

ODDINGTON PARISH MEETING
Church of St. Andrew
Friday 6th May 2022 AT 7 PM
MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence were received from Vicky Robinson, Ken Hayward, Gerry Johnson, Julia Burchill, Sarah Young, Clare Vickers, Peter & Emily Tarrega, Nick Kenworthy-Brown, Annee and Henry Leveson-Gower (arrived later). 25 residents attended.

2. To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 21st May 2021, previously circulated. Proposed Adrian Young (Chair), seconded by Kevin Gosling. Approved unanimously.

3. (i) To approve the annual accounts for the year 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022 and

(ii) To approve individual payments made during the year

The Chair presented the accounts, explained their details, and pointed out that the balance of funds held by the Meeting was being slowly eroded because expenditure exceeded income. In time it might be necessary for a precept to be raised. He proposed their approval. Seconded by Michael Heaney. Approved unanimously.

4. (i) To receive and note the Internal Audit Report

(ii) To approve the Annual Governance Statement

(iii) To approve the Accounting Statements

(iv) To approve the Certificate of Exemption from external audit

The Chair explained the purpose and content of these 4 documents which allow the Meeting to 'self-audit', saving a significant sum in professional fees. He proposed their approval. Seconded by Jonathan Smith. All documents approved unanimously.

5. Community Ecology Group. An update by Mark Stanley-Price. Mark presented details of some recent decisions and activities:- A 'no mow' zone in the church grounds and the triangle of grass near Manor Farm House; establishment of a 'pond group' within the village; a champion was required for hedgerows; Jocelyn Bangham of Islip is hoping to arrange a wildflower walk; Islip are hoping to create an official bathing area near to the junction of the Ray and Cherwell – this would then require the Environment Agency to regularly test the water for E. Coli, so putting pressure on Thames Water to reduce sewage discharges; proposals for sustainable transport have yet to be formulated. Gerry Johnson very kindly recently provided many items to encourage wildlife within and around the village and these have all been distributed. Chris Mason presented a recent meeting on the subject of swifts, why their numbers have declined and what we can do to help them recover. Chris will return on 26th May for a 'walkabout' in the village to see what we might be able to do to help them.

6. Proposed Solar Farm, Noke Parish. The Chair updated the meeting. No important archaeological finds were discovered in the recent investigation. The Chair had recently exchanged emails with Ken Pelton of Noke (the landowner) and Jonathan Thompson (of Green Nation). Both say the original plans have been amended (details unknown) in light of comments received from local residents and a

planning application will probably follow in the near future (in Noke, so we need to keep an eye on applications to that parish if we wish to make comments). Mark Stanley Price felt that food security concerns might now tip the balance, but the Chair pointed out there were concerns about energy security too! There was universal agreement that the roof of the many large warehouses and other commercial building would be a much more appropriate location, and that utilising these locations should be a compulsory item for a successful planning application.

7. Possible Platinum Jubilee Celebration in Oddington. Mark Stanley Price reported that the result of the questionnaire by email on what form this should take was overwhelmingly in favour of an informal bring-your-own picnic, to be held on the village green on the Friday of the bank holiday from approximately 2pm. Mark and Julie Goodall are hoping to provide a display of classic cars. Thank you to them, and to Mark Stanley Price for sounding out opinion.

8. A proposal that the WI should plant a tree on the small triangle of grass by the bus shelter (Virginia Lawrence). Thanks were expressed to Virginia and the WI, who are making similar gifts to all the villages in which they are active. There was concern that the proposed location was not the most suitable because of its small size; because of the possibility of restricting visibility of motorists at the junction; and because perhaps that this area was 'highway' rather than common land. It was agreed that instead the tree would be planted on the larger triangle of grass in front of Manor Farm House, sharing the location with a tree to be provided by Mark Stanley Price (see item 9).

9. Proposal to plant a tree on the grass triangle between Manor Farm House, Logg Cottage and in front of College Farmhouse. (Mark Stanley Price). No tree was available last winter, but Mark's tree will be ready to be planted in September. He and Virginia will liaise re. exact locations.

10. Should we create a village herb garden? (Becca McVean). Becca explained the proposal to create a herb garden, available for all to help with and to share, on the side of the village green adjacent to Milford House. There was general support for this (although Clare Vickers opposed the idea of a 'planter box'). Help will be needed to create, maintain and water this – Rebecca Ashfield has kindly said that a tap to the side of her house could be used. Funds will be needed to buy the box (maybe about £125) and other initial expenses. The Chair explained that he was reluctant to agree to funds from the Parish Meeting being used for this as those funds were finite, belonged to all residents, and were declining annually because of an unavoidable excess of expenditure over income. He suggested that perhaps some fund-raising activities could be held, and/or a call made for voluntary contributions. Becca will establish a working group to take this forward.

11. Proposed 20mph speed limit for Oddington. The Chair explained that the County Council were supportive of such proposals for suitable locations. A good case can be made out for Oddington because of the complete absence of any footpaths, with pedestrians (including children), horses, cyclists and dogs and their owners all having to use the roads, sharing this with through traffic which as well as cars includes coaches, agricultural and other large vehicles. The existing 30 mph limit is often exceeded, and accidents have occurred on the bend near the entrance to College Farm Close. There is every chance an application would be successful, at no cost to the village, and we already have the support of our County Councillor Calum Miller for this. But moving the two signs near the church

around the sharp bend, further towards Logg farm, as many of us would wish to do would be very difficult and very expensive, costing us thousands of pounds (which we do not have) in legal and other expenses. Putting up our own warning signs is, the Chairman understands, illegal. The Chair therefore proposed that Oddington Parish Meeting should apply for a 20 mph limit to be applied within the existing speed restricted area. This proposal was seconded by Glenys Edwards and the motion passed unanimously.

12. H5 bus service. The Chair reported that he had only recently been made aware (by Vicky Robinson) that a stop had been created at Mansmoor Lane on the outskirts of Charlton on Otmoor. Learning this he has made a further formal request of Stagecoach for a stop on the road between Merton and Islip, perhaps adjacent to 'The Burge'. There seems no prospect of the route being diverted through Oddington itself. Nigel Lambert reminded us that the bus provides a useful service to Bicester in addition to Headington and the John Radcliffe Hospital.

13. Payments to Oxford Green Belt Network, and Church of St. Andrew. The Chair explained the function of the Network in seeking to protect the green belt around Oxford. The Chair proposed, and Anita Franklin seconded, that the meeting continue to support the Network at a cost of £15 per year, and to continue to pay £75 per year towards the costs of maintaining and running our Church, which as our only public building is hugely valuable for the residents of the village. Approved unanimously.

14. Elections of Chair and Treasurer. Adrian Young pointed out he had served as Chair for many years, and would be seeking to retire from the position soon; but on this occasion he was willing to be re-elected for a further year, as was our treasurer Gerry Johnson. Both were re-elected unopposed.

15. Any other business. 100 Club (Kevin Gosling) Kevin explained the purpose of the 100 club in raising funds for our church while offering the possibility of modest cash prizes. This had been delayed by difficulties in creating a charity bank account – these had now been overcome and Kevin asked residents to consider joining in. 'Library' in bus shelter (Glenys Edwards). This suggestion was well-received – a suitable plastic box with lid will be placed in the bus shelter. All are welcome to place books they have finished with in the box for others to use, and to remove books for their own use.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.30 pm. Thank you to all who attended and contributed.