

YOXALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Thursday, 5th March 2020
in the Parish Hall, King Street, Yoxall

Present: P Hughes, D Muir, A Grandfield, M Arch, P Kitt, P Bailey and D Hall

Also present: Borough Councillor L Beech
P C Richard Boulter
Eight Members of the Public
R Young, Clerk to the Council

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from J Williams, R Keys and J Jessel.

2) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Parish Council, P Hughes, mentioned the following :-

- Update regarding flooding and provision of sandbags. Details outlined to J Jessel and P Atkins. Funding available for people affected by impact of flooding.
- Enquiries made regarding water bags. Informed they are expensive and advised sandbags are best.
- New Website operational.
- Dementia Friendly Achievement Award – September 2020.
- Issue regarding rubbish on Milne Holme Pingle – Update.
- A515 - £80k grant from SCC for additional signage.
- Correspondence sent to SCC regarding grass cutting of verges – Cost repaid – SCC asking for details.
- David Walker – Community Speed watch new leader.
- Reminder sent to Post Office regarding closure of Yoxall Post Office.
- A Grandfield said proposal to open Post Office in Yoxall 9.00am – Noon in Village Shop.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Declaration to be made when subject is discussed or received during the meeting.

4) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY 2020

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th February 2020, subject to the following amendments :-

- 2: Line 2 – to read “M Arch exchanged emails with J Jessel regarding A515”.
- 10c: Paragraph 6 – Delete N Whiwell. Include N Whitwell.
- 10i: Delete item “Waxing all”.
- 10i: Resolution regarding Ken’s Countryside Landscapes – Delete “Wax”. Include “install”.

Resolved:

To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th February 2020, subject to the above amendments.

5) MATTERS ARISING

- No matters raised.

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Members of the public raised concerns regarding planning application P/2019/01517–Cartref regarding the following aspects :-

- Two storey development.
- Over development of site.
- Flooding risk of site.
- Risk Assessment needed for site.

P Hughes commented that Parishioners should forward their concerns to ESBC.

- Flooding – Parishioners outlined problems on Savey Lane and Main Street, plus drainage problems on Back Lane and Hadley Street.
- Concerns raised regarding a tree in the River Swarbourn. P Hughes said contact had been made with the Environment Agency concerning debris in the river and that Landowners further North up the river had a responsibility to clear material from the river.

- P Hughes commented drainage improved on Goose Green and D Muir said 300 trees had been planted on Goose Green which in time will assist in taking up water.
- Police Constable Richard Boulter – The Clerk read out the Crime Report received from Staffordshire Police and R. Boulter gave an update with further details regarding incidents.
- M Arch reported he had been in contact with SCC Highways regarding the traffic island at the top of Alexandra Drive which is not “Fit for Purpose” – Vehicles are going straight across at speed. Need to have island height raised plus mobile speed cameras. Speeds of 50mph recorded by Community Speed watch.
- P Hughes gave details of his communication with PCSO’s. Police System not reactive enough. Police Constable Richard Boulter agreed to provide mobile telephone numbers of Officers for P Hughes.

7) REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

a) Report of County Councillor J Jessel

- P Hughes reported that J Jessel taking up matters relating to the jet washing of gutters and drains in the Village. Flooding and potholes on Dunstall Lane.

b) Report of Borough Councillor L Beech

L Beech reported the following:-

- Appointed to Audit and Health and Social Wellbeing Committees.

8) PLANNING

a) Planning Applications Received

- i) P/2020/00102
20 Bond End, Yoxall
Erection of a single storey side extension with living accommodation above.
- ii) P/2020/00113
Helen Brook, Victoria Street, Yoxall
Crown reduction and pruning of tree branches.
- iii) P/2020/00089
The Garden House, Longcroft Lane, Yoxall
Demolition of existing store and workshop to facilitate the erection

of a detached outbuilding to form garden room and store.

- iv) P/2019/01517
Cartref, Main Street, Yoxall
Outline Application for the erection of two detached dwellings including details of access, layout and scale and demolition of existing dwelling.

b) Planning Decisions

- i) P/2019/01532
The Gardens, Savey Lane, Yoxall
Retention of a double car port with modifications.
Application Refused

- ii) P/2019/01343
Land at Hunters Croft Wood, Stoneyford Lane, Yoxall
Erection of an Agricultural building for the housing of cows and formation of hardstanding.
Application Refused

c) Other Planning Matters

M Arch reported that R Keys had commented as follows:-

- Cartref Planning Application – Neighbours concerned about light obstruction.
- Leafields Farm – Planning Officer not comfortable with configuration. Several issues raised with Planning Officer.

9) CLERK'S REPORT

a) Correspondence

- Staffordshire Police – Crime Report for the period ending 5th March 2020.
- The Community Foundation – Best Kept Village Community Competition.
- SCC – My Staffordshire Newsletter.
- Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter.
- SPCA Bulletin.
- The Community Foundation – Children's Posters.
- Amy Douglas – Tree in River Swarbourn.
- SCC – Helen Fisher – Grass cutting and weed control.
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Safety Plan 2020-2024 Consultation.
- J Jessel – Press Released – Burton Area Flooding Risk.
- ESBC – Nicola Gilligan – Yoxall Election Result.
- Staffordshire Police – Loss of tools.

10) MATTERS IN PROGRESS OR REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

a) Open Spaces

- P Hughes requested D Hall to inspect condition of trees and whether the litter bin was being emptied at Milne Holme Pingle.

b) Village Amenities

- Councillors reviewed provision of sandbags for flooding.
- Authorities aware of Flooding of Goose Green and Swarbourm Meadow.
- Need to identify landowners along river.

c) Roads and Pavements

M Arch commented as follows:-

- A38 closure increases traffic during the day and night into Yoxall.
- Outlined problem of HGV's coming down Town Hill.
- Made enquiries regarding electronic monitoring of HGV's.
- Reviewed electronic gathering of information.
- Michael Fabricant M.P. supported Highway proposals. He could take to Government to give instruction to SCC during 2020-2021.
- Advanced signage (80k) to be informed of proposals.

d) Village Hall

- Plumbing to be reviewed – Taps, etc.

e) Best Kept Village Competition

A Grandfield commented as follows:-

- Community Foundation – numerous emails to confirm Website active.
- Work for Competition 2020 – Will draft list.
- Requested “The Fisherman” to include request for volunteers to help.
- P Bailey reported there are nine young Parishioners working for their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (Bronze and Silver).

- Quote received from Woodhouses Nursery to plant tubs, troughs and provide hanging baskets - £1,150.00.

Resolved:

To accept the quote of £1,150.00 from Woodhouses Nursery to supply plants in 2020.

- BKV Competition 2019 – Judges’ Comments – Yoxall 2019

Measures taken to publicise participation in BKV involved flyers to shops, businesses and households, items in the Parish magazine and on the Website. There were two excellent large Yoxall BKV banners in strategic locations and an eye catching “Yoxall at its best” banners at the school; and several BKV posters on notice boards at The Golden Cup and elsewhere.

There was an attractive “jigsaw” presentation of children’s posters on the front door of the school and displays in both bus shelters. There were also children’s posters on the notice boards.

All the notice boards were in good condition and notices were displayed neatly. However, some of the notices on the Village Hall board were very faded.

There was a good range of local information on the various boards, covering Parish Council business, local activities and events, local walks and history, recycling and dog fouling awareness. A very comprehensive coverage and the May judges praised the “Welcome Pack” for new residents on the board near The Golden Cup.

The church surrounds were very well maintained overall throughout the judging period. Grassed areas were well mown, paths were clean and tidy (except in May), grave areas were very well maintained and there were some nice planters at the front of the church. There was a clearly marked wildflower area and several good seats/benches, a few of which needed a clean in late June to remove bird marks. The notice boards were in very good condition, but the one on King Street looked rather under used.

The surrounds of the Village Hall (though small) were absolutely immaculate. The paving was clean and weed free, the grass was nicely mown, and the planting areas were beautifully maintained. The mosaic on the wall of the Hall and the “replacement” railings added to the character of the area. The car park and surrounds of the health centre were very tidy; but the car park at the sports ground looked rather uncared for, with

lots of weeds and long grass on its fringes. The parking area and frontage of the shop on Main Street also looked rather untidy and neglected.

The car park, beer garden, lawned areas and frontage of The Golden Cup were outstanding. Grassed areas were well mown, planted areas were very well weeded and the hanging baskets and window boxes on King Street were really attractive and very well cared for. The beer garden at The Crown was neat and tidy and there was no litter in the car park. There were nice hanging baskets and plants at the front of the pub.

The new bus shelter next to The Crown looked splendid and there was a nice display of children's posters (but they had been put up in a rather untidy way). The surrounds were weed and litter free, but the shelter needed a good sweep at all three phases of judging. The other bus shelters were sound enough and there was a very tidy display of children's posters, but there were lots of dead weeds, leaves and odd bits of litter inside. It definitely needed a good sweep out. The surrounds were tidy and weed free.

All the seats and benches were sound and their surrounds well weeded and litter free. The Main Street seat and planters brought special praise from the June judges.

The large fingerpost and planters at Town Hill looked good throughout the competition; and there were many other very good planters throughout the Village, especially at the junction of Hadley Street and King Street. The stone trough planter plan on the triangle of open space in Hadley Street caught the judges' eyes; and the National Forest way information board was a distinctive feature at Town Hill. The excellent Millennium mosaic on the wall of the Village Hall completed the distinctive range of Village features in Yoxall.

The grass around the War Memorial was very well mown and the memorial roses and other planting were very well maintained. Judges were impressed by the obvious care which had gone into keeping the War Memorial area in such excellent condition.

Ferrers Field was mown to a very good standard and the late June judges (who had visited the area many times in recent years) felt that "it had never looked better!"; there was no litter at all. Both Goose Green and Swarbourn Meadow also looked good – no litter or dog mess and well mown grass.

The small open space off Alexandra Drive was in very good condition and has matured into a very attractive feature. The

grass triangle in Hadley Street was excellent; and all the verges, including those at Morrey were very tidy.

Private gardens were maintained to a very good standard throughout the Village and those in the Alexandra Drive area and in the very new housing off the A515 looked particularly good in late June.

The small children's play area at Alexandra Drive looked rather dull and uninteresting, but the equipment and safety surfaces were good. "It just needs a good sweep around and a bit of care and attention to liven it up!" (Late June judges). The equipment of safety surfaces, the newest play area at Ferrers Field, were very good; there was no litter around. The adventure play area looked much better than last year. There was no dead grass and nettles and no litter. The equipment had been thoroughly refurbished and painted. The bark safety surface (especially under the two sets of swings) needed "topping" and raking. The whole area looked so much better overall and judges were impressed by the response to their rather critical comments in 2018. There was just a bit of litter and some weeds around the tables and benches on the southern side of the playing field area, and they could really do with repainting.

The map was easy to follow, and judges appreciated the alterations which had been made in response to last year's Judges' Comments.

No dog mess was seen during the whole of the judging period and almost no litter, which is quite an achievement, given the volume of traffic which passes through the Village on the A515 every day. Well done to the litter patrols! BKV publicity and children's posters were very good and the church surrounds looked very good this year. Judges saw clear evidence of community awareness of and involvement in BKV, not least the contributions made by the school children and the Camera club and those who look after the many attractive planters in the Village.

Yoxall continues to work hard to maintain its well-earned status in BKV and all the judges were impressed by what they saw this year. Congratulations on a well-deserved 2nd Place in the Large Village Category in the Moorlands/East Staffordshire Area in 2019 and good luck in 2020!

John T Perry MBE
Chairman, BKV Working Group

f) Footpaths

- No matters reported.

g) Website

M Arch reported the following:-

- New Website up and running.
- Minutes to be included after this evening's meeting.

h) Burial Ground

- No matters reported.

i) Ferrers Field

P Kitt reported the following:-

Ferrers Field Inspection and Progress Report

The following inspection and report were carried out week commencing 2nd March 2020.

Due to the extremely inclement weather, we are awaiting the works approved at the last meeting to be carried out; cutting back the verges and edges to the footpath between Ferrers Field and Savey Lane, removing all debris; repainting all the benches and equipment; mowing and raking of Ferrers Field, removing all debris.

The latest quarterly inspection was carried out on the 11th February by Sovereign. All equipment has been passed fit for use. There is a recommendation to replace the play bark under the swings with an all-weather safety surface.

Sovereign have submitted a price for this. Their cheapest option is £8,500.00. If the play bark is brought up to the correct levels, it should negate the need for such expenditure. We previously agreed two bags of play bark. I would suggest we increase this to four bags and have this carried out immediately.

The only other point mentioned was that some of the walk-along timbers need replacing due to infestation. Possibly something Ken could do relatively cheaply with Council permission.

P Kitt

j) Riverside Regeneration

D Muir reported as follows:-

- Contacted the Environment Agency.
- Building Material cleared from Bridge.
- Further inspection of Goose Green – including trees halfway along river section.
- Considerable material accumulated alongside Swarbourm Meadow.

- Severn Trent Funding Application passed first stage.

- Goose Green pathway – Contacted Paul Boulton as to whether pathway material could be washed away during periods of flooding.

- Plan to clear ditches on Goose Green.

- “The Fisherman” have included incorrect information.

11) WISH LIST

- P Bailey commented updated Wish List circulated at last meeting – No new additions.
- P Bailey explained the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme structure.

12) HEALTH AND SAFETY

- A Grandfield enquired regarding Health and Safety checks at Village Hall. Abeyance for J Williams.

13) FINANCE

a) Approval of Cheques

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	£
10/02/2020	505761	Simon Manning	400.00
10/02/2020	505762	Simon Manning (Ferrers Field)	400.00
17/02/2020	505763	Pearl Harrison – Dementia Friendly	50.00
26/02/2020	505764	P Hughes (Sand Bags)	31.20
05/03/2020	505765	Ken’s Countryside	166.80
05/03/2020	505766	M Arch – Expenses	21.60
05/03/2020	505767	HMRC (PAYE)	210.80
05/03/2020	505768	V Shorthouse	329.43
05/03/2020	505769	R Young	262.42
05/03/2020	505770	South Staffordshire Water	13.96
05/03/2020	505771	Waterplus	79.56

		TOTAL:	<u>£1,965.77</u>
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It was proposed, seconded and agreed to issue the above cheques.

Resolved:

To issue the above cheques.

14) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monthly Parish Council Meeting - Thursday, 2nd April 2020.
- Annual Meetings – 30th April 2020 (7.00pm start).

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

P Hughes
Chairman