Planning other

Proposed - Solar Farm on land at New Rendey Farm.

The clerk reported that another planning application for a solar farm will be submitted on land at New Rendey Farm and the developer has been in contact asking if they can attend a future meeting for consultation.

10 FINANCE

Clerks Salary (Oct)	£189.12
HMRC Tax for Clerk	£39.78
Magic Web	£86.40

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 October 2012.

11 CORRESPONDENCE FOR CIRCULATION/OTHER MATTERS

The Clerk circulated various documents.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 10th January 2013

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____