

MINUTES of Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2022 at 7.30pm, Oakington Sports Pavilion, Queens Way, Oakington.

PRESENT: Dr S Moore (Chair of the Parish Council) was in the chair supported by six Parish Councillors.

In attendance: Mrs L Lawrence (Clerk) and sixteen members of the public. One person attended remotely via Zoom.

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chair of the Parish Council.

Chair welcomed all the meeting and introduced the other members of the Parish Council

2. Apologies: Alex Malyon (District Councillor), Sarah Cheung Johnson (District Councillor), Firouz Thompson (County Councillor), Elaine Bailey (Pavilion Management Committee Chair), Jim Bryan (TAG), James Youd (EAG)

3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 26 April 2021:

Copies of the minutes had been made available on notice boards and on the Parish Council website.

Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Presentation on Northstowe Archaeology by Oscar Aldred, Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Dr Aldred gave a very informative presentation on the artefacts found; over 550,000 objects on the sites of Phases 1 & 2. He focused on the Iron Age and Roman periods. He then responded to questions from members of the public.

The full presentation was posted on the Parish Council website after the meeting.

5. Reports from the following village groups/organisations:

i) Oakington & Westwick Environment Action Group (EAG) – John Terry read out the report. During the past year their work included; pavement clearing led by James Youd, flood mitigation lead by Andrew Dennis, flower tubs led by Arthur Sillett. They have also supported the recreation ground ‘Open Spaces’ project and churchyard rewilding.

Full report – **Appendix 1**

ii) Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) – Lynda Fentiman read out the report. OWN currently has 30 DBS-checked volunteer who serve the community in a variety of ways such a picking up prescriptions and driving a minibus to Bar Hill each month. They also organise community events to bring people together and tackle loneliness. A first aid course was held last month and a ‘Tea & Jazz’ fundraiser last September. They are also organising the Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June.

Full report – **Appendix 2**

iii) Oakington & Westwick Transport Action Group (TAG) – Brian Baxter read out the report. During the past year they have supported the Parish Council with the following: A14 Legacy Fund application for additional traffic calming, travel & traffic response to the Northstowe Phase 3A planning application and shared responsibility for the speed camera. They also prepared the 22/23 Local Highways Initiative bid for a speed limit reduction to 20MPH and have continued to monitor East West Railway (EWR) developments.

Full report – **Appendix 3**

iv) Oakington & Westwick Community Association (CA) – Ranko Pinter gave the report. Last year’s village picnic was attended by over 200 people. Unfortunately due to insurance concerns, the bonfire event did not take place.

The Journal urgently needs someone to take on the roles of co-editor and marketing manager. Plans for this year include Village Day on 25th June.

Full report – **Appendix 4**

v) Oakington & Westwick Pavilion Management Committee - Laura Lawrence read out the report. It has been a difficult year with having to close and reopen the facilities depending on Covid restrictions. Virtually all the regular hirers have now returned to using the Pavilion and the MUGA is very busy from September through to the end of March.

Despite being in receipt of Covid leisure industry grants, the committee will face financial challenges in the months ahead.

Full report – **Appendix 5**

vi) Sustainable Oakington & Westwick (SOW) – John Terry read out the report.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick grew from the “No Planet B” workshop run in 2020 and the “Net Zero Now” course attended by one of its members in summer 2021.

Despite the pandemic, 18 people attended its first meeting in January 2022 where lots of ideas were discussed. SOW have also helped run the village litter-pick and started a “green” bookshelf in the phone box library.

Full report – **Appendix 6**

vii) Oakington Retirement Community (ORC) – Geoffrey Butlin read out the report on behalf of the trustees which outlined the key aims. ORC are working with the owners of the field in Westwick for our site; known as the sheep field, on the left just after the busway going towards Cottenham. Evera Homes have invested in the planning process and have commissioned a PR company to work on the website and consultation process. Further information can be found at: oakingtonretirementcommunity.org (although the website does need updating.)

Full report – **Appendix 7**

6. Reports from other local groups;

Tuesday Talk & Tea – Joan Pettit gave the report. The group were unable to meet for a long period due to the pandemic but started up again last October and members were delighted to be back. They have varied programme of speakers and plans for a strawberry tea this year.

Hardship Fund – Jo Mills gave the report. The team reports into OWN but is separate to it. All details are kept confidential and a scrutiny team checks records on a regular basis. Full report – see OWN.

Tensing – Irene Butlin gave the report on behalf of Terri King. They survived the pandemic and are back in person at Histon Baptist Church. A concert will be held on 7th July.

Full Report – **Appendix 8**

Monday Café – Liz Davis gave the report. Number have increased since Covid restrictions were lifted with around 20 people attending each week.

Full report – **Appendix 9**

7. Reports from elected representatives:

i) County Councillor

County Councillor had sent her apologies. Her full report was uploaded to the Parish Council website before the meeting.

ii) District Councillors

District Councillors had not produced a report due to the meeting being held in the run up to elections period.

8. Parish Council Chair's Report:

Report covered; traffic calming, LHI bid, Cambridge Road shared-use path widening, Cottenham cycleway, Westwick footway resurfacing, Cambridge Road drift, Longstanton Road yellow lines, Stagecoach meetings, Northstowe Phase 3A application response, Homes England meetings, South Access Road East, flood attenuation, new footpaths, Local Plan, construction traffic, Tomato Farm, recreation ground project, Connection youth bus, Stocks Green improvements, new Cemetery path, recreation ground drainage works, newly planted 'Queen's Green Canopy' trees and Platinum Jubilee mugs for school children.

9. Public Open Forum:

Members of the public asked the following questions:

I note there is a new footpath planned from The Drift to opposite Poplar Cottages, will there be nothing that connects Dry Drayton Road to the village? A. No. Unfortunately, neither Homes England, nor Cambridgeshire County Council have included a cycleway/footway there in their budgets. The Parish Council will continue to press for this.

Comment – the misleading blue bridleway/cycleway/footways signs on the airfield road should be taken down as they direct users to Bar Hill via Dry Drayton Road which is extremely dangerous. A. The Parish Council has asked for this to be done but had received the following response from our County Councillor; *'The blue signs are trying to direct equestrians cyclists and walkers so have to direct to the route that is available for all users. Equestrians have not been accommodated on the path alongside the new access road into Northstowe, and so they need to use the other routes via Oakington or Longstanton. From here and going to Bar Hill as an equestrian via Longstanton and then Wilsons Road bridlepath would be a better route than going via Oakington, and local equestrians will know this. As a walker and cyclist going to Bar Hill via the path alongside the access road is the better option. The sign is correct for NCN route 24 though'*

Q. When will the Water Lane footway at the top of the Drift be repaired? A. This was caused by sugar beet contractors, but it is a County Council responsibility to make the repairs and recharge the firm. The Parish Council will follow this up.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm

Appendix 1

Report from EAG to Annual parish Meeting on 25th April, 2022 by John Terry (co-chair).

Apologies from James Youd (co-chair).

Progress during the previous 12 months and plans for 2022.

1. Pavement cleaning led by James Youd, aimed at a tidier and safer village. Lots of positive feedback from villagers.
2. Flood mitigation led by Andrew Denis, who hopes that meetings with HE might enable them to carry out their promise of a flood mitigation pond.
3. Village flower tubs led by Arthur Sillett
4. Reporting road/drainage led by Arthur and John Whittington via CC website
5. Village pond led by Andrew, Geoffrey Butlin and John Terry. Duck weed continues to be a problem: we hope aeration will drop nutrient values
6. Open Spaces Project; helping Geoffrey in this very ambitious and exciting project.
7. Church yard rewilding; helping George Armstrong
8. Communication including Journal and Village Day
9. Changes in personnel. John W. and Bernard Yates have left the committee.
10. Future plans including Recruitment Day for committee and volunteers.

Appendix 2

OWN Annual Parish Meeting Report 2021-22

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours has over 30 DBS-checked volunteers who serve the community in several ways. Firstly, individual volunteers can help regularly or occasionally, with practical tasks like picking up prescriptions or help with technology, or by offering company. One particular service we offer is the monthly minibus trip to Bar Hill, a door-to-door friendly outing which is much easier for our mostly older clients than driving or using the bus. However, we are desperate for another driver who could help on four Friday mornings this year. Secondly, we oversee the Hardship Fund and the Hardship Support Team who respond to requests from those in need.

Finally, we organise community events to bring people together and tackle loneliness. A new venture this year has been the “CONNECT 2” series, a huge variety of free get-togethers ranging from litter-picking, carol-singing and apple-pressing to drawing, knitting and dancing to ABBA in the orchard! Not forgetting the monthly Walk and Talk.

We held a community first aid course on Saturday, this was funded from part of the donation of the mask makers. We were pleased to be able to run the Lakeside Tea & Jazz fundraiser again last September, and are coordinating the village’s Platinum Jubilee event, the Big Lunch on the Rec on Sunday 5th June. Bring a plate of food to share and enjoy meeting up. There will be a range of other entertainments. Please let us know if you can help with this historic event!

Jenny Prince

Hardship Fund report: Jo Mills

The Fund currently has a balance of £1,410, and has received donations worth £546 over the last twelve months including a grant of £400 from SCDC and individual donations.

The Fund was used to help four families with children and one single person between April to November 2021 with a total of £475 awarded to help with household costs. There have been three further requests in April, arising due to the significant increases in fuel and other costs. During April, three families with young children were each awarded grants of £50 to help buy food, nappies or pay for heating.

We expect that we will continue to receive request for small grants over the following months.

Appendix 3

Annual Parish Review – Transport Action Group

During Covid the regular monthly meetings of TAG were held using zoom and this continued until earlier this year. More recently we have been meeting, usually on the Wednesday preceding the Parish Council meeting, at the White Horse. There are ten “members” that are on the circulation list, but usual attendance is 4 or 5 regulars. Minutes are produced for each meeting, and these are circulated to the members and copied to the Parish Council, local District Councillors, our County Councillor, and other stakeholders. We are grateful for the support given to TAG by the Parish, District and County Councillors.

Issues that we have been concerned about this last year are:

- 1) Supporting the PC in its application to the A14 Legacy Fund for additional traffic calming on Cambridge Road, Water Lane and Oakington Road in Westwick.
- 2) Preparing this 22/23 Local Highways Initiative (LHI) for a speed limit reduction from 30MPH to 20MPH. This proposal was supported financially by the PC. This has been rejected as an LHI, but we may be successful when a specific fund to create 20MPH zones in villages becomes available.
- 3) Supporting the PC in preparing a traffic and transport response to the planning application for Northstowe Phase 3A. In particular arguing against the proposed Southern access road east access to Dry Drayton Road at the Business Park. The argument was based upon policies stated in the approved Northstowe Action Plan which appear to have been ignore by both Homes England and the planning authority. When this access road is implemented, it will mean a significant increase in traffic passing through the parish particularly during peak periods.
- 4) East West Railway (EWR) – re-instating the Cambridge to Oxford railway. The preferred route announced by EWR is for the new line section between Bedford and Cambridge is approach Cambridge from the south connecting to the proposed Cambridge South Station situated adjacent to Addenbrookes Bio-Medical Campus. A group calling themselves Cambridge approaches have vociferously objected and proposed that a northern approach via Cambridge North with a new station named Northstowe, positioned either on the garden centre or next to Centenary Wood, is a better option mainly because it’s not in their backyard. TAG has engaged with the pressure group and our local MP to put a reasoned case forward as to why the northern approach makes no sense. EWR has published a document stating the reasons why they do not want the northern approach and Network Rail are adamant that the southern approach is the best option. TAG will continue to monitor any developments and keep the village informed.
- 5) Speed Camera. TAG and the PC share responsibility for the maintenance and locating of the unit, always within the 30MPH zone. Average speeds through the village are, surprisingly, below the agreed national levels before indicating that there is a speeding problem. However, excessive speeds (>50MPH) are recorded, particularly down Cambridge Road. The proposed A14 Legacy funded traffic calming should have an impact on excessive speeding.
- 6) We are grateful to the Oakington Primary School who are hosting a Purple Air Pollution Monitor which is attached to their buildings and is connected to their network. The results are freely available on the internet by going to the Purple Air website (www.map.purpleair.com) and locating Oakington on the map. As a generalisation the pollution level measured tracks with similar monitors in located in Bar Hill and Cambridge. The results of all Purple Air monitors across the world are freely available for people to view.

Jim Bryant

Chair: Oakington and Westwick Community Plan – Transport Action Group.

Appendix 4

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2022 by O&W Community Association

For those who may not be familiar who we are, the Oakington and Westwick Community Association is an umbrella organisation for the various clubs, societies and groups in the village. Any voluntary not-for-profit groups may join the Association, and, at the AGM it will have a say in planning the activities of the Association during that year.

The current annual group membership fee is a nominal £10, and for that the members get the additional benefits of:

- having their activities listed on our website,
- the use of a professional Zoom licence,
- reduced pitch-rates at the Village Day, and
- use of some of our physical assets, like the marquees, gazebos, as well as communication and public address equipment.

The two main village-wide activities that we organise annually, are the Village Day and Bonfire Nights, and we also publish bi-monthly, the Village Journal that is distributed for free to every house in the village. During Christmas festivities, we also set up and decorate the village Christmas Tree.

So, what did we do last year?

Due to the Covid regulations, still in place **last year** at the time when we normally hold our Village Day, we opted for a scaled-down version of it – which we called a **Village Picnic**. It attracted some 200+ visitors, and, following the long months of isolation and lockdowns, it provided a welcome relief to those who were there, of being able to commune with each other again.

However, due to various uncertainties about the possible Covid restrictions, and the potential risk to our finances, the Bonfire Night did not, in the end, take place.

The Journal was published as per normal throughout the year, and even managed a small surplus. However, due to the retirement of a member of the Team, in order to continue publishing next year, the Journal Team is now urgently looking for someone who would be responsible for publicity and invoicing, and for a co-editor. **If you are interested in either role, please get in touch!**

Our Plans for this year

In expectation that the Covid restrictions will be progressively eased, leading to a semblance of 'normality', we plan to run the traditional Village Day this year on Saturday 25 June. The event will take place from 12 noon till 5pm for the stall holders and then, with various entertainments yet to be arranged, until 9pm-ish. There will also be a raffle and, as usual, we would be grateful for donations, of as many good quality prizes as possible.

Since the Village Day has been one of the most important events in the village calendar, we are keen to make it a memorable event, attracting both the young and the not so young. In order to do that, we need a number of different volunteers – to sell programmes and raffle tickets ahead of the day and put-up posters around the village. We also need help on the day with several jobs,

including putting up fences, erecting marquees and gazebos, parking and entrance stewards. We'll set up rotas, so that everybody can still have free time to enjoy the activities taking place.

In a similar vein, we are planning to run the traditional Bonfire Night – the exact date of which is still to be decided.

Thank you.

Ranko Pinter, Chair – Oakington & Westwick Community Association

Appendix 5

Pavilion Report 2021 -22 Parish Council

I am sorry that I am not here in person, but I am at Cambridge Federation WI AGM so thank you to Mark or Laura for reading my report on my behalf.

The Pavilion and Committee, like most groups and organisations have had to cope with opening and closing and following the various stages of the changes, updates to rules and guidance. Plus, the expense. And have managed to follow them!

We have a variety of bookings using the hall, to cover all ages and sporting interests, from pre-school dance sessions, yoga, Pilates, to mature fitness classes. Youth groups are starting to meet back in the hall again following the Covid break and shortage of leaders. The MUGA is still busy with regular booking slots. Do look out in the Oakington and Westwick Journal for the list of activities.

I would personally like to thank and acknowledge that I really appreciate the time and commitment Mark Darling puts in to the committee. He is an outstanding vice-chair and who does a huge amount of work behind the scenes but especially organising our Village Lottery, tickets are still available to purchase.

Special thanks and appreciation must go to Laura Lawrence for all the extra work she undertakes as our Treasurer, especially gaining essential additional funding over the last two years, which without we would not have the financial security to remain open. We have difficult times ahead and have planned an increase in our fees and charges from September for regular and one-off bookings. Our costs, especially fuel costs are going to be extremely challenging.

I don't know how we as a committee would have coped without Tony Leadley in his roles as Administrator and Caretaker. It has been very difficult for him working alone, for times in lockdown, in the building and continuing his daily tasks, but he has carried on without complaint. He does an amazing amount of behind the scenes, additional to his working hours and for this I want to say a huge thank you.

As Chair I would like to thank all the members of the Pavilion Committee for their support and hope that we continue in these tough times and challenges keeping the Pavilion open in year to come.

We as a Committee need to thank Tony Starling, and all the members of the Parish Council for their ongoing support.

All we can hope for is that we continue the successes of the Pavilion in the next few months as we face the financial challenges ahead.

Elaine Bailey

Chair of the Pavilion Committee

Appendix 6

SOW Annual Parish Meeting Report 2022

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick grew from the “No Planet B” workshop run in 2020 and the “Net Zero Now” course attended by one of our members in summer 2021. [After a few preparatory chats in the pub] we held our first open meeting in January. Despite Covid, eighteen people came along, all passionate about nature and the environment. We had a lot of ideas. One was for monthly workshop style meetings; we have had one on water, one on wildlife gardening and on Wednesday there will be a Waste and Recycling talk. Please come along! It’s early days but we have also helped run the village litter-pick, started a “green” bookshelf in the phone box library, and made useful links with other groups. If you are concerned about waste and pollution, climate change, or what’s happening to wildlife, please join our mailing list because together we can do more to change things.

Appendix 7

**ORC report for O&W Annual Parish Meeting
Butlin**

Monday 25 April 2022

Geoffrey

Oakington Retirement Community: report on behalf of my fellow trustee
nominates: Sean Moroney and Stephen Thornton:

Just to remind you of our key aims:

- A retirement community located geographically within the Oakington & Westwick Parish;
- A retirement community connected with the wider village community, with a community centre for use by all parish residents including a village hall, a café, craft and sports facilities etc;
- A wide range of sheltered accommodation and care-supported accommodation with a mix of purchase or rent plus some affordable;
- A park setting.

It is taking a long time, over three years to date. It will likely not be built in time for us, but we have a vision for this to happen.

Progress to date:

- We are working with the owners of the field in Westwick for our site (not in the Green Belt) – known as the sheep field, on the left just after the busway going towards Cottenham;
- We are much encouraged by Evera Homes investing in the planning process for us;
- They formally engaged with SCDC last October, but are still working to agree the ground rules for how a planning application will be judged;
- We plan to have a very low carbon footprint with high quality modern housing and a bio- diverse landscape with much planting and formal and wild gardens;
- This approach will maintain the rural landscape of this field in Westwick;
- But significantly, half of the Westwick field is in the flood plain – so we plan to excavate a large lake with 4 benefits:
 1. provide a park setting
 2. be off-grid with water by building our own reservoir and treatment plant
 3. provide flood attenuation
 4. lift up the housing area above the flood plain

(just a bit of civil engineering really - something some of you know I have experience with at the other end of the village)

- We are holding off establishing ourselves as a charitable body until the prospect of it ever being built firms up;
- Evera Homes have commissioned a PR agency to work on our web site and the consultation process we will need to follow;
- We have started to form a support group to engage with our community and welcome more to join us.

You can find more information on our website (although, as I said it will be updated soon):

Oakingtonretirementcommunity (one word) dot org

Appendix 8

TEN SING REPORT 2022

O&W Annual Parish Meeting

So, Cambridge Ten Sing survived a pandemic!

We worked over Zoom at first, the young people were incredibly creative, and now we are back in person at Histon Baptist Church.

We are small in number, just over a dozen, but we have missed two years of recruiting, so we hope to rectify that in the coming months.

Hopefully there will be a small concert on Thursday 7th July, details to follow, where anyone can come and watch. The young people have been practising songs, dances and even a musical theatre piece in readiness for a public performance and are looking forward to performing to an audience.

It is great to see them all working together and getting on so well, they are an amazing group, but we would love to have more members!

Contact Terry King, Ten Sing Administrator, for more details.

Email: Theresa King <jking47@aol.com>

Appendix 9

Monday Café Report 2022

O&W Annual Parish Meeting

Numbers attending the informal Monday Café have increased following the easing of Covid restrictions. There are now often more than 20 people attending.

We have a rota of hosts 'on duty' each Monday morning. A dozen volunteers work in pairs, serving drinks and homemade cake.

The Monday Café meets at the Church Hall, Mondays 9:30 – 12:00 (apart from Bank Holidays).

The organiser and leader is

Liz Davis - lizaprylhouse@outlook.com