**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON**

**MONDAY 13TH MAY 2024 AT 7.00PM AT OAKAMOOR VILLAGE HALL**

**Present**: **Parish Councillors:** Tony Loynes

 Glenys Beard, Samantha Cunningham

Scott Watkin, Peter Chell, Phil Charles

 **County Councillor:** Mike Worthington

**Apologies.** Cllr.Heidi Worthington-Harris, District Cllr. James Aberley,

District Cllr. Elsie Fallows.

**In Attendance:** Lengthsman and two members of the public.

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were accepted.

1. **Chairmans Annual Report 2023-2024.**

Planning
Several planning applications were reviewed, and the majority recommended for approval, with any material planning considerations highlighted as necessary. We have concluded that the District Council will never produce the Planning Guidance notes for residents living in the Conservation Area. This is particularly disappointing given that the new conservation officer has twice claimed “less than substantial harm” to the conservation area for developments on the rear of properties, when the Article 4 Directive states that it applies to works that “front onto highways, waterways or open spaces”.

One long-standing application, the development of Moneystone Quarry by Laver Leisure (SMD/2019/0646), finally made it to the SMDC Planning Committee and was refused. OPC, together with other interested parties spoke at the meeting. Interestingly, Laver Leisure have now submitted a Phase 2 development (SMD/2023/0532) that is for the most part, the same as the application that was previously refused. OPC have already lodged an objection to this application.

Finance

As we begin a new financial year, OPC is in a strong financial position and it perhaps time to consider how we can invest some of the reserves into benefiting the parish. A detailed budget has been prepared for 2024/25 and there has been a need for a small increase in the precept.

Maintenance

Once again, OPC commends the outstanding work undertaken by John Redfern and Mick Beard. Together they provide an invaluable service to the community.

Hamps Valley Ltd will shortly be removing the overhanging tree on the Willows and will be consulted on the two trees adjacent to this.

The damaged chestnut and wire fence has been replaced using materials supplied by the Rangers Service, who will shortly be collecting the remains of the old fencing.

Highways

There were no major highways issues, minor issues were reported and completed, however, we remain frustrated at the lead times between reporting and repair.

Despite the support of County Councillor Worthington, who raised the issue of parking at the Valley Primary School as a District Highway priority, we are still waiting for any action on the matter. The matter was first raised in January 21!

General

The level of public participation has been good, which has kept the council informed of the issues that are seen as important to parishioners and allowed it to focus its efforts appropriately. We do hope that this continues.

**There being no further business Cllr. Charles declared the meeting closed at 7.10pm.**

Signed: ………………………………………………………… Dated: …………………………………………………