

MINUTES OF OVINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT UPPER FARM,
OVINGTON ON TUESDAY, 1st MARCH 2022 AT 8 P.M

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry
Present: Mr. K. R. Nott
Mr. P. E. Pawsey
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. P. Schwier (County Councillor)

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. I. Parker

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of Ovington Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd March 2020 were read by the Clerk, confirmed and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

a) Highway matters

The following had been reported to ECC Highways and Mr. P. Schwier copied in:

- a. Repairs/replacing the direction sign at Donkey Corner, which was first reported over three years ago.
- b. The Ashen Road sign, knocked down in a recent storm requires re-erecting.
- c. Blocked drains in the highway between Upper Farm and Donkey Corner, which were first reported early 2021.
- d. Blocked drain in the highway in Ashen Road, causing flooding.

As the ECC Highways online reporting system was not working, the above had been reported by email to Mr. Andrew Cook, Director of Highways & Transportation and Cllr. Schwier copied in. He had replied on 25th February to confirm that the PC email had been forwarded to the appropriate officers and he will update the PC as soon as he has further information.

There were no other matters arising.

4) BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2022

It was resolved not to enter Ovington for the Best Kept Village Competition in 2022.

5) BELCHAMP ST. PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

In the absence of a School Governor no report was given.

6) NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME REPORT

In the absence of Mr. M. Lewin no report was given.

7) AIRFIELD JOINT ACTION GROUP REPORT

Mr. P. E. Pawsey reported that there were no current issues with EGC and the proposed meeting offered by BDC had not taken place. The proposed Solar Farm on the former airfield was too close to many houses in Ovington. It had been and will continue to be strenuously opposed. It had also been opposed by the Gliding Club on safety grounds.

8) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

A written report from Mrs. I. Parker was read on her behalf and circulated.

9) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. Schwier reported upon the following:

- a. The increase in ECC Council Tax. This is mainly for health and social care, where ECC has a good reputation.
- b. The new Leader and Deputy Leader have a different focus from their predecessors upon how County Council functions are dealt with, particularly highways. With the change of emphasis residents will see benefits in the future.
- c. All Libraries are being retained.
- d. ECC is providing more services for residents
- e. Although there are budget limitations, highways are prioritized.
- f. ECC Information is disseminated to PCs more quickly than previously.

Cllr. Schwier was thanked for his report and for forwarding ECC information quickly.

10) PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. J. Gentry reported upon the following:

- a. Covid prevented the 2021 meeting taking place and this report covered two years.
- b. The sad death of Mr. W. P. Clayton, a former chairman of the Parish Council.
- c. In May 2021 the chairman and vice chairman interchanged and Mr. K. R. Nott was thanked for his past service as chairman and for his continuing support.
- d. The budget and precept for 2021-22 was £8000 of which grants of £800 were made to Little Yeldham Village Hall and Belchamp Community House, because of losses suffered as a result of Covid.
- e. The budget for 2022-2023 was £7,800, being a saving of £200 and includes a £100 increase on the normal £400 for the Village Hall and Community House.
- f. The BDC Local Plan for 2013-2033 is nearing completion.
- g. The PC wrote a letter of objection regarding the proposed Solar Farm on the former Ridgewell Airfield and will continue to strenuously object at every stage.
- h. Issues with blocked drains were reported to ECC Highways and Mr. P. Schwier.
- i. The skip in Ovington was well used and no issues were reported.
- j. The PC is GDPR compliant and Daren Patient is the PC Data Controller.
- k. BALC has been resurrected, the PC joined and Mr. Gentry is on the Executive.
- l. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated on 5th June and a working party has been set up to organize an event on Little Yeldham Recreation Ground.
- m. A community policing initiative has been supported and the position advertised.
- n. Mr. P. E. Pawsey was thanked for cutting the grass in Ovington Churchyard.

The Chairman thanked Messrs. Pawsey, Nott, Corder-Birch, Schwier and Mrs. Parker for their support and work for Ovington.

11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)