**MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF OAKAMOOR PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD AT OAKAMOOR VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 12TH MAY 2025 AT 7.00PM**

**Present**: **Chairman:** Tony Loynes

**Vice Chairman:** Phil Charles

**Parish Councillors**: Glenys Beard

Peter Chell

Samantha Cunningham

Heidi Worthington-Harris

**In Attendance:** SMDC District Cllr.James Aberley, Lengthsman and two members of the public.

**25.60 Election of Chairman for the ensuing year.**

Cllr. Tony Loynes was elected as Chairman. Proposed by Cllr. Chell and seconded by Cllr. Charles. (*carried*). Cllr. Loynes signed the ‘Declaration of Acceptance of Office’ as Chairman.

**25.61 Appointment of Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.**

Cllr. Charles was elected as Vice-Chairman. Proposed by Cllr. Cunningham and seconded by Cllr. Worthington-Harris. (*carried*).

**25.62 Apologies.**

Cllr. Scott Watkins, SMDC District Cllr. Fallows.

**25.63 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.**

None.

**25.64 Minutes of meeting held on 7thApril 2025.**

***Resolved*** *that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2025, having been circulated be confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.*

**25.65 Public Participation.**

Oakamoor Village recently commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE & VJ Day with a well-attended event on May 8th, 2025, as reported by Jo Prior of the Oakamoor Village Group. The occasion brought together around 80 residents in the Square for a service that saw heartwarming participation from across the generations, from two local schoolchildren to one of the community's most senior members. The involvement of the local school and the Memorial Free Church, alongside numerous parishioners, truly made it a village-wide event filled with reflections, poems, and readings.

The event's success was driven by a dedicated team from the Oakamoor Village Group – Jo Prior, Sam Cunningham, and John and Ros Williams – who worked in consultation with Rev’d Scott Beaton and others. Sam Cunningham's "Memories of Oakamoor" display in the village hall, enriched by contributions of photos and wartime memorabilia from residents, was particularly well-received. To mark the occasion, "Oakamoor Remembers" pin badges were created; 45 were distributed to children at Valley School, and sales of the remainder helped raise £178 for the Armed Forces Charity, SSAFA.

Financially, £335.69 of a £435 grant was utilized for event essentials including refreshments, VE 80 cakes, pin badges, decorations, and a poignant commemorative wreath. This wreath was laid by Wilf Cope, in memory of his uncle and the four other villagers who perished in WWII. The group plans to use the remaining £79.31 for either a commemorative VE & VJ Day plaque or to augment the donation to SSAFA.

**25.66 Churnet View Car Park.**

Email sent to Martin Owen (SMDC). *Ongoing*.

**25.67 Reports from County and District Councillors if present.**

None.

**25.68 Appointments: To confirm appointments of:**

a. Representatives for the Oakamoor Village Group – Cllr. Chell.

b. Representative for the SMDC Parish Assembly – Cllr. Charles, Cllr. Loynes.

c. Oakamoor Village Group – Cllr. Cunningham.

**25.69 Annual Review of:**

**Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, Risk Register, Training for Councillors, Asset Register and Insurance Cover.**

* Standing Orders up to date.
* Financial Regulations up to date.
* Risk Register up to date.
* Training for Councillors – As and when required.
* Asset Register – up to date.
* Insurance cover reviewed and adequate.

**25.70 Planning Matters.**

a. Applications.

None.

b. To Note SMDC decisions on previous applications.

None.

c. Any Other Planning Matters

1. Laver Leisure (Oakamoor) SMD/2023/0532. Ongoing.

**25.71 Ongoing Parish Affairs. (Separate Sheet).**

a. Parking at the School – Councillor Chell advised OPC of his communication with MP Karen

Bradley concerning the need for lines outside the school. He confirmed receipt of a response

from MP Bradley and stated his intention to continue pursuing the implementation with

SCC Highways. *Ongoing*.

b. Traffic Speed on ‘Star Bank’ – *Ongoing*.

c. Hawksmoor to Church Bank – Overgrown foliage and resurfacing of the footpath.

Ongoing.

d. Fingerpost refurbishment. *Ongoing*.

e. Overnight Parking – Campervan Signage

Cllr. Worthington-Harris met with the Country Parks Manager and subsequently circulated

a comprehensive response from their meeting. The park signage is currently being

redesigned and will be installed very soon.

f. Pothole – Woodbank on Church Bank reported (4412983). *Ongoing*.

g. War Memorial Repairs –Efforts to repair the village war memorial are ongoing.

Cllr. Charles is expecting to hear back from the stonemason about the repair work.

Meanwhile, the Oakamoor Village Group has taken the initiative to seek potential funding

by writing to the War Memorials Trust. They have assured Oakamoor Parish Council that

they will share any updates as soon as they have news. *Ongoing*.

h. Other Highway Issues

None.

**25.72 Defibrillator(s)**

Moneystone – Ongoing.

Stoneydale – Ongoing.

**25.73 Lengthsman**

Cllr. Loynes read out the work carried out by the Lengthsman.

A report was received indicating that the handrail on the footbridge is loose and necessitates urgent repair. The Clerk has been tasked with contacting Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Highways to ensure the necessary repairs are undertaken promptly. (**Clerk to Action**).

**25.74 Accounts for Payment (May 2025) Agreed and Ratified (To be paid via Bank Transfer)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Carmen Giuliano-Worthington | Clerks Salary | £170.25 |
| HMRC | Clerks PAYE (DD) | £127.60 |
| Oakamoor Village Group | VE Day Grant Funding | £435.00 |
| J. Redfearn | Lengthsman | £72.00 |
| Netwise | Domain Renewal | £354.00 |
| The Ford Partnership | Internal Audit and Payroll Scheme | £372.00 |
| SPCA | Annual Subscription | £214.12 |
| Lloyds Bank | Bank Charges (DD) | £4.25 |

b. Payments Received.

Precept – Payment (1) £3795.00.

b. Current Bank Statement.

Emailed prior to meeting.

**25.75 Accounts for Year Ending 31st March 2025.**

To note receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st March 2025, together with the bank reconciliation at 31st March 2025. (*carried*).

**25.76 Internal Audit Report and Governance Statement for the Year Ending 31st March 2025.**

The Internal Audit Report and the Governance Statement for the Year Ending 31st March 2025. was approved. (*Carried*).

**25.77 Statement of Accounts and Certificate of Exemption for the Year Ending 31st March 2025.**

Statement of Accounts and the Certificate of Exemption for the Year Ending 31st March 2025, as contained in the Annual Return approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

**25.78 Correspondence.**

Circulated prior to meeting.

**25.79 Practitioners Guide & a.gov.uk domain.**

*(To be kept on the agenda).*

**25.80 Items for next Agenda.**

None.

**The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.**

**The date of the next parish meeting will be held on** **Monday 2nd June 2025 at 7.00pm at Oakamoor Village Hall.**