

MINUTES OF ODDINGTON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY 24th APRIL 2015 AT 7 PM

1. Apologies for absence received from Mark Stanley-Price, Mike & Francesca Heaney, Steve and Virginia Lawrence, Glenys Edwards, Mike & Vicky Robinson, Sonya & Adam Barnett, Elspeth Nairn.
2. To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 25th April 2014 as a correct record. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Julie Howkins. Passed unopposed.
3. (i) To approve the annual accounts for the year 1st April 2014 - 31st March 2015 and
(ii) To approve individual payments made during the year, as shown in the 'cashbook'.
Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Ian Kay. Passed unopposed.
4. To approve the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2015
 - (i) Section 1 - statement of accounts and
 - (ii) Section 2 - statement of governanceProposed Adrian Young, seconded Ian Kay. Passed unopposed.
5. Matters arising from the minutes:
 - (i) Project Evergreen 3 – Chiltern Railways proposed new Oxford to London Route. Work continues with the intention of the line beginning operation in September. Road damage caused by the passage of heavy lorries is then to be repaired at the cost of the Railway Consortium, hopefully without road closures. For information on the service which may be offered see www.obrag.org.uk and <http://bicestertooxfordcollaboration.com> . Bicester Town Station may be renamed 'Bicester Village'....
 - (ii) Oxford Green Belt Network/Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. The meeting agreed to continue its membership of the OGBN, but in view of the more than fivefold increase in cost, not to renew its membership of OALC.
 - (iii) To consider the need to reinstate the insurance of the Meeting. The meeting agreed that, in view of the minimal services and facilities provided, and the fact that its grass cutting contractor has his own public liability insurance, we should continue without our own insurance.
6. Gigaclear ultrafast broadband for Oddington. Installation work is scheduled to begin in May, and hopefully completed during July. A connection (a 'pot', looking superficially like a water meter) will be installed at the boundary of every property in the village, whether the owner presently intends to use the service or not. Residents should keep an eye out for the proposed location, which will be marked in advance, and ask for this to be moved if they prefer it elsewhere. Those who wish to continue with their present service and provider will, of course, be able to do so. Gigaclear will allow residents with contracts with other providers to delay activating any service with them until the existing contract period has expired.
7. Probable closure of road to Islip during the summer school holidays. The Chairman thanked residents for their support in opposing a lengthy and complete road closure announced at very short notice earlier in the year. However, he warned that a complete closure (except perhaps for pedestrians and pedal cyclists) was now being contemplated for a 5 week period during this summer's school holidays. During this closure the intention would be not only to repair the road, but at the same time to rebuild the bridge just this side of Islip. This would be hugely inconvenient, but the work had to be done at some time, and repairing both bridge and road at the same time meant there would be only one closure rather than two. Nothing is certain yet, and the Chairman will pass on any information when he can.
8. Contamination from sewage disposal systems in the village. The Chairman has received several complaints about the long-standing problem of offensive, possibly contaminated, water oozing from the ground of the upper part of the path/bridleway leading down onto Otmoor. Late last year the Chairman had a meeting with an Environmental Officer of Cherwell District Council, who felt the problem not severe enough to take further. Subsequently he met with an Antisocial Behaviour Officer of the Council. The latter undertook to investigate the source of the problem by testing the water for chlorine (which, if present, would indicate that it almost certainly came from a house, rather than being a natural spring). If that were so it would then be possible to use coloured dyes to identify which house(s) were responsible, with a view to requiring them to resolve the problem. That officer also undertook to raise

the question of a possible mains drainage system with Thames Water, and to see if any records existed showing the location of 'village drains' alongside roads which might be implicated in the problem. Unfortunately the ASB officer concerned is now on sick leave. The Chairman has spoken with his temporary replacement who has agreed to meet on site to discuss the problem (again). This investigation is a potentially divisive and threatening issue which needs to be handled with sensitivity. There are other, less obvious, contaminated areas within the village which should not be overlooked. The Chairman reminded all residents that septic tanks and Klargesters need regular emptying and occasional maintenance if discharges are not to be offensive, and asked residents to take appropriate action.

9. Proposal to ask BT to remove the telephone kiosk on the village green. Should we try again? The feeling of the meeting was that they would like the kiosk removed. The Chairman will again contact BT, but with modest hopes of success, as last year he was told they were required to keep a minimum number of boxes available for use in an emergency.

10. Any proposals for small projects which will benefit the Parish? Funds are available, but we do need to keep a reasonable reserve, not least because our main, regular, source of income, the annual grass cutting grant, has been halved this year.

(i) **Anita Franklin** - a picnic bench to be sited on the village Green. This was supported by the meeting, and specifically was supported by those at the meeting whose properties overlook the Green. **Anita Franklin and Sarah Young** will source a suitable bench and liaise with the Chairman about installation.

(ii) **Anita Franklin** - a barn owl box, perhaps to be located on a tree in the churchyard. **Karen Stanley-Price** offered to approach the RSPB for information and advice. **Ed and Jo Boanas** very kindly donated a box already in their possession.

(iii) Bulbs to be planted at the approaches to the village, and wild flowers for suitable areas. **Celia Warde-Aldam** will liaise with **Vicky Robinson** about this. (Planting could, with adult help, be a project for the children).

Wild flowers will be encouraged in the churchyard by reducing the area mown - **Celia Warde-Aldam** to advise those on the grass-cutting rota.

(iv) **Ian Kay** - a defibrillator. As this is likely to be an expensive item Ian will investigate possible sources of funding (? from charities, ? from the Railway Consortium, who have charitable funds available). Whether this device could be housed in the Church porch would be up to the custodians of the Church; given the historic nature of the porch this might be opposed.

Nigel Lambert reminded residents that a diseased Ash tree, which is damaging a stone wall and the cross in the churchyard is, regrettably, to be felled.

11. Elections of Chairman/Clerk and Treasurer. Adrian Young (as Chairman/Clerk) and Gerry Johnson (as Treasurer) were proposed by Sue Gosling and seconded by Celia Warde-Aldam. They were elected unopposed for a further year.

12. To reappoint a committee consisting of the Chairman/Clerk, Treasurer and one parishioner to meet if necessary during the coming year to review the risk assessment, the effectiveness of internal audit procedures, standing orders and financial regulations of the Parish Meeting. Proposed by Adrian Young, seconded by Kevin Gosling. Approved unopposed.

13. Any other business. Nigel Lambert kindly thanked the Chairman and Treasurer for their work on behalf of the village. The meeting agreed with this sentiment.

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 8.10pm.