

OVER HADDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13 July at Over Haddon Village Hall

Present: Councillors Zena Hawley (chair), Sally Mosley, Joe Oldfield, Roger Truscott and Tim Walton

Derbyshire Dales District Councillor Bob Butcher and four members of the public

It was agreed that, in the absense of a clerk, that Councillor Truscott would take the minutes

Apologies: None

Variation of Order of Business: not required

Declaration of Members Interest: Both councillors Oldfield and Walton in respect of planning application NP/DDD/0626/0596

Public Speaking: Two members of the public spoke about the four planning applications included on the agenda. Mr Hackett referred to two applications relating to Oldfield Farm, Main Street, one being in respect to alterations to improve vehicle access, including a wider electrically controlled gate, to enable on-site parking, along with the conversion of the ancillary stone garage into a workshop; the other to provide a chimney pot for the house, to match the heritage of the building, both of which members of the committee considered perfectly reasonable. Mr Pearce spoke about the application for Lathkil Croft, on Dale Road, explaining that the existing small cottage had been altered extensively over many years, including both front and rear extensions, the latter dug into the hillside, causing problems of damp, excacerbated by a lack of proper foundations. It was evident that the only way to make the property suitable for modern living conditions was to demolish and rebuild, extending it to the east, which was easy due to the large plot on which it was built. Councillor Oldfield thought that the proposed design was excellent and the committee agreed. Mr Pearce also talked about the application at Hallyard House, Bakewell Road, concerning requirements to cover the timber cladding to the adjacent garage/studio with natural stone. After some discussion the committee agreed that the Peak Park Planning Authority requirements should probably be adhered to, although the existing timber cladding seemed to be perfectly satisfactory.

Ms Yuell, representing Lady Manners School, spoke about a proposed fun run, to take place in April 2027, but which needs approval by the Fell Running Association in November this year, and for which she hoped to have advice and support from the parish council. She described the route, which had already been circulated to council members. SM pointed out that part of it ran through a field which did not have a public right of way and which belonged to Andrew Mosley, who the school should contact. It was established that marshals would be present throughout the route, especially where it crossed public roads. Councillors supported te proposal, adding that Alice at the Lathkill Hotel should also be contacted, given her knowledge and experience of such events and councillor Oldfield, who also helped to organise fell runs, would provide additional information.

Councillor Butcher (DDDC) said that the main thing he had to report was the final recommendation for local government reorganisation, which will result in two unitary authorities covering Derbyshire (north and south) and which would be published this week, with elections for the new authorities taking place in May 2027. ZH comented that parish and town councils were largely untouched by the proposals and would assume a greater importance as the only truly local units of local government remaining.

SM mentioned the caravan parked on a layby on the Bakewell - Monyash road and councillor Butcher said he would check its status. He also said that the question of the village car park ownership was being taken up by councillor Gee, who hoped that the subject would be considered by the council in September.

Minutes of the Meetings held on 11 May and 16 June:

These were both approved, and signed by the chair.

Matters Arising from May Committee Meeting:

Money from the sale of council house (2, Dale View); ZH reported that she heard nothing further from DDDC but that local district councillors were aware of this.

Public Toilets: A review of these had been carried out and the cleaner who we employ had reported further problems of defective taps. ZH had spoken to Mark Wooller of the DDDC, who promised to get the work done asap, together with work on a warped door to the men's toilets.

Jubilee Wood: ZH referred to a letter from the PPPB, which had been circulated around councillors, confirming that the National Park held a 99 year lease (dating from 1972) on the site, so we had no legal liability for it.

War Memorial; JO reported that he would need to approach a new structural engineer to obtain costings of the work, and also that British Telecom were being unresponsive about the re-sited telegraph pole at the bottom of the ginnel on Main Street which, as other members confirmed, was causing a problem over vehicle access to and from the ginnel.

Motorhomes on the car park; The issue had arisen from social media comments recommending Over Haddon car park as a good place to park motorhomes. ZH had checked with DDDC (Vicky Winfield) and it was clear that people were not allowed to stay in them overnight, or carry out meal preparation, etc., on the car park. She would ask them to provide another sign for the upper level of the car park. However, there was a problem with enforcement of the rules and DDDC had agreed to supply temporary laminated signs clarifying the rules.

Natural England talk about Lathkill Dale policies: we are still waiting to hear if and when someone can come and give a talk at the village hall, but they seem willing in principle.

Allotments: SM said that there is little new to report, other than a new shed application.

Asset of Community Value; ZH reported that, in respect of the Wesleyan Methodist chapel, we would need to wait until next year to reapply, when new rules come into force, but in the meanwhile she had written to the Church's headquarters at Barnsley and was awaiting a reply.

Printer; ZH had checked with the Village Hall Committee about sharing a printer with the parish Council, and they had agreed in principle. TW said he would look for a suitable model.

Matters arising from Meeting of the 16 June: this was an extraordinary meeting to approve the council finances and audit. ZH has added the notice board, defibrillators, community garden and allotments (public areas) to the council insurance cover. She has also investigated registering with the Information Commission Office (cost £52) although there appeared to be a requirement to employ a "data protection officer"! (we don't need to...) It seems that we are GDPR compliant but further checks are needed on electronic back-ups of data. When we get a new clerk we will probably need to rationalise data storage.

Determine which items from the agenda need to have the public excluded: Item 13, (Going forward)

Planning Applications: these have all been discussed during the Public Speaking item (above)

NP/DDD/0626/0645; Oldfield Farm, Main Street – support

NP/DDD/0626/0644; Oldfield Farm, Main Street – support

NP/DDD/0626/0615; Hallyard House, Bakewell Road – support

NP/DDD/0626/0596; Lathkill Croft, Dale Road – support

Agreed that RT should write to the PPPB expressing our views

Reports and Decisions:

Empty houses and property usage survey: TW raised this to express concern over the number of currently unused properties in the village. The situation regarding Pendleton House, School Lane (unoccupied for over 30 years) is of particular concern. It was agreed that a survey should be carried out to establish the facts (TW and SM)

Car Park and Toilets: it was noted Councillor Gee had agreed to take the proposal that they should be transferred to the ownership of the parish council to the DDDC meeting in September. After some discussion it was agreed that we should pursue this option and hold a councillor meeting at the car park at 8pm on Monday the 10 August to discuss the preparation of a business plan.

Emergency Planning: ZH raised this item, having been prompted by the recent stoppage of water supply in the village for an 18 hour period, along with recent dangers to rural communities by wildfires. She produced an example of a format for emergency planning produced by Oxfordshire County Council which members would study in preparation for discussion at the September meeting.

Bakewell Town Centre: TW had prepared a motion (circulated to members) about the unsatisfactory conditions on business occupancy and general attractiveness in the centre of our local town. There was general agreement about this, and on the fact that it was important and relevant to surrounding villages (including Over Haddon) as it is to Bakewell. ZH had discussed the matter with Mark Wakeman, who is on Bakewell Town Council (formerly on the DDDC and a regular attender of our parish council meetings) and he had agreed to take the motion to the next meeting of Bakewell Town Council.

Financial Report:

ZH noted that the financial payments, as well as account summaries, are now included in the agenda. She also reported that the external auditor had approved the audit in its entirety, so we are now clear until the following year. ZH received congratulations from the other councillors for the work she had done.

Updates:

SM reported that she had spoken to Steve Pope about the work the Wombles had done and he outlined progress this year and had given her some photographs. She will write a piece for the next edition of the Voice, publicising their valuable work.

Correspondence: None

Village Hall Representative: Nothing at present (meeting next week)

Going Forward: (the public were asked to leave for this item)

Date of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 14 September