

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 07.12.10.

1.

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th December 2010 at the Village Hall

PRESENT:

J Saunders (Chairman), Mrs Fardon, Mrs. Olney, R. Baily, D Fowler G Sansom, R Harris, Cllr. R Saunders, M. Taylor, P White, the Clerk, PC Tott, PCSO Underwood and Rev. Bond.

1. **Public Open Session** – Rev. Bond noted that she had been in post for 21 months and was working in the schools and had introduced a new family service involving the schools.
2. **Apologies:** Mrs. Walker (business)
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. White for item 12 as known to one of the contractors tendering. Cllr. Baily for item 18a) as a member of the Gardening Club. Cllr. Olney for item 18b) as a Trustee of the Day Care Centre

4. **Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd November 2010**

Resolved: to adopt the minutes.

5. **Clerk's Report:**

High Street Bus Shelter – Clerk had chased Stagecoach again for bus stop signs and timetables on the High Street shelters

Lovell Road Phone Box – no further information re. replacement of phone.

Highways – no further response from Borough Cllr. Roydon re. poor resurfacing of Church Lane and Lovell Road and unhelpful signage. Anglian Water box by Church Meadow had been repaired. Clerk had chased Highways re. Lovell Road kerb

Community Orchard – 6 trees had been sponsored by the Gardening Club, 1 by the Motorcycle club and 1 by the Pre-School

Addison Ousebank sign – no further details received

Registration of Council Land – Clerk confirmed that Grange Close, Parsonage Close, Riverside Meadow had been registered. Had requested information from previous Clerk re. Dewlands, The Green, War Memorial, Brockwell & HighStreet/Reynes Drive

6. **Matters Arising from minutes of Meeting held on 2nd November 2010:**

Action

Cllr. Olney confirmed that Bedford BC was considering Council's request to change the priority under Lovell Road bridge.

Clerk advised that she was awaiting quotations for repairing Lovell Road bus shelter.

Cllr. Olney advised that she had purchased two notice boards in memory of Robin Olney and hoped they would be installed by Christmas. Contractor would remove existing boards for storage. Lovell Homes Trustees would need to agree a location for the Lovell Homes board. Other board would be relocated to the allotment site.

7. **Reports:**

Action

- a) **Bedford BC Network Meeting 24.11.10.**

Cllr. Olney reported that Special Area Charges were again discussed. Bedford BC officers attended to discuss grass cutting and litter picking services. Officers would review charges and report back to next meeting. Cllr. Olney noted that Bedford BC budget cuts might reduce the level of services in the urban area.

- b) **Parishes meeting with Mr. Burt MP 27.11.10.**

Action

Cllr. Fowler reported that he & Cllr. Sansom attended. Mr. Burt spoke about the Big Society and local involvement in planning and would be holding another meeting in February. Clerk to put on January agenda for Council to consider topics for discussion at that meeting. Police issues were discussed and Mr. Burt would be meeting the new Chief Constable shortly to discuss rural policing. Milton Ernest Parish Council was concerned about the closure of the Twinwood Road access to Twinwood Business Park as HGVs were travelling through Milton Ernest instead of continuing on the A6 to the Sharnbrook roundabout. Proposed gypsy & traveller site at Stevington was also discussed and Clerk to write to Bedford BC supporting Stevington's objections. The Allocations & Designations Plan had yet to be issued, the Bedford BC feasibility

Clerk

Clerk

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 07.12.10.

2.

study of the Meadow Lane site was ongoing and Bedford BC had yet to determine local need therefore it was premature to make a decision on this site. The proposed site was also a Greenfield site.

c) Bedford BC – Rural Transport Roadshow 30.11.10.

Action

Cllr. Olney reported that some Bedford Borough bus services were likely to be curtailed. Bedford BC was considering links to bus stops on main roads rather than covering whole areas and a scheme was being trialled in North East Bedfordshire.

8. Police Report:

Action

PC Tott and PCSO Underwood commented that there were 2 reported crimes in November, both thefts. There were no reports of anti-social behaviour. Councillors were still concerned about speeding in Pavenham Road and Lovell Road particularly during rush hours. PC Tott advised that there was no suitable location for a camera van in Pavenham Road. He had used the hand held speed gun but because he had to be visible cars had time to slow down. The camera van was operating in Lovell Road. Cllr. Olney commented that the Mayor had requested details of roads where speeding was a problem and she had put forward Pavenham Road. Cllr. Fowler noted that at the meeting with Mr. Burt, it had been agreed that PCSOs provided a valuable service and asked for any information on future PCSO funding. PC Tott had no specific information, only that there was likely to be major changes to policing generally.

9. Provision of Christmas Lights:

Action

EDF box had still to be installed. Lighting expert wanted it sited next to the lamp post so that wires could be taken across to the top of the lamp post and into the box. Cllrs. Walker & White to meet lighting expert on site to agree the location. Clerk to ask Cllr. Walker to arrange urgently to try and get lights connected before Christmas.

Clerk
JW/PW

10. Street lighting at Lower School & on Pavenham Road:

Action

Clerk advised that Amey had agreed to a light at the Lower School on safety grounds and would be meeting Cllr. Sansom on site to discuss moving the lights in Pavenham Road.

GS

11. Community Orchard:

Action

Cllr. Olney presented a report on works to date on both the orchard and allotment site. Fencing and water quotations had been resolved at the November meeting. Three quotations had been received for an additional stand pipe in the orchard for £125.00, £227.00 and £550.00 + VAT. The lowest quotation was from the contractor who would be installing the allotment water. Proposed by Cllr. Fowler, seconded by Cllr. J. Saunders that the quotation for £125.00 be accepted.

Resolved

£6,706 had been spent to date on the allotment site and £1025 on the orchard. £5,000 was available in the Council budget, £5,299 from Cllr. Olney's Ward Cllr. Fund. Fruit trees and accessories had been ordered and would cost £437.25. Work to prepare and seed the ground before the orchard was planted would also be necessary. Rental income of £600 was expected in 2010/11 from the allotments. In the future, rent due to Bedford BC for the whole site would be £450 p.a. but Council initially had a three year rent free period. Work to the tracks and car hard standing and a large shed were still required and Allotment Committee had suggested £5,000 be included in the 2011/12 budget for this purpose. Cllr. Olney confirmed that the shed would be used for community events such as apple pressing and Linch Furlong open days as well as for the allotments. Allotment Committee would provide a specification for the shed and Clerk to produce a formal document requesting quotations to accompany all specifications.

Cllr. Fardon suggested inviting the Mayor to an event as he had supported the project and Council agreed to invite him to the orchard planting day on 06.02.10.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 07.12.10.

3.

12. Grass Cutting Tenders 2011/12:

Action

Cllr. White took no part in the discussion and vote.

Clerk had sent documents to five companies and received three quotations as follows:

	Verges	Linch Furlong	Total	
Granger Road	£6,050.00	£570.00	£6,620.00	+ £195 to flail Lovell verge & trim path
permissive brambles				
DSD	£5,742.50	£472.00	£6,215.50	
Warners	£5,390.00	£720.00	£6,110.00	

Proposed by Cllr. R. Saunders, seconded by Cllr. Taylor that Granger's quotation be accepted as the quotations were not dissimilar and he had provided a good service in 2010/11

Resolved

Clerk

13. Highways Matters:

Action

Cllr. Sansom noted that the contractor's sign was still on the fence at the crossroads. Clerk to request removal

Clerk

Cllr. Baily advised that Bedford BC would be installing the bollard in Burleigh Place shortly.

Clerk

Clerk had chased repair to Burleigh Place verge and would chase again.

14. Oakley Sustainability Project:

Action

Cllr. Olney reported that Bedford BC considered a cycle route along Lovell Road to Folly Stores in Clapham feasible and she had reiterated Council's request for a change to the priority under Lovell Road bridge as part of the scheme. Clapham PC would need to be consulted but she proposed that Council agree to the scheme in principle, seconded by Cllr. Sansom

Resolved

A second route to Bedford had also been discussed with Bedford BC. A direct route was not feasible because of the need for a bridge over the river but a route through Clapham might be possible. Again Clapham PC would need to be consulted and she proposed Council pursue with Clapham and Bedford BC, seconded by Cllr. Fardon

Resolved

Clerk to arrange a meeting with Clapham

A Linch Furlong volunteers' day had been arranged for 23.01.11. and she highlighted the Newsletter editor's request for articles to be submitted by the deadline.

Clerk

15. Borough Councillor's Report:

Action

Cllr. Olney reported that the Allocations & Designations Plan was due to be issued for consultation in January/February 2011. School reorganisation decisions would be taken locally and the Borough Executive would be meeting on 08.12.10. to discuss the 2011/12 budget.

16. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

Decisions notified since last Council meeting – 2nd November 2010

Application No: 10/01827/FUL – 2 storey extension to rear, garage conversion & extension at 88, High Street

Parish Comments: No objection but concern that application is retrospective.

Decision/Date: Permission 26.10.10.

Application No: 10/02176/TPO – various tree works at Holly Lodge, Church Lane

Parish Comments: Council considered that the proposed works are very drastic and the Borough arboriculturist should examine the trees. If the works are permitted the applicant should be required to plant replacement trees. Council also considered that the lime tree should remain unless diseased.

Decision/Date: Permission 02.11.10.

Application No: 10/02371/FUL – installation of 8 photovoltaic modules to existing garage at Maze Cottage, The Drive

Parish Comments: No objection

Decision/Date: Permission 17.11.10.

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 07.12.10.

4.

Applications received since last Council meeting – 2nd November 2010

a) Application No: 10/02610/TPO – various tree works at land at Westfield Road

Parish Comments: No objection

b) Application No: 10/02656/FUL – erection of detached house with new access & garage at 45, High Street

Parish Comments: No objection to the erection of the house but Council is very concerned that the ancient field hedge has been removed. These hedges were included in the Oakley Settlement Plan lodged with the Borough Council and Council therefore requests a planning condition requiring a formal landscaping plan which includes the replanting of a traditional native hedge.

c) Application No: 10/02752/TPO – re pollard 1 willow. Prune 3 apple trees not included in TPO at 55A High Street

Parish Comments: No objection

d) Application No: 10/02756/FUL – single storey rear extension at 45 Reynes Drive

Parish Comments: No objection

e) Application No: 10/02657/FUL – single storey rear extension with conservatory & front porch at 104, Station Road

Parish Comments: Objection as the porch is out of keeping with adjoining cottages and the extension will make an affordable home less affordable.

f) Application No: 10/02804/LBC – demolition of existing brick wall. Construction of new rendered wall at Oakley House, The Drive

Parish Comments: No objection

g) Application No: 10/02745/FUL – erection of canopy to cover play area at rear of school building at Oakley Lower

Parish Comments: No objection

h) Application No: 10/02851/FULWME - Energy Recovery Facility (incinerator) to accept & process locally produced waste to produce heat & power at Twinwood Business Park

Parish Comments: Objection because of the visual impact of the proposed building and impact of HGVs on the environment and on rural and Town Centre roads.

Clerk noted that applications 10/01649/FUL & 10/02451/LBC to demolish the outbuilding and erect a two storey dwelling at the Bedford Arms had been withdrawn. Councillors noted that Bedford BC Highways and CPRE had also objected to these applications. Action

17. <u>Correspondence:</u>	<u>Action</u>
Bedford BC – temporary closure of Bedford High Street 09.12.10 – 12.12.10. – noted	
Bedford BC – temporary closure of church Lane 19.12.10. - noted	
Bedford BC – invitation to Chair to attend Civic Carol Service 12.12.10. Chair to attend	
Bedford BC – consultation on Bedford Conservation Area & Bedford High Street - noted	

18. <u>Grant applications:</u>	<u>Action</u>
a) Oakley Gardening Club	
Cllr. Baily took no part in the discussion and vote.	
Oakley Gardening club had applied for £200 for bedding plants for the village gardens.	
Proposed by Cllr. Olney, seconded by Cllr. Fowler that £200 be paid	
Resolved – s.137 donation	Clerk

b) Oakley Rural Day Care Centre	
Cllr. Olney took no part in the discussion or vote	
Day Care Centre had requested a grant to continue work to maintain clients’ independence and quality of life. Annual Running Costs are £103,400, of which £28,212 was required from grants. Three of their clients are Oakley residents	
OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 07.12.10.	5.

Proposed by Cllr. Baily, seconded by Cllr. Sansom that £500.00 be granted to the Day Care Centre	<u>Action</u>
Amendment that £1,000 be granted proposed by Cllr. Fardon, seconded by Cllr. Taylor	
Defeated	
Motion to grant £500.00	
Resolved – s.137 donation	Clerk

19. Finance Matters:
a) Accounts for period up to 7th December 2010

Received since previous meeting

Cox - allotment rent	£24.00
Smyth - allotment rent	£24.00
Fisher - allotment rent	£24.00
McNab - allotment rent	£12.00
Lacy - allotment rent	£12.00
Hull - allotment rent	£24.00
Gray - allotment rent	£12.00
Hobbs - allotment rent	£12.00
Marshall P - allotment rent	£12.00
Walker - allotment rent	£12.00
Nicholas - allotment rent	£24.00
Wright - allotment rent	£12.00
Percival - allotment rent	£24.00
Searle - allotment rent	£12.00
Elliott - allotment rent	£24.00
Hutson - allotment rent	£24.00
Sellars - allotment rent	£12.00
Weston - allotment rent	£12.00
Parsons - allotment rent	£12.00
Leaper - allotment rent	£12.00
Lamplough - allotment rent	£24.00
Wren - allotment rent	£12.00
Goodway - allotment rent	£24.00

Income and balances:

National Westminster Bank - Current account balance at 30.11.10.	£206,468.69
National Westminster Bank – Reserve account balance at 30.11.10.	£5,620.05
National Westminster Bank - Treasurer’s Reserve Account balance at 30.11.10. £140,000 being reinvested in one year bond	£0.00

Payments Already Made:

Chq. No.

None

Payments Made:

Wildman Transport - emptying bottle bank 27.10.10. & 17.11.10.	£110.46	588
Boddingtons Ltd - tree accessories for Community Orchard	£185.94	589
SLCC - membership renewal	£118.00	590
Kalkwik – printing winter Newsletter	£565.00	591

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 07.12.10.

6.

Oakley Village Hall – Committee Room hire 07.12.10. 3hrs @		592
£6/ph Allotment Meeting 30.09.10. 1.5hrs @ £6/ph	£27.00	
D. Steynor – bus shelter cleaning November	£28.50	593
Clerk – salary and expenses 01.11.10. – 30.11.10.	£602.66	594
J Walker – litter collection @ £40/wk (5 weeks)	£200.00	595
Total payments this meeting	£1,837.56	

Resolved: to approve the accounts for payment.

Clerk

b) Precept 2011/12

Clerk had circulated draft budget including a new polycarbonate bus shelter for Dewlands, a new bottle bank and funding for the allotment tracks. Youth Club had requested £3,056.94 and a resident had requested a disabled swing at a cost of approximately £200 + installation. Cllr. Baily noted that residents had also requested a boules pitch and he estimated the cost would be between £2,000 and £3,000. Clerk to ask Oakley Recreational Association if a pitch could be sited on the Playing Field and if not to approach the Bedford Arms. Any further suggestions for new projects to be forwarded to the Clerk before the Finance Meeting on 04.01.11.

Clerk

ALL

c) Repairs to Oakley signs:

Action

Contractor who built walls had met with Cllr. Fowler on site and had quoted £1,850 + VAT to remove existing soldier course of stones on all four walls and replace with standard manufactured, twice weathered, hip ended sloping copings with weathering drips all round plus supply and fix white galvanised steel drip trims beneath all four metal signs plus replace damaged stones and re-point mortar where necessary. (Other contractors had quoted £900 to replace coping stones or £3,345 for new coping, replacing damaged stone and repointing.)
Proposed by Cllr. Sansom, seconded by Cllr. Baily that quotation for £1,850 be accepted

Resolved

Clerk

d) Cricket Field lease:

Action

Cllr. Baily reported that the solicitor dealing with the lease had left the firm and Mr. Hillier had taken over the case. Mr. Hillier had written to Oakley Properties’ solicitors requesting dates for a meeting and was awaiting a response.

20. Date of next Council meeting: 4th January 2011 – Finance Advisory Group
11th January 2011

Chairman