

OVER HADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Over Haddon Parish Council held at Over Haddon Village Hall at 8pm on Monday 13th January 2025

Present: Councillors: Zena Hawley (Chair), Sally Mosely, Joe Oldfield, Roger Truscott (acting Clerk), Tim Walton and 18 members of the public.

Items

1. Apologies for Absence

Mrs Sian Bacon (Clerk)

2. Variations of Order of Business

None required

3. Declaration of Members Interests

None

4. Public Speaking

The owners of the Sough Mill, Lathkil Dale, Mr and Mrs Thomson, had been invited to make a presentation of their application to convert the mill into residential accommodation. They were accompanied by Mr James Darwent (architect and agent) who made most of the presentation, with the support of Ms Caroline McIntyre (planning consultant). Consultations had been carried out with various experts on the mill's history and structure, along with extensive pre-application discussions with officers of the National Park before submitting planning and listed building applications in December 2024.

Most of the structure of the building, the stonework and old machinery, were in surprisingly good condition although a lot of the woodwork needed replacement but the intention was to restore the working area of the old mill to such a state that would demonstrate its historic character and function, whilst converting other parts of the old building, and adding to it in a sympathetic way, to create modern residential facilities. Car parking would be accommodated at a lower level, following excavation of a bank and building a retaining wall for the footpath leading west into Lathkil Dale, so as not to detract from the main (east) elevation of the building. A new boundary enclosing the western side of the building would provide a degree of privacy and accommodate a biomass fuel store, although the possibility of generating some hydro power was not out of the question. Mr Thomson mentioned that the sough, a few metres below ground level, where the mill wheel is situated, flows at a steady 12 knots throughout the year.

In response to questions Mr and Mrs Thomson confirmed that there would not be public access to the internal mill workings, as they will be contained within a private residential house, but when pressed agreed that special arrangements could be made for access by members of the local community at agreed times.

Additional public statements were made by PCSO Bosworth and DDDC councillor Butcher.

PCSO Bosworth reported some worrying recent rises in car theft (particularly citing Nissan Nirvana models), burglary from garden sheds and push-bike thefts, and outlined ways of countering these. He also referred to consultations in December revealing concerns over burglary, parking and road safety in the local area.

Councillor Butcher reported that the issue likely to dominate DDDC business in the coming months was the reorganisation of local government which was likely to result in the demise of Derbyshire Dales District Council but details would not be clear until the Summer. It appeared that parish councils would not be affected. The District car park review would be published next Friday and he regretted that our parish council had not been consulted, but the village car park would probably be converted to a flat-rate charge of £2. He confirmed that DDDC officer Vicky Wingfield would be in touch with our clerk. Other matters of interest included the opening (soon) of a "banking hub" in Bakewell, probably at the ABC, but later to be relocated to a central site, and also the application of "green and clean" services to parishes, for which we would need to apply and have a village inspection.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024

Council approved the minutes to be signed by the chair.

6. To determine which items if any from the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded

None

7. Planning Applications and Reports:

The only item was the planning and listed building application for Sough Mill, which has already been the subject of a detailed presentation to the meeting.

Councillor Oldfield commended the presentation and the application details and proposed that we should support it unconditionally. Councillor Walton agreed about the presentation and details but thought that this was a good scheme in the wrong place. He thought it would be difficult to reconcile the public and private aspects of the old mill building, with busy and popular public footpaths along two sides and a strong heritage interest, especially for the community of Over Haddon, in this listed historic mill. Councillor Mosely regretted that the new owners had not engaged in discussion with the local community in advance of putting a planning application for residential conversion and expressed concern over the future of the concessionary footpath in Lathkil Dale. Councillor Truscott (temporarily removing his clerk's hat) commended the proposals but would like to see formal arrangements for public access to such an important heritage at agreed times. Councillor Hawley thought it would be useful for council members to view the site before coming to a decision over recommendations and it was agreed (with the owners) to visit the site at 10am Friday the 17th of January.

Parish statement – it was agreed that councillor Truscott would draft a revised set of priorities and circulate them among council members.

Shepherd's Hut – some councillors had seen this but no one had yet spoken to the owners of Netherfield Farm

8. Reports and decisions:

Potholes – the situation gets worse and worse. Councillor Hawley said that the only thing was to continue reporting to the County Council on their website and suggested that we should send an email around the village site including the link to the website.

Motorcycles crossing the ford and using the bridleway - several people reported that this was still happening. Mr Thompson (owner of the Sough Mill) said that he was more affected by it than anyone and had experienced several confrontations. He had put stones in the ford and suggested that he could construct some large stone planters blocking vehicle access across the ford (while allowing horses). It was agreed that we should press the County Council to provide large notices forbidding vehicle entry and resolved to contact Councillor Sutton again.

Road signpost signage – Councillor Walton expressed frustration that this had been under discussion for over a year and nothing had yet been achieved. Apparently, we need council permission to construct a sign on the green triangle, but we still need to agree on the wording of signs.

Allotments and village assets – an annual inspection is due and councillors Oldfield and Truscott will carry this out shortly.

Waste treatment and group composting – Councillor Mosely said that this was a scheme put forward by Steve Pope (former councillor) and it had general agreement. The cost would be born by the parish council and the parish council said it would seek assistance from district councillors to cover the costs, but estimates would be needed.

Orchard allotment plot – it has not yet been confirmed that the person who expressed interest still wants it.

Bus shelter – the scheme is on-going but it was suggested that we should consult parents of schoolchildren (who are now the main users) via the village email site

Bench on Dale Road – it was confirmed that the people who suggested it are still interested.

Village bin provision – the bins have recently been replenished with grit. Any additional bins could form part of a potential “green and clean” scheme.

War memorial - It was confirmed that another Hayto name could be added. Councillor Walton

reported that he had quotes for a major hedge trimming of the memorial surround, the best price being £350 and it could be done very soon. This was agreed.

(At this point it was agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes)

9. Financial Reports:

The accounts were noted and accepted. Councillor Hawley reminded everyone to authorise payments.

Current Account. Balance £2975.17 @ 6 January 2025

Savings Account Balance £8493.33 @ 6 January 2025

a. Accounts for Payment

- Ubdpyt Payee:- Mrs S Bacon £217.76 for Clerks Salary (Dec)
- Ubdpyt Payee:- Mrs S Bacon £217.76 for Clerks Salary (Jan)
- DDR Payee: NEST - £16.11 (Dec)
- DDR Payee: NEST - £16.11 (Jan)
- Ubdpyt Payee:- Mr K Shimwell for 1xwk cleaner £80 (Dec)
- Ubdpyt Payee:- Mr K Shimwell for 1xwk Cleaner £100 (Jan)
- Ubdpyt Payee:- Mr K Shimwell for 1xwk Cleaner £80 (Feb)
- Ubdpyt Payee:- Staveley Hall Garden Nursery £125 for Christmas Tree
- Unity Trust – Service Charge - £12.00
- Ubdpyt Payee:- Bingham Building Services £4224.00 50% of Easigrass for Playground.

b. Income

Interest: £59.55

10. Updates:

It was noted that Cllr Walton had attended the PPPF planning training.

The Burton Manor Farm walls were raised and it seems that the Peak National Park could do nothing to prevent it despite the fact that dry stone walls were acknowledged as being integral to the character of the White Peak landscape.

It was reported that some of the “Wombles” felt that they lacked recognition by the Parish Council for their voluntary work. It was suggested that they write a piece in the next edition of Voice describing their work and that Steve Pope could provide an update for the next parish council meeting.

11. Correspondence:

None

12. Date of Next Meeting:

It was decided to hold this on the 10th of March, not the 10th of February, but councillors acknowledged that they would need to meet formally before that date in order to decide on a recommendation for the Sough Mill planning application.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm