

# **OVER HADDON PARISH**

Council Chairman: Roger Truscott

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## **The Annual Parish Meeting was held at 7:30pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Over Haddon Village Hall**

### **Minutes**

**Attendance:** 5 electors and 2 non-electors

#### **1. Appointment of the Clerk to the meeting**

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk to take the minutes

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from PCSO Morris, County Councillor Alasdair Sutton and Cllr Penny Aitken

#### **3. Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were approved.

#### **4. Chair's Report**

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

All of the council meetings have been held in the village hall during the past year. Initially as a result of the need for people to be spaced further apart (as a precaution during the covid pandemic) they were all held in the main hall rather than the small meeting room as formerly, but this has in fact made it easier to accommodate members of the public without overcrowding, so the practice is likely to be continued. A variety of subjects have occupied the council's discussions and activities over the past year:

**The public toilets:** This continues to be a bone of contention between the district council and the parish council. Derbyshire Dales District Council refuses to accept responsibility for keeping them open and threatens that, unless the Parish Council continues to pay for regular cleaning they will be closed, to the great detriment of local tourism and with the likely consequence of insanitary conditions for the village. We are hopeful that the result of this year's local district elections may result in a change of policy.

**Highways and traffic:** These too are ongoing issues for the parish council.

Derbyshire County Council, as highways authority, are continuously reminded of the problem of potholes and the need for road repairs, but they only happen sporadically in response to public lobbying. More general highway complaints include the need to prevent traffic using the lower ginnel between Main Street and Monyash Road but the county council are not prepared to place signs to this effect. There is also opposition to the parish council's request to make the village a 20 mile per hour zone, despite the fact that such a practice is becoming increasingly widespread for safety reasons. The parish council continue to support a local Speedwatch campaign, led by councillor Pope, to foster safer driving in the village, with the assistance of our local Police Community Support Officer, who also holds an annual meeting in the village to discuss matters of local concern.

Dangerous and inconsiderate parking in the village, mainly by visitors and holiday makers, also remains a problem, especially in the Summer, and is linked to the unwillingness of many to pay parking charging in the public car park.

Allotments: Following a public meeting and updating of allotment rules during the previous year an allotments association has been formed and all the plots are now let. The communal plot near the entrance also includes some “starter plots” to encourage new tenants, and will be planted with some new trees later this year to commemorate the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Community Garden: The triangular plot at the junction of Main Street and Wellgate lane has been transformed into an attractive community garden and, although not yet officially opened, is already in regular use by visitors. A paved pathway from Main Street is still required and we are hoping to receive a firm quotation for the work from Jeff Sheldon very soon...together with an information board, which is also under way and being co-ordinated by councillor Hawley. Maintenance of the garden has been carried out by a team of volunteers (the “Wombles”) led by councillor Pope.

Defibrillator: The need for a second defibrillator, located in the eastern part of the village, has been agreed and will be placed near the entrance to the village hall, who will pay of it, although maintenance and monitoring will be the responsibility of the parish council.

Local Plan Review: We took part in a survey of Parish Councils by the Peak district National Park Authority to help determine the needs and aspirations of local communities for the purpose of the new Local Plan which is being prepared. The needs for more affordable housing and a decent bus serving were highlighted.

Planning Applications: Consideration and recommendations relating to these is a regular duty of the parish council. There were fewer than usual over the past year, but one of the more contentious related to the garage/studio for Hallyard House which is still to be resolved. This also relates to proposed housing development on adjacent land formerly belonging to Manor Farm, which was the subject of an exhibition and consultation in the village hall and for which a planning application is awaited.

Public Meeting: A meeting was held in the village hall during February which was triggered by the sudden withdrawal of bus services by Hulleys in the Autumn of last year. We are still looking at alternative means of provision and awaiting responses from the County Council and Peak Park Planning Authority. Other issues were also discussed, including the future of the bus shelter and a new sign at the entrance to the village.

Elections: Elections are due for members of the parish council this coming May. This will only occur, however, if there are more applicants than parish council seats (five) and it is known that two of the present councillors are standing down leaving two seats vacant.

Roger Truscott (Chair 2022-23)

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

District Councillor Mark Wakeman noted that this was the last meeting before Purdah and that the District Council had not achieved much. He noted that from Thursday he will be an independent councillor and there are currently 8 standing for the 2 vacancies on our Bakewell Ward. He stressed that Photo ID is essential when voting and noted that residents without can phone DDDC for a letter to take to the polling station if they have never had photo ID

**6. To consider items already requested for discussion:**

Second Homes – a discussion on the 20% of homes in the village that are either holiday lets or second homes and their detraction from community life by lack of contribution was noted. The poor impact of tripling or quadrupling rates on owners of empty properties who simply pay plus the mixed feelings towards holiday lets that can benefit the local economy versus second homes that minimally benefit due to their limited use and loss of community cohesion was felt by all to worsening and a more robust way of limitation is needed from central government via planning laws that are enforceable.

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

No further matters were raised and the meeting closed at 7:58 pm