

OAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Oake Parish Council meeting held at the Oake and District Hall, on:
Thursday the 11th October 2012 at 7.00pm

1. **PRESENT**

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

In attendance: Bryan Howe (Clerk)

Also present: Police Constable- Adrian Hooper and Members of the public.

The meeting was digitally recorded.

2. **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

No member of the public wished to speak.

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**

Cllr T McMahon (Somerset County Council)

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th September 2012 were circulated and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

Planning

Cllr Stokes asked about the Core Planning Strategy and the new relaxed planning regulations. Cllr Bishop said the Core Planning Strategy is currently out to consultation for a period of six weeks and can be viewed on the Taunton Deane Web site. Regarding the announcement from government about relaxing the planning regulations to build larger extensions etc, Cllr Bishop and the clerk said that there was no further information on the subject and any changes to the legislation would need to go out to consultation first.

Speed watch

The Chairman reported that the speed scheme is now up and running, and at the first session three cars were speeding over 40mph. Two volunteers carried out the task.

7. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Police report

P.C. Adrian Hooper introduced himself as the new Police Constable for the area and handed out his contact details: PC 276 for Bradford – on –Tone, Blackdown, and Monument Beat Manager. Wellington Police Station, Victoria Police Station, Victoria Street, Wellington, Somerset.

TA21 8HR.

Mobile number 07717700659 e mail-, adrian.hooper@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Non urgent number contact 101

He reported that in the last month there was a telephone scam carried out in the Oake area, this was the only reported crime.

The chairman reminded the P.C. that there are still cars entering the Oake hall car park at night spinning their wheels, and Cllr.Stokes talked about the on-going parking problems at the school.

The P.C, said he would like to meet the general public at a future meeting and the clerk suggested that he attended the annual meeting next April.

Shop steering committee update

Cllr F Dunn confirmed the shop committee will be taking over the shop on the 1st November 2012 and they are currently looking to appoint a manager to run the shop.

Notice Boards.

The chairman said that the school are keen to take on the responsibility of the notice board and it was agreed that this would be the best solution to the problem.

Web site updating

The clerk reported that he had spoken to Magic Webs who are the company that provide the current site and they are able to upgrade the site for a cost of £300 not £200 as previously been reported, they also confirmed that there are two separate web sites, one for the Oake Hall and one for the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr C Bishop and seconded by Cllr F Dunn that the clerk be authorised to spend up to £300 excluding VAT to upgrade the current web site. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr Dunn agreed to assist the clerk in transferring and updating the current data. Cllr Stokes asked what the usage is of the current site and if the look and feel of the new site will change and improve, the clerk said he would investigate the current usage and said the new site will have an improved look and feel and be easier to navigate.

Village Hall Committee

Cllr Bishop said the village hall had just had its annual general meeting and the play area had received a certificate of merit. User groups are very pleased with the facilities. The village hall has a healthy financial balance with reserves of over £50K. A new village hall will be opened at Langford Budville next week.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Nothing to report

Standing order- adoption.

The clerk had previously updated the standing orders to include the revised sections on the new code of conduct etc. The new standing orders had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed to adopt the standing orders.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Resignations of Parish Councillors

The clerk reported that Cllr Yeoell and Cllr Sargent had written to the Chairman handing in their resignations with effect from 31st October 2012.

The clerk said he would inform Taunton Deane Borough Council of the two resignations and wait for further instructions. If the posts are not contested, then the Parish Council will be looking to fill the two vacancies via co-option at the January 2013 meeting as there is not a meeting scheduled for December 2012.

Setting the 2012/3 Budget

The clerk reported that he had received a letter from Taunton Deane Borough Council reminding the Parish Council to start the budget process for the finance year 2013/14. Cllr Bishop said that no decision had yet been made on capping the increase in the precept and therefore the Parish Council should wait until December or even January 2013 to set the budget. The clerk said he would provide a skeleton/draft budget to be discussed at the November meeting.

Dates for future meeting

The clerk reported that he had been asked by the Village hall for dates of meetings for the next year and he asked if the Parish Council if they wished to carry on with holding meetings on a Thursday nights.

It was agreed to continue having meetings on the Second Thursday of the month at 7pm except for August and December. The April 2013 meeting will start at 6pm to include the annual meeting.

Footpaths

The chairman confirmed that the clerk has applied for a £690 grant from funds of the County Councillor’s health and wellbeing budget to improve the footpaths in the Oake Parish. Cllr Bishop reminded the meeting that there is a sum earmarked in the current budget for maintenance of footpaths.

The Chairman said that the current Liaison officer (Jim Paul) for footpaths wants to resign and it was agreed that this role will be advertised in the ‘News from the villages’. The Chairman thanked Mr Paul for all his hard work.

Bus shelter

The Chairman said he had purchased some preservative and had recently painted the bus shelter. He also tidied the shelter and cleared it of rubbish. The Parish Council thanked the Chairman for carrying out this work.

9 PLANNING

Planning Applications received

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.

The Oake Parish Council support the decision of the Tree Conservation officer.

Other Planning Issues

Altona Park Appeal

The clerk confirmed that Mrs Woodbury was successful in her appeal.

Solar Panels

The clerk reported that he had received a letter from a firm (TGC Renewables Ltd) asking if New Rendey Farm was in the Parish of Oake as the firm is proposing to site solar PV panels on that land. It was agreed that the farm is within the Oake Parish and a discussion took place regarding the proposal. The clerk was instructed to write to the company confirming the project is within the Oake Parish and requesting that the company keep the Parish Council informed of any developments before submitting a planning application by inviting them to a future meeting or them providing a public meeting to explain the development.

10 FINANCE

Clerks Salary (April)	£189.12
HMRC Tax for Clerk	£39.78
Mr Adrian Dyke (preservative)	£27.97

The above payments were approved by the Parish Council.

2012/2013 Budget

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.

The Chairman read a letter regarding the maintenance of grass verges and confirmed that action has been taken. He also said that he is talking with the golf club about vehicles leaving the rear exit of the golf club as there are concerns regarding public safety issues.

The clerk reported a temporary road closure of Hillfarrance road.

Cllr Bishop asked the clerk to write to the highways department regarding clearing the gullies at Hillcommon through to Cotford St Luke.

Cllr Bishop suggested that a letter is sent to confirm that the current SID traffic scheme locations should remain.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 8th November 2012

The meeting closed at 8.22pm

Signed _____

Chairman

Date _____