

MINUTES OF ODDINGTON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY 22nd APRIL 2016 AT 7 PM

1. Apologies for absence from William North, Sue & Kevin Gosling, John Harzmann, Anita Franklin, Jennie Drewett, Gerry Johnson, Julia Birchell, Ed & Jo Boanas, Heidi Smith.
2. To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2015 as a correct record. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Adrian Beales. Passed unopposed.
3. (i) To approve the annual accounts for the year 1st April 2015 - 31st March 2016 and
(ii) To approve individual payments made during the year, as shown in the 'cashbook'.
Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Mark Stanley-Price. Passed unopposed.
Linda Beales asked if any of the Meeting's funds could be held in an interest-paying account. Gerry Johnson to be asked to enquire.
4. The Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2016
(i) To approve Section 1 - statement of governance
(ii) To approve Section 2 - statement of accounts
Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Jonathan Smith. Passed unopposed.
5. Matters arising from the minutes:
 - (i) Road repairs following the railway work have been carried out in the village, but are still outstanding on the road to Merton/Ambrosden, supposedly to be carried out at the railway consortium's expense. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is underfunded for road repairs – they will patch potholes but cannot presently afford to improve the surface of minor roads (like the narrow road past Logg Farm). The traffic lights at the bridge in Islip – Vicky Robinson has exchanged emails with OCC about these. They are intended to be temporary, and to be removed once the 'improvements' to the Wolvercote and Cutteslowe roundabouts are completed – perhaps by December 2016.
 - (ii) Following the cabling of the village by Gigaclear last year BT Openreach have now unexpectedly installed a fibre-optic enabled cabinet in the village. This will provide an alternative to Gigaclear for those who want faster broadband, possibly at lower prices due to introductory offers and competition between broadband providers.
 - (iii) Telephone kiosk on village green. This cannot presently be removed due to BT's obligation to have a minimum number of kiosks in place for use in emergencies.
 - (iv) Oxford Green Belt Network; the Meeting was happy to continue supporting this organisation.
 - (v) To consider the need to reinstate the insurance of the Meeting. The Meeting supported the Chairman's opinion that given the very limited services provided, and the fact that our grass contractor has his own public liability cover, we should continue without our own public liability insurance.
6. Contamination from sewage disposal systems in the village. After much effort it had been possible to persuade a council officer to test the water trickling down the track towards the moor. This has been reported as not being from a sewage system (free of chlorine) so presumably a natural spring. Some scepticism was expressed. Mark Stanley-Price suggested the possibility of the Meeting having an independent test carried out at its own (moderate) expense. The meeting supported this. Mark will investigate and report back to the Chairman.
7. Damage to roadside grassed areas caused by parked cars. Mark Stanley-Price expressed concern. Residents are urged to park on their own properties where possible, but if not to park (and to encourage visitors to park) close to the kerb and ideally not on grassed areas. If this remains a problem the possibility of plastic webbing to support the affected areas could be considered. For review next year.

8. Extensions of the footpath network from Oddington towards Wendlebury and Weston on the Green. Nigel Lambert had suggested a possible route but the responsible officer at OCC was not hopeful the landowner would be willing, and no OCC funds were likely to be available to assist the process. Nigel will investigate other possible extensions, and will also advise the Chairman where existing footpaths are neglected or poorly signed, so that this can be brought to the attention of OCC. Voluntary groups may be able to help with improvements.

9. Celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday. A special church service will be held at St. Andrews in the morning of Sunday 12th June. Weather permitting, there will be an informal meal on the village green from 12 midday. All are invited – please bring some food/drink for yourself and others to share and something to sit on. The Chairman will issue a reminder nearer the time.

10. Picnic bench, daffodils and owl box – jobs done, thanks to all concerned! Further projects:- Vicky Robinson explained ideally wild flowers need significant preparation/cultivation. For now it was agreed to leave the edges of the village green adjacent to Wyvering House and Milford House unmowed and to allow the area to develop naturally – the Chairman to advise our grass contractor. Ian Kay will continue to investigate a defibrillator, and charitable funds to help pay for this (the Meeting is willing to provide a significant part of the cost). The location of such a device has to be agreed and suitable and this could be a problem. Ian will bring information to the attention of the Chairman for consideration. Nigel Lambert sought support for the purchase of more daffodils, which he is willing to plant – the meeting agreed. Vicky Robinson has a hedgehog house she is happy to donate. She and Rebecca Ashfield will locate this somewhere suitable at the edge of the village green.

Glenys Edwards asked if someone would be willing to take over the yearly doorstep collection for the Red Cross which she has been doing for 40 years! Could we have a volunteer please?

Despite encouragement from the Chairman no further modest projects for the benefit of the village paid for by some of the Meeting's significant available funds were proposed for this year.

11. Further temporary closure of road to Islip. A brief closure for resurfacing part of this road in the hope of reducing skidding is likely in the near future. Details to be advised when known.

12. Elections of Chairman/Clerk and Treasurer. Adrian Young as Chairman/Clerk, Gerry Johnson as Treasurer were proposed by Jonathan Smith, seconded by Mark Stanley-Price, and elected unopposed.

13. To (i) approve the recommendations of a Committee Meeting (consisting of the Chairman/Clerk, Treasurer and one parishioner) held on Thursday 24th March 2016 that the risk assessment, effectiveness of internal audit procedures, standing orders and financial regulations of Oddington Parish Meeting remain adequate for the purpose, and should not presently be amended and (ii) re-appoint the Committee to meet in March 2017 to consider these matters again. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Virginia Lawrence. Passed unopposed.

14. Any other business. The Chairman reminded parishioners that OCC had decided to withdraw financial support for buses after July 20th – it is likely that Thames Travel buses (at least) will cease running through the village as a result. The Chairman thanked those attending to giving up their evening, Gerry Johnson for his continuing support as Treasurer, and Julie Howkins for forwarding emails to parishioners (as well as dealing with Neighbourhood Watch emails). The Chairman explained that increasingly he was notifying planning applications by email rather than by posting plans in the Church. Anyone not on Julie's email list who wished to be should please let Julie know. Virginia Lawrence thanked the officers of the Meeting. The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.