

**Minutes of Oakington & Westwick Annual Parish Meeting held at  
Oakington Sports Pavilion, Queens Way Oakington  
Monday 22 April 2024 at 7.30pm**

<b>Agenda No:</b>		<b>Actions</b>
	Present: Mr D Reeves (Chair of the Parish Council) was in the chair. In attendance: Mrs L Lawrence (Clerk to Parish Council), Parish Cllr J Bailey, Parish Cllr T Starling, Parish Cllr R Pinter, Cnty Cllr F Thompson, Dist Cllr N Warren-Green and seventeen members of the public.	
1	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL</b>  Chair welcomed all to the meeting.	
2	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Jake Camilleri (parish councillor), Stephen Moore (parish councillor), Julie Grove (parish councillor), Tom Bygott (district councillor), Elaine Bailey (Pavilion Committee chair & WI), Irene Butlin (CA chair)	
3	<b>MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 24 APRIL 2023</b>  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	<b>REPORTS FROM VILLAGE GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS</b> (Full reports can be found on the Parish Council website.)	
i)	<b>Oakington &amp; Westwick Transport Action Group (TAG)</b> Jim Bryant (Chair) gave a presentation which included supporting the PC in managing the speed unit, a suggested bus strategy for the village, monitoring EastWest Rail developments, possible walking routes and future Local Highway Initiatives applications.	
ii)	<b>Oakington &amp; Westwick Environmental Action Group (EAG)</b> James Youd (Co-Chair) read out his report which included Flood Mitigation Group work led by Andrew Dennis, Open Spaces project, Nature Recovery project (joint SOW project), maintaining village pond, sweeping, litter picking, flower tubs and information boards.	
iii)	<b>Sustainable Oakington &amp; Westwick (SOW)</b> Jenny Prince read out the report produced by Jake Camilleri which included hosting a repair café, fruit tree grafting workshop, session on insulating homes, bug & bird house building and heat pumps. There will be a plant swap on 18 <sup>th</sup> May in Coles Lane.	
iv)	<b>Oakington &amp; Westwick Neighbours (OWN)</b> Alice Jondorf read out the report which included activities run- coronation Big Lunch, carol signing, Tea & Jazz by the lake, community apple pressing and wassailing, online safety workshop and monthly walks. OWN also administers the Hardship Fund. A recent survey had showed that people value very much the fact that OWN is there if people need it, and that it represents the neighbourliness which is present in our community. They would like to increase their pool of casual volunteers on the Village Volunteers WhatsApp group.	
v)	<b>Oakington &amp; Westwick Community Association (CA)</b> Elodie Cameron (Secretary) read out report from Irène Butlin (Chair) which included the Journal, finances, Village Day and Bonfire event.	

vi)	<p>The near collapse of the CA in January following was a worrying moment, but after some urgent publicity and an Open Meeting a new committee emerged. The current treasurer has given notice to leave in January 2025, so they are looking for someone to take on this crucial role to ensure the Journal and other events are able to continue.</p> <p><b>Oakington &amp; Westwick Pavilion Management Committee</b>  Laura Lawrence (Treasurer) read out the report on behalf of Elaine Bailey (Chair), which included the variety of hall usage, financial burden of increased costs, lottery, new 3G surface for the MUGA and making the facilities sustainable for the future. The committee is proud that it has fulfilled the remit the Parish Council gave 16 years ago of managing the pavilion, both professionally and financially.</p>	
5	<p><b>REPORTS FROM OTHER LOCAL GROUPS</b>  (Full reports can be found on the Parish Council website)</p> <p>i) <b>Oakington Retirement Community (ORC)</b>  Geoffrey Butlin outline the concept of providing accommodation for those who need to move yet stay in the community. ORC persuaded Homes England to engage in the idea of combining this retirement village with the long-awaited attenuation pond on former tomato farmland and field north of the business park. They are waiting for HE to re-engage with them following flood modelling to determine size of the pond and clearance of the tomato farm site.</p> <p>ii) <b>Oakington &amp; Westwick WI</b>  Elaine Bailey (chair) report can be found on the Parish Council website.</p>	
6	<p><b>REPORTS FROM ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES</b>  (Full reports can be found on the Parish Council website)</p> <p>i) <b>County Councillor Thompson Annual report</b>  Report included an overview of the County Council structure and the budget for 2024-25, as well as list of committee's Cllr Thompson serves on.  In response to a comment about the difficulty recruiting volunteers in the parish, she will send the clerk link to the CCVS online platform for finding volunteers. She spoke about local issues; Homes England clearance of Station Road ditch to mitigate flooding, starting engagement on Westwick flooding with a new Environment Agency contact, closure of Oakington preschool, primary school 'Good' Ofsted rating and successful LHI applications.  She and Histon &amp; Impington county councillor had met with Darren Roe, Stagecoach MD to talk mainly about Busway services. Stagecoach won't fund an evening bus service for Girton &amp; Oakington due to previous low numbers. Noted the PC had written to Mr Roe about this recently and is awaiting his response. Following their meeting, Cllr Thomspson had written to Mr Roe to ask him to consider an engagement survey with Girton &amp; Oakington with a view to trialling an evening service for 3 months. Girton PC had asked for the C6 to connect with the Busway stop. In response to a public question, Cllr Thompson stated she did not know where the bus would be able to turn round.</p> <p>ii) <b>District Councillor Warren-Green Annual report</b>  Cllr Natalie Warren-Green expanded on items in her report including: SCDC services, budget 2024-25, council tax, business plan, 'Green to Our Core', modern &amp; caring council, neighbourhood plans Cambridge 2050 and 4-day week trial.  In response to a public question about water shortage and truncation of new domestic building as result, she confirmed the government's planned 150,000 houses for the Cambridge area had been included in calculations.</p> <p>iii) <b>District Councillor Bygott Annual report</b>  Cllr Bygott had sent his apologies for this meeting.</p>	Cllr Thompson

7	<p><b>PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT</b></p> <p>David Reeves (Chair) thanked all present for their very interesting reports. On behalf of the PC, he spoke about bus services, successful grant application for a new 3G MUGA surface, new LED for the MUGA, unsuccessful application for pavilion solar panels (other grant funding being looked at), removal of tomato farm conifers and a possible review of the community led plan that was produced in 2015 (Noted this would require residents to come forward to lead on it with support from the PC).</p> <p>He concluded by expressing his heartfelt thanks to all community volunteers and noted that whilst tonight's meeting was well attended, the demographic highlighted that younger people are busy.</p>	
8	<p><b>PUBLIC OPEN FORUM</b></p> <p>The following questions were asked;</p> <p>Q. Where can I find out about walking routes from the village?</p> <p>A. There is a list on the PC website produced by a former chair. The monthly OWN low-key walks were also mentioned, as were Northstowe Lakes.</p> <p>Q. How can the issue of the Northstowe 'racetrack' be sorted? (This referred to loud motorbikes being ridden late at night along the SARW and other Northstowe, Longstanton and Oakington roads.)</p> <p>A. Chair had reported this to the Police on Saturday night. They appeared unable/unwilling to do anything. Cllr Thompson suggested that residents should continue to report to the Police but also phone Homes England via their 24/7 contact number 0846 603 1485.</p> <p>She also suggested that she and the three parish councils should write to Homes England to ask what measures they can put in place.</p> <p>Q. There is lots of detritus on the tomato farm land still, will it be cleared?</p> <p>A. Yes, we understand that Homes England will clear it fully when the remaining conifers have gone. They have stated there are no plans to build on it, but the area could be used for the promised flood attenuation lake.</p> <p>Q. Where can I find out what is planned for land in the parish? It is difficult to navigate the planning portal. Is there one map available anywhere?</p> <p>A. The Local Plan will give an overview but doesn't include specific details. The only way would be to zoom in via the map on the planning portal. The Chair stated that Homes England are currently working on the Northstowe Phase 3A and 3B design plans, so we may have more detail on those by the end of the year.</p>	Cllr Thompson
	<p>There being no further comments or questions the meeting was declared closed at 9.10pm</p>	