

**Minutes of Oakington & Westwick Annual Parish Meeting held at
Oakington Sports Pavilion, Queens Way Oakington
Monday 31 March 2025 at 7.30pm**

Agenda No:		Actions
	Present: Mr D Reeves (Chair of the Parish Council) was in the chair. In attendance: Mrs L Lawrence (Clerk to Parish Council), Parish Cllrs J Bailey, S Moore, T Starling, R Pinter, J Grove, J Camilleri, Cnty Cllr F Thompson, Dist Cllr N Warren-Green, Dist Cllr T Bygott and thirteen members of the public.	
1	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL Chair welcomed all to the meeting.	
2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Jenny Prince (SOW and OWN)	
3	MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 22 APRIL 2024 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	REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR (Full report can be found on the Parish Council website) Chair stated that there are at least 21 village groups, clubs and societies. It is clear the notion of voluntarism runs throughout the fabric of the parish. However, there is currently a shortage of volunteers, including on the Parish Council. On behalf of the Parish Council he spoke about; bus services (meeting being arranged with Stagecoach to discuss residents' survey results), new 3G pitch, former tomato farm conifers removal, flood attenuation, noisy motorbikes and Stocks Green improvements works. He concluded by expressing thanks to our County and District Councillors, particularly Cnty Cllr Firouz Thompson who will be stepping down at the May elections. He also thanked all volunteers for the work they do on behalf of the parish.	
5	REPORTS FROM ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES (Full reports can be found on the Parish Council website) i) County Councillor Thompson Annual report Cllr Thompson expanded on three key items from her full report: Highways & Transport, buses, local government reorganisation. She thanked the 'award winning' Parish Council for its support and congratulated the Clerk on her 25 years' service. ii) District Councillor Bygott Annual report Cllr Bygott handed out paper copies of his report at the start of the meeting. He briefly spoke about council tax figures, finance and budget, housing, planning and environment and waste. He also mentioned transport matters including East West Rail and Greater Cambridge Partnership Guided Busway plans. iii) District Councillor Warren-Green Annual report Cllr Natalie Warren-Green's report included a month by month look back on the key moments of 2024-25, including 50 th anniversary year, general election, various grant schemes, white ribbon accreditation, council tax on second/empty	

	homes doubled, 4-day week consultation and launch of new website. She also touched on the 'Vision for South Cambs' and priorities going forward.	
6	<p>REPORTS FROM VILLAGE GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS (Full reports can be found on the Parish Council website.)</p> <p>i) Oakington & Westwick WI Elaine Bailey (Chair) reported that they currently have 27 members who meet on the second Thursday of each month. She outline the various activities and trips undertaken in the past year. They would welcome more members.</p> <p>ii) Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Management Committee Elaine Bailey (Chair) read out her report which included; resignation of former vice-chair who had been in post for 16 years, volunteer required to taken on management of the village lottery, new 3G pitch and ongoing challenges faced making the pavilion sustainable for the future.</p> <p>iii) Oakington Singers Celine Pinter reported that they have 15-16 members, led by Paul Tann. They recently sung at an event held at Girton golf club and will be performing a similar set in care homes. They also had a workshop with Sir John Rutter.</p> <p>iv) Oakington Charities Julie Grove provided the history of the two charities. The Oakington Charity for the Poor owns 3.4 acres in Westwick which are rented to a local farmer. They distribute small annual grants to people in the parish who are 'in need' but it is increasingly difficult to find recipients for poor relief. John Terry stated that EAG had approached the trustees about having the land for a nature reserve and asked if they would consider it.</p> <p>v) Oakington & Westwick Environmental Action Group (EAG) John Terry (Chair) gave a presentation which included flood mitigation group work, village pond maintenance, open spaces project maintenance, joint nature recovery with SOW, liaising with Histon & Impington Green Spaces, planted containers, pavement clearing and Christmas tree sales.</p> <p>vi) Sustainable Oakington & Westwick (SOW) James Youd out the report on behalf of SOW which included monthly meetings (attended by 15-25 people of all ages, very successful annual Repair café, joint nature recovery project with EAG, village tool store, recycling and various other activities.</p> <p>vii) Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) Sally Gamble read out the report which included volunteers who visit housebound residents and help with things such as shopping, the Hardship fund, monthly minibus service to Tesco Bar Hill and organising various community events such as the Big Lunch, plant swap and carol singing.</p>	
7	<p>PUBLIC OPEN FORUM</p> <p>The following questions were asked;</p> <p>Q. Would it be possible to have speed monitors on Cambridge Road as a large number of drivers greatly exceed the 20mph limit?</p> <p>A. The PC has been awarded a grant for a solar powered speed unit and will be purchasing a second unit. One of these will be installed in Cambridge Road, the other in Water Lane/Station Road. The PC will also consider paying for the old faulty speed unit to be repaired to use as a mobile unit.</p> <p>Q. A neighbour had their car towed for repair due to a flat tyre caused by the potholes in Water Lane (near Holme Close). There are multiple reports on Highways online about that area. When will this be sorted?</p>	

	<p>A. Cllr Thompson asked that everyone keeps reporting the issue as the road inspectors received a 'ping' on the app each time, so it highlights the extent of the problem. She had also sent video evidence to the Highways manager showing vehicles driving on the opposite side of the road to avoid that section. Unfortunately, the road was not included in the capital maintenance programme for 2025-26. But she will keep pursuing it.</p> <p>Q. Is the Cambridge Road cycle path still going ahead?</p> <p>A. Cllr Thompson - yes, it is still planned. However the cost has risen substantially. Therefore CCC is seeking other funding sources.</p> <p>Q. Would it be possible to widen the cycle path in Gatehouse Road instead?</p> <p>A. I don't know if Gatehouse Road has been looked at, but I am happy to ask.</p> <p>Q. Will the cycle way to Northstowe at the end of Mill Road go ahead?</p> <p>A. It is included as a greenway in the Phase 3A plans.</p> <p>A resident suggested putting together a detailed list of all the volunteering opportunities in the village to highlight to those who volunteer outside the village what is available locally – entitled 'Do it on your doorstep'</p>	
	<p>There being no further comments or questions the meeting was declared closed at 9.05pm.</p>	

UNAPPROVED