

**MINUTES OF ODDINGTON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 21st APRIL 2017 FROM 7 PM**

1. Apologies for absence received from Virginia and Steve Lawrence, Sarah Guest and James Duncan, Julia Burchell, Ken Hayward, Margaret Lambert, Julie Howkins, John Harzmann, Rosemary and David Morton-Jack, Karen Stanley-Price, Sarah Young, Elspeth Nairn.

2. To approve the minutes of the Meetings held on 22nd April 2016 and 15th November 2016 as correct records. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Linda Franklin. Passed unanimously.

3. (i) To approve the annual accounts for the year 1st April 2016 - 31st March 2017. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Mark Stanley-Price. Passed unanimously.

(ii) To approve individual payments made during the year, as shown in the 'cashbook'. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Mark Stanley-Price. Passed unanimously.

Given the balance in our account the Chairman emphasised that he is always pleased to receive proposals for small projects for the benefit of those living in the parish. But that in the long term, if we should cease receiving the 'New Homes Grant', we would then run a deficit of expenditure over income, and the introduction of a precept might become necessary.

4. To approve the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2017

(i) Section 1 - statement of governance. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Kevin Gosling. Passed unanimously.

(ii) Section 2 - statement of accounts. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Kevin Gosling. Passed unanimously.

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

(i) Defibrillator in telephone kiosk on village green. Our thanks to **Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks** for their generous grant which made the purchase of the defibrillator possible. The background to the decision to place the defibrillator in the ex-BT 'phone kiosk was outlined by the Chairman; a central, prominent, location within the village and the presence of an electricity supply (provided without charge by BT for at least 7 years) to power the cabinet were critical. But the Chairman was very aware of the concerns of those whose homes overlooked the kiosk and who would have preferred its removal. Because of these concerns every effort would be made to make the kiosk as unobtrusive as possible; a new 'Defibrillator' sign would replace the one reading 'Telephone' over the entrance; the BT logos on the transparent side panels would be removed or obscured, as would the word 'Telephone' on the panel facing Medcraft Farm House (we are required to do all of these things anyway under the contract of sale with BT). Celia Warde-Aldam will kindly suggest and supply some suitable shrubs/plants to screen the kiosk from neighbouring properties. Suggestions from those at the Meeting included painting the stainless steel sections and erecting trellis for climbing shrubs. **All residents are asked to suggest any additional or alternative works they would like considered and are prepared to help with. Kevin Gosling (tangletwigs2@gmail.com) will kindly coordinate these suggestions and liaise with Celia Warde-Aldam and the Chairman. Please let Kevin know if you have any opinions or ideas.** A further (extraordinary) parish meeting might be necessary to consider these before they are implemented, but the defibrillator should be in place with a week or two. Our thanks to Ian Kay for all he has done to bring this project to a successful conclusion, and to Alec Lambert who has kindly agreed to make the necessary electrical connection within the kiosk.

A training session by an officer of the Ambulance Service will be arranged in the near future. All residents are invited and urged to attend.

(ii) Wild flower area on village green. The Chairman explained that the plan to allow a strip on one side of the village green to be colonised naturally had failed because of growth of damson saplings and ivy. Neil Lambert had very kindly cleared these by hand and the Chairman had asked Russell Lambert to resume mowing this area. The hedgehog box in this area has been relocated by Rebecca Ashfield. Anita Franklin had approached the Chairman with an alternative plan to create a new wildflower area in a circle around the young oak tree in the centre of the Green. The Chairman had agreed to this idea and the Meeting supported it. All residents should feel free to add native wild flowers to this area. The grass there will be cut from time to time, but not with the frequency of the rest of the Green. Our thanks to Anita for

this initiative, and again to Neil Lambert for advising and assisting her, and for all the work for the village he undertakes quietly and without reward.

(iii) Oxford Green Belt Network. The Meeting agreed to continue its membership of this organisation.

(iv) To consider the need to reinstate the insurance of the Meeting. The Chairman repeated his view that it was inappropriate to spend a relatively large sum on this, given that the Meeting provided minimal services and its contractor mowing the green had his own liability insurance. The Meeting accepted this view.

6. Fouling by dogs (including in the church grounds). This has been discussed before but continues to be a problem. **Dog owners are asked to supervise their pets and to act responsibly.**

7. Planning Application – Gom’s Yard. This was discussed at some length. Tim Hallchurch, our County and District Councillor, who had joined the Meeting, gave valuable insight into the decision-making process. He pointed out that only objections relating to planning rules were likely to be taken into account, although all residents are free to submit any comments and concerns they have. In the case in question only replacement of the existing agricultural buildings with residential ones on the same footprint should be allowed, and granting of permission was not a forgone conclusion. A variety of views were expressed, some in favour of the present plans and some against; but **residents were united in their concern that if planning permission was granted for this small development it would ‘open the door’ to future applications for more intensive development of the same site, and of adjacent areas.** The Chairman will pass on these concerns and others expressed to him or recorded on the sheet in the vestibule of the church, but individual residents can write, or submit observations via the Cherwell District Council website (after creating an account). All submissions must be received by the council within the next few days.

8. Should we consider another day of the week for the Annual Meeting? There was no enthusiasm for this.

9. Elections of Chairman/Clerk and Treasurer. Adrian Young as Chairman and Gerry Johnson as Treasurer were proposed by Mark Stanley-Price, seconded by Ian Kay. Passed unanimously.

10. To (i) approve the recommendations of a Committee Meeting (consisting of the Chairman/Clerk, Treasurer and one parishioner) held on Saturday 11th March 2017 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 2018 to consider these matters again. Proposed Adrian Young, seconded Linda Franklin. Passed unanimously.

11. Any other business. Willie Haynes raised the question of cleaning of road signs and speed restriction signs. Those near his house had been cleaned by a family member. Tim Hallchurch explained this was the responsibility of the Council, but that the budget was small and cleaning was undertaken infrequently. Many parishes do this themselves and probably we should do the same. Fly-tipping continues to be a problem – all residents can report this via the Cherwell District Council website, or can alert the Chairman. Tim Hallchurch is retiring from the County Council at the elections in May, but will continue as our District Councillor at present. The Chairman wished him a good (partial) retirement, and happy travelling.

The Chairman thanked all those who had come along, Tim Hallchurch for supporting and advising us, Gerry Johnson for his work as Treasurer, and Nigel Lambert for all his efforts to improve the Church, without which it would not be such a pleasant and impressive venue. The Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.