

OVER HADDON PARISH

Council Chairman: Roger Truscott

E-mail: parishclerk@overhaddonparish.org.uk

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at 8:10pm on Monday 10th May 2021 by Zoom due to Covid

Minutes

Attendance: 5 electors and 3 non-electors

1. Appointment of the Clerk to the meeting

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk to take the minutes

2. Apologies

No Apologies were received

3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 1st April 2019 and Chair's Report April 2020 were approved.

4. Chair's Report

Councillors this year have been myself as chair, Penny Aitken (vice-chair), Zena Hawley, Sally Mosley and Steve Pope. Mathew Lovell has continued as Clerk to the Council this year, and we thank him for all his hard work.

It has been a very strange year, to say the least, with a "lockdown" on many normal activities which has varied in intensity throughout the year, but which is now finally easing, with the prospect of "almost normality" by late June this year. As a result we have been unable to meet physically for meetings, which have instead been held on line via "Zoom" which have been arranged very efficiently by our Clerk, and this has enabled parish council business to continue to operate throughout the lockdown period. The village hall, where we normally hold our meetings, has remained closed for most purposes (although it was opened for the local elections on the 6th of May) but should become available for meetings from July onwards. Whilst our councillors have attended meetings on line as regularly as normal there has been very sparse attendance by members of the public, including local authority representatives, despite publicity being provided for the events.

An early effect of lockdown which impacted the work of the parish council was the sudden increase of visitors to the area, and in particular to Lathkil Dale, during the warm, dry sunny Spring and early Summer period, resulting in some unsociable behaviour, including litter, fires and "wild toileting." This was exacerbated by the closure of Over Haddon public toilets by the District Council. After making representations to relevant local authorities, Natural England and the police the problems abated. The parish council succeeded in persuading the District Council to reopen the public toilets as long as we provided cleaning facilities. This position has remained the same ever since and highlights our on-going dispute with the District Council over responsibility for the toilets, and indeed the public car-park of which it forms part.

A minor, rather bizarre, issue which the council became involved with at this time was the case of the wandering white pea hens! A group of these quite large birds

were found migrating between people's gardens and were eventually caught, with the help of a local farmer, and re-homed locally.

The Plantation project was also affected by the lockdown, in that Derby College, who had intended to carry out the work of creating a community garden, were unable to do so due to social distancing restrictions. But before that the project was delayed anyway by slowness of the Peak Park in giving planning permission, even after the required ecological assessment had been carried out. Permission was eventually received and some work was carried out sporadically, during Autumn and late Winter, and a considerable amount of the basic structural work has now been done, with a major resumption of activity expected in a couple of weeks time.

Another activity delayed by the lockdown has been the campaign for vehicle speed checks in the village, but preparation for this too is expected to start again soon. Publicity for "20's Plenty" has gone ahead, however, both aspects being coordinated by councillor Steve Pope.

Guided by our clerk, the parish council has objected to proposals made to the Local Authorities Boundary Commission by the District Council to keep Over Haddon within an electoral ward dominated by Bakewell and to abolish the Lathkil and Bradford ward of neighbouring villages and rural parishes, in which we feel it would be much more appropriate to be included.

The normal regular business of the parish council has continued throughout the year, unaffected by the lockdown. This included consideration of planning applications (although there were no major ones) and ongoing lobbying of the County Council to carry out repairs to road surfaces within the parish and to restrict access to the lower ginnel between Main Street and Monyash Road, so far with little success.

We all look forward to the resumption of physical meetings of the parish council in the village hall, to which we will be able to welcome interested members of the public.

Roger Truscott (Chairman.)

5. Report from representatives of County, District, Police, PDNPA attending

Alasdair Sutton our new County Councillor was congratulated on his election last week and will catch up on the problems inherited and asked to be updated on all outstanding matters. He noted his support for our return to a Lathkill Dale Ward which has been voiced at District level too.

Mark Wakeman expressed disappointment that the parish saw little support from District Councillors in our comments to the Boundary Commission wishing to rejoin the Lathkill and Bradford Ward. He promised to chase the toilet block issue on our behalf for its resumption of cleaning by its owners DDDC.

6. To consider items already requested for discussion:

none

7. To consider any other Parish matter that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors

No matters were raised and the meeting closed at 8:24 pm