

OXBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

2023/2

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING held at the Village Hall, Oxborough
Wednesday 13 July 2022, starting at 7.30pm

PRESENT:	Simon Willies	Chair
	Bernie Chapman	Vice Chair
	Graham Allison	Councillor
	Fabian Eagle	Norfolk County Council Councillor

3 Members of the Public

Before the meeting began, the Chair issued the usual reminder for everyone to keep comments relevant and be respectful of those in attendance.

Open Forum (questions regarding the Agenda)

Mr. A. Le Clercq asked several questions: when was the Notice of Vacancy first raised with Breckland Council, as he is concerned at how long it is taking to fill the vacancy. Whether it may be a good idea to inspect all trees on the village green, rather than just the beech monolith; possibly using the unmetered supply of electricity in the telephone box for events held on the village green; the reduction of the three piles of cut branches from the beech tree, into one pile.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Nairn and Cllr Monson had extended apologies for not being able to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Declarations of recording and social media use

None

4. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 18 May 2022

These Minutes (which include the AGM held at the same time) had been circulated and displayed on the Notice Board (and PC website). Cllr Willies proposed that the minutes should be accepted, seconded by Cllr Chapman - all in favour- the minutes were signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising

(a) The Chair noted that the TSB bank account was still being updated to include new signatories (Cllrs Allison and Chapman). The necessary paperwork was completed just prior to the meeting, the clerk will post the application form and the Councillors would then need to present themselves to any TSB branch bringing with them 2 forms of identification.

(b) The Clerk is still attempting to replace the firm of accountants who have looked after the annual PAYE over the last 10 years.

(c) No report yet from the annual audit.

6. District Councillors Report

None.

7. County Councillors Report

Cllr Eagle reported that his offer of the Swift houses had a 100% take-up, but that he had not made the final choice - OPC is in good running. His main focus is working on the £67m of savings which NCC must make, which will see amongst other measures a reduction in the mobile library service. Adult Social Services needs to find £6.45m worth of savings, but the population of over-65s has increased significantly so very challenging times. He mentioned that he had the dangerous junction grass cutting carried out at the end of June. Cllr Eagle answered several questions, including concerning the library service and how to adapt it - maybe using the village hall as a book depository which could be accessed during the weekly coffee mornings. The census was taken during covid times which

affected the recordings as it was clear how many people moved out of the cities (e.g. Westminster) and into the countryside.

The Chair thanked him for his report and he left the meeting.

8. Planning - motion to consider whether the PC should respond to any of the planning applications, and if so, what to respond

(a) 3DC/2022/0132/DOC OXBOROUGH Excavation Site, Oxborough Road PE33 9QH. Discharge of Condition No 11 on 3PL/2021/0248/F (Discharge Conditions)

(b) TRE/2022/0126/TCA (Swallows Stoke Ferry Road) Tree works application to fell diseased blue spruce. Decision from Breckland Council-no objection. Decision - permission granted.

(c) Online Enforcement Reference: OWEC2697 (Hall Farm House) ‘...install a further 6 solar panels on the Red House side of the barn’. ENF/167/22/PAR, Alleged Breach: Unauthorised Works. The Chair noted that Mr. Plant had made a complaint as he did not want to have the solar panels visible from his property.

9. Finance

a. To receive bank balance and reconciliation

The insurance figure noted in the budget (£162.21) is understated, as the playground equipment/railings premium was paid in the first instance by a villager. The renewal is for £322.99, and this is the 3rd year of the LTA. The clerk read out the core cover (which includes Public Liability, Employers Liability and Playground Liability) and suggested that the sum assured for the playground is reviewed before next year’s renewal.

Cllr Allison questioned who had given the Clerk authority to pay Torc Ecology invoice. The Chair pointed out that this payment needed to be ratified at this meeting (same as the payment to Dr. Stump). Cllr Allison argued that all cheques have to be authorised by the PC in public view in accordance with the Standing Orders, but the Chair responded that authorising an invoice is the same as authorising a cheque, which is acceptable so it was not necessary to have a cheque authorised, adding that the quote (which matched the invoice) had been issued via email to all Councillors ahead of the inspection (for birds/bats). Cllr Allison stressed that he did not want the PC to operate without following the Standing Orders which includes financial matters. He asked how much the total VAT would be for both invoices- £331 (Torc) + £1496.04 (Dr. Stump)- and whether Mr. Hotchkin would still permit the PC to retain the VAT component arising from the Torc Ecology invoice. Cllr Chapman stated that this was his understanding, but it was suggested that this is checked one more time; in the meantime, the Clerk would begin the VAT reclaim process. Cllr Chapman asked how many cuts CGM had made so far (x 8 cuts plus x1 herbicide). Cllr Allison asked if the National Trust had reacted to the news that the rent fee has increased to £200 - the Clerk said she had notified this information but that there had been no response. He wondered what might happen if the PC needed to take back the land during the year (if the Church made a request for additional burial ground)- would the National Trust pay a pro-rata amount. Cllr Chapman suggested that the agreement is reviewed at the next meeting - add to next Agenda. Cllr Chapman proposed acceptance of the accounts, seconded by Cllr Willies - all in favour.

b. To consider authorisation of payments and to sign cheques:

Payments:

1. TSB bank fees

2. £8976.23 Dr. Stump invoice for felling the beech tree - payment to be ratified.

3. £1986.00 Torc Ecology Ltd invoice for ecology works - payment to be ratified.

4. £403.80 CGM grass cutting(x8) plus herbicide treatment.

5. £322.99 Community First Insurance renewal (1 June 2022)

The Chair proposed payment - seconded by Cllr Chapman - all in favour.

Receipts:

1. £8,226.23 from Mr. David Hotchkin - donation for felling the beech tree.

2. £100 - Ryston Runners Wissey ½ marathon (4 Sept 2022)

3. £1,936.00 from Mr. Hotchkin - donation towards the ecology fees (Torc Ecologist)

4. £60 - Oxborough Village Hall - hire of the village green for the Open Garden weekend in June.

5. Invoice raise for £750 - Oxborough Farms Ltd (Mr. Ian Monson) - donation towards traffic management costs regarding the beech tree.

10. Correspondence Received

a) Norfolk Police (see website)

1. Email update from Paula Gilluley: "... monthly parish newsletters will now be published in line with local SNAP Priority Setting Meetings. However, you can still access crime data in your local area through the national police website www.police.uk/pu/your-area/norfolk-constabulary."

b) Breckland Council (see website)

1. Lisa Oakley (Senior Economic Development Officer):

a) The Woodland Trust is offering free tree planting packs for community groups, parish councils, sports clubs, residents associations (as long as it is not-for-profit organisation), please see details here: Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust

b) To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee NCC is giving people in Norfolk the chance to apply for tree packs that are up to 50% off their original cost. Applications are now open and ready to collect between December 2022 to February 2023.

2. Notice of Vacancy form duly completed and promoted on website and notice board. Deadline is 14 days from 27 May 2022. Alex Elliott (Electoral Services Officer) confirmed that no requests to hold an election were received, PC to proceed with co-option and inform BC of name and address when known.

c) NCC (see website)

1. Invitation to respond to consultation: NCC has produced a revised version of the adopted Local List, The NCC Local List for Validation of Planning Applications Consultation, Draft 2022. In line with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) timescale there is an 8-week consultation period (16 May to Monday 11 July 2022) to allow for your comments and feedback. <http://eplanning.norfolk.gov.uk/Planning/Display/LLCON/2022/00012>.

2. Email from Cllr Fabian Eagle: "In recognition of the Queens Platinum Jubilee I have decided to allocate some of my members Highways/Environment budget to purchase two of these Swift Towers to go villages that feel they have the appropriate place and populations of Swifts and House Martins in their village."

2.1 Mr. Charles Howard-Vyse requested one for Oxborough: "...No doubt a suitable location could be found in the village, eg close to the church on the edge of the Green, and in some small way a swift tower would be a welcome offset for the much missed beech tree".

3. Jubilee trees for Norfolk - application open. "Trees come in packs of 10, 20 or 125 and can be split up and planted in different locations across your community. You can apply here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/jubileetrees"

d) Email from Mr. Miles Griffin regarding Public Footpaths within the Parish, and the local landowner responsibilities: "I am referring specifically to FP3 on the Eastmoor Rd, and FP10 off the Stock Ferry Rd toward Oxborough Ferry. The signage at both is no longer in place, and the footpaths have not been reinstated following ploughing". This was sent onto Cllr Monson, and he responded with the confirmation "footpaths will be mowed and levelled in the next two days to permit walkers to walk with ease across the fields again on the designated paths".

e) Email from Julie Wood, Secretary OVH, requesting permission to display banners on the village green railings, promoting the Open Gardens 18-19 June. Application form duly completed.

f) Beech Tree

1. Mitigation requirements means that Torc Ecology need to install a tawny owl box on a nearby suitable tree. "I am still trying to source a tawny owl box for Tuesday. I am hoping we can get one from a colleague of ours. The price of the box will vary depended on the type of the box c.£50 - £100.If we have to get one from a retailer then it will likely be £100 - £150"

2. Email from James Parry: "...As the resident pair of tawny owls have now lost their traditional nesting site, can consideration please be given by the PC to the erection of an appropriate nest box in the lime tree on the pound? This would need to happen during the summer so that the birds get used to it through the autumn and winter ready for the 2023 breeding season". Clerk acknowledged email and explained that the ecologist had considered the lime tree but that there was evidence of existing bird nests, so it was unsuitable. They selected the sycamore tree located at the entrance of the village hall carpark.

3. Email from Chris Heatley: "...If Dr Stump does not possess an endoscope long enough to reach fully into the hollow in the tree, he should obtain one of sufficient length to do the job properly. Not having the correct tool for the job is not a valid reason for him to conveniently assume the presence of Bats and decide to leave a monolith against the direct instructions/wishes of the PC and the person who is footing the bill for the work...Will Dr Stump be offering a very significant reduction to the bill if the tree is only partly cut down?"

4. Email from Dr. Stump, explaining the reason why the beech tree is recommended to be maintained as a monolith:

“Upper canopy is free of cavities and bats, lower canopy will be retained on the recommendation of the Ecologist due to the fact that whilst no bats have been found, the cavities are so deep that a full inspection is not possible, therefore retention of the tree to a monolith as recommended by Rory Hobbs, RH Tree Consultants Ltd and Shaun Baker from Torc ecology. How far we remove the tree is governed by the timing constraints and the inability to carry out appropriate surveys to determine the bat roost status of the tree. Due to the short window, we are unable to undertake further surveys”

5. Email from David Hotchkin: “Now that the 'monolith' has to be accepted as the current state of the tree for some time to come (because of the legal situation regarding bats) then I would suggest that the tree surgeon is the best person to work out how it should be shaped, and that they should now be left to their own devices to complete the work. It may not turn out to be aesthetically pleasing to some, but we will just have to live with it - perhaps for a few years. At least, the work has addressed the safety aspects that were of the greatest immediate concern.”

6. Email update from Torc Ecology (Shaun Baker): “...Our responsibility is to you the client and the contractors that we advise, and in this regard we have sought an appropriate route to navigate the legal implications of potentially disturbing bats and their roosts (and nesting birds) based on the identified need to make the beech tree safe with regards public health and safety (as documented within the Bat and Nesting Bird Method Statement). As RH Tree Consultants report recommends that the tree be reduced to a monolith to make it safe, given the uncertainty with regards the presence of bat roosts it would be reckless to damage or remove the existing cavities and the existing Bat and Nesting Bird Method Statement could therefore not be relied upon to provide any justification for mitigating circumstances should a bat be harmed, injured or killed, and/or a bat roost(s) be damaged or destroyed”.

7. Email from David Hotchkin: “...With regard to Mr. Shaun Baker's latest (very detailed) email upon the subject of the beech tree, I wish to make something fundamentally clear: Under no circumstances whatsoever am I prepared to sponsor any exercise undertaken by the Parish Council, and involving my direct financial support, which might be unlawful and which may subsequently result in prosecution”.

8. Email update from Dr. Stump: “...Rory Hobbs, RH Tree Consultants Ltd, has determined that the tree, once reduced to a monolith would in fact be currently deemed safe but action in the future stated in his report would need to be acted upon in the required timeframe. To reduce the risk further as discussed previously, we will create a natural exclusion zone and hibernaculum beneath the remaining stem wood of the tree. This will offer a superb opportunity as an educational feature for owl and bat watching for the locals and their children/grandchildren. I am pleased that this compromise has been sought and a positive step forward can be taken to complete the works legally, safely and responsibly.” Tree report from RH Tree Consultants, extract: “19. Re-Survey Frequency and Zoning. Given the population of trees on site and the proximity of high occupancy targets areas (such as footpaths and highways), it is of my opinion that as a minimum, the trees on this site be surveyed by a qualified arboricultural consultant at a frequency on no greater than every 3 years in a leaf on, leaf off rotation so as to fully assess the tree through its annual stages.

9. Email from Chris Heatley: “... I ask how we are supposed to remove the wood without using chainsaws? Dr Stump has left most of it in totally unmanageable pieces, some of which weigh several hundred pounds. Providing the PC make it abundantly clear that chainsaw users act entirely at their own risk I do not see that it presents a problem for the PC”.

g) Letter of resignation from Cllr Linda Holloway... “With health and work commitments as they are, I feel I am unable to give the PC the time and dedication it deserves”.

h) Email from Gooderstone clerk, Judith “the bridge at Gooderstone, by the Anglian Water works - there is always a massive flood during the winter on the 'Oxborough' side. Is there anything the PC can do about this? It looks like it's a serious ditch-digging operation, but of course, it's private land”. Cllr Monson commented that this had always been a problem as Anglian Water sewage works are between the area that floods and the river. He offered to take another look see what the levels are like. It is really the responsibility of the NCC Highways to come up with a solution, but he may be able to help by draining it through the hedge into his field. Cllr Allison message: “Serious flooding either end of the bridge has been a problem for years. Highways could easily solve part of the problem by a small channel on the east side of the road being dug to drain one side of the road into the ditch that runs from the cottages into the river on Jean Mason's boundary. The east side is more of a problem as its boundary is Ian Monson's field which is higher than the road and the ditch doesn't go down that far. Ian could drain it into his field but that area is usually quite wet in the winter anyway and it's right by the style. There may also be a covenant preventing this”. Cllr Monson inspected the area and concluded “the only solution is for Highways to fill it right in with road planeings so that the water can run off across the road and into the river at the old ford”.

i) Email from Elaine Stapleton: Are you aware that the hedge on the green is being cut back at the moment by someone with a large hedge trimmer? Is this person employed/authorised by the PC? I thought that it was not

allowed to cut hedges at this time of year as the birds are still nesting. The hedge is located adjacent to the property of Mr. & Mrs. Chris Heatley.

i) Email from Mrs Lee England: Please thank the Parish Council and yourself for letting our charity FTRescue hire the green and hall. We had great weather, good attendance and everyone had a lovely time and we managed to make some funds for our rescue. I hope everything was ok with how we left the venue. Thank you once again.

j) Anglian Water New Proposed Pipeline - Land ownership query received from Vula Oppio (Asst. to Sarah Hill Consultant to Savills) - forwarded onto Cllrs Chapman and Monson.

K) Ryston Runners (contact Sue Tuff) request permission to place 8 x portaloos (as in previous years) on the village green for the Wissey ½ marathon event being held 4-9-2022.

l) Armed Forces Covenant: During the last 12 months, your town or parish council signed the Armed Forces Covenant Pledge. Thank you for doing so and showing your support for the armed forces community. Providing you have published the pledge on your website, you are eligible to apply for a Bronze Award under the Ministry of Defence's Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. I'd like to invite you to complete the online application and receive the electronic award within the coming weeks. You will then be able to add the Bronze Award logo to your email footers or letterheads and promote the Covenant to the wider community.

M) Rural Market Towns email from Corporate Director, David Inman: The Rural Market Towns Group (RMTG) can help you to deliver improved outcomes for your communities through shared collective pressure and learning from others in membership. Provide you with resources, connections, rural knowledge, and experience, that enables the representation of your Town to inform policy and generate improved outcomes for your residents and business communities.

n) Letter from Heather and David of The Granary, Hall Farm Barns, expressing their thanks to the PC and all those involved in organising the Oxborough Jubilee celebrations: '...it was a lovely afternoon and really so good to see families relaxing in the sun and enjoying the pleasure of one another's company'.

o) UK Power Networks quote for disconnecting the power from the telephone box - £1243 plus VAT - completion date 23 March 2023.

11. Highways

1. Temporary closure of C122 Beachamwell Road in the Parish of Beachamwell because of power cable installation works (STRO6652). 14 June 2022 (1 day only).
2. Temporary Traffic Order affecting the U33255 The Street from 550m east of its junction with Clarkes Lane for 20m eastwards in the PARISH OF GOODERSTONE because of new water connection works. The road will be temporarily closed (except for access) from 21st to 23rd June 2022 for the duration of the works expected to be about 3 days within the period.
3. Tree and Countryside General Enquiry submitted by clerk, requesting a copy of the TPO (2007 No. 28) on the lime tree located on The Pound, which has a quantity of deadwood at the crown. This land (and tree) is owned by NCC. ENQ-571442-R0K1S3. Outcome: "No action has been taken at this time, but we will continue to monitor the problem -We have assessed that the defect does not currently meet our intervention criteria. We will continue to monitor as part of normal scheduled inspections; the tree usually dealt with by Breckland Council". **The Chair asked the Clerk to find out when this inspection was made, as Cllr Chapman had only recently carried out a cut on the Pound and he had piled up all the dead wood which had fallen from the tree - and NCC would have seen this if the inspection had been carried out.**
4. Rangers visit scheduled for July - Clerk reported a number of issues: ENQ900209628 / ENQ900209655 / ENQ900209656 / ENQ900209657 / ENQ900209658/ENQ900209660
5. NCC"Parish Partnerships" scheme for local highway improvements. All bids to be submitted by 9 Dec 2022 to ppschemes@norfolk.gov.uk. E.g.: Small lengths of formal footway / Trods/ Improved crossing facilities / Improvements to Public Rights of Way. **The Chair suggested that this fund could be used to pay for replacement signs, Cllr Chapman adding that the footpath signs on Eastmoor Road and on Stoke Ferry Road (towards the end of Oxborough Hall wall) have both rotted at the base, since they are no longer lodged upright, but rather just propped up against the vegetation. The Clerk will make an application for signage. Regarding the recurrent question of installing a trod, Cllr Allison reminded the council about the service cables installed beneath the surface which has been the reason why Highways would not install the trod on the verge opposite the village hall.**
6. Cllr Chapman mentioned the problem of the overhanging hedges (from the private property owned by the Parker family) along the Swaffham Road (C44). The Clerk will contact the Gooderstone Parish Council counterpart to report this.

12. Update on the Felling of the Beech Tree

Cllr Allison reminded the Council how at the meeting in May, he had suggested a further meeting to discuss the possibility of leaving the tree as a monolith, as reports had indicated there could be a problem in cutting it to the ground (as the PC had agreed) - but that his proposed meeting was not held and somehow the tree was not cut to the ground as agreed - he questioned how this decision could be changed at the last minute without the PC actually agreeing to it. The Chair responded that the decision was taken out of the hands of the PC, as the contractor/ecologist determined the presence of bird nests plus although not proven to exist, it was deemed likely that bat roosting habitat existed. Cllr Chapman added that the known risks for damaging such habitat included prison time, which Dr. Stump and Torc Ecology repeated more than once. Cllr Willies repeated his thanks to ex-Councillor David Hotchkin for funding the beech tree felling and paying the ecologist fees. He noted that the beech tree is now a lot like marmite, as people seem to either love it or hate it, but that the timber and chippings had been made available to everyone (although there was more larger unwieldy chunks than anticipated) and there only remained a modest pile of chippings. Cllr Chapman volunteered to liaise with the Clerk regarding the final clear up of the area. The Councillors agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to David Hotchkin. In the meantime the invoice of £750 for the traffic management contribution from Oxborough Farms Ltd (Cllr Monson) has been raised. The question of when (or maybe if) the replacement beech tree should be done was discussed as it was not clear whether the remaining beech monolith qualified as an existing beech tree under the current TPO -the Clerk will contact the tree officer. As a condition of the monolith included a 3-yearly inspection, perhaps a reserve should be placed in the budget to cover future costs, using the VAT component from the beech tree felling invoice. The 3 piles of cuttings had been reduced to a single pile and moved closer to the stump base as it was considered an adequate habitat area.

13. Village Hall Report by Susan Hernandez (PC representative)

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee event on 3 June was a lovely afternoon shared by lots of villagers who enjoyed free live music and home-made cakes. There seems to be enthusiasm for a similar event to be held annually. Open Gardens held a few weeks later was very successful despite the bad weather on Saturday, with net proceeds of £911.74 shared equally between the village hall and the Church. Now the annual village BBQ is on 6 August and tickets are priced at £7 each (children eat for free)- please buy your tickets from Elaine Willies. Of course both CaféOx and the Quiz Evenings are held routinely, and we'd like to encourage villagers to come along and join in - all welcome. Cllr Chapman commented on how good the weekly coffee mornings have been, although he would like to see more villagers attend and Cllr Willies thought that the picnic on the green might be too costly to repeat every year.

14. To consider the suggestion that the annual reports should be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting

After a short discussion it was agreed that the next AGM should not include the annual reports, which instead should be presented during the Annual Parish Meeting held a month earlier; the Chair also supported Cllr Monson's comment he had made at the last meeting, that the report author should read the report (rather than rely on the Chair to do this).

15. Playground equipment - what to do about birds roosting on/fouling the equipment

The Clerk had washed down all the play equipment and the railings (ahead of the anticipated annual RoSpa inspection) and then contacted NGF Play Ltd a few days prior to the meeting, to discuss the wobbly monkey bar upright (as reported by Cllr Chapman). Geoff Madden had acknowledged the problem and would organise a site visit. It was suggested that his opinion be sought on a solution for preventing bird droppings. One idea was to install a taut wire (above the monkey bars, tyre swing and nest swing) as birds would not be able to perch on this - there would be a cost implication.

16. Telephone box - review quote from (NPower) UK Power Networks for disconnection

Cllr Allison stated that when BT decommissioned the telephone box in 2008, the purchaser had the option to continue with the power supply; he pointed out that the light fitting had been removed from the box. The Clerk advised him that all the paperwork had been made available to him but that it had not been clear at all about whether there had been this option, only that the then existing power provider - E.on - had confirmed the unmetered supply, and then taken a decision to never invoice OPC. 14 years later the new power provider NPower made the decision to invoice OPC. Whatever goodwill existed during the last 14 years with E.on has disappeared. Cllr Chapman insisted that the PC continues to refuse to pay the invoice received (£21.04, period 1 Dec 2021-31 Mar 2022) and the Clerk explained that there had been no red reminder received yet (the payment had been due 21/4/2022), although the second quarterly invoice would be anticipated at the end of July. Cllrs

agreed that £1243 plus VAT was a very unrealistic and disproportionate charge for disconnection - completely at odds with the situation- and after further discussion it was agreed that the quote should be ignored as well.

17. Support during the current economic climate, led by Cllr Willies

Cllr Willies is also the Honorary Secretary of Hewars Charity (HC) and he spoke about work carried out, especially during the current social and economic climate, to alleviate those in need. There is a grant available to the PC from Norfolk Community Foundation, whereby an application can be made for up to £50 per householder who meet the criteria (elderly, carers, disabled) - the information is available online. Cllr Allison recalled how in times past HC would present a Christmas cash payment of £25 to Oxborough householders, but that this was changed to an application-basis only and hardly anyone applied. Cllr Chapman agreed that applying for this grant would be a good idea, although it would not be straight-forward identifying the recipients. Cllr Allison had a thought about the village hall applying for a grant to cover the heating costs so there would be a warm place to meet during the winter months when everyone is having to cope with ever increasing fuel bills. The Clerk will make an application.

18. A.O.B.

Cllr Chapman asked if the defibrillator is registered to the NHS, as he has learnt that only one third of these are - Elaine Willies confirmed that the village hall defib is registered. Cllr Chapman expressed his disgust at the condition of Oxborough Hall's boundary on the main road through Oxborough - the verge has been left to run riot for several years (since the start of the pandemic), the large gates are in desperate need of cleaning and painting and the area around it is extremely weedy. Along large areas of the wall, ivy and trees have been allowed to grow unhindered, which will be sucking away the moisture and causing a steady deterioration of this very old wall. He urged the council to support him and suggested that a letter be sent to Oxborough Hall, copying in Blickling Hall. Cllr Allison added further that previously Fred Greef, and then Graham Donachie and lastly Julian Moy had all worked on the verge to maintain them in a very presentable manner, whereas lately it had looked abandoned and derelict. The Clerk will write a letter.

Public participation

19. To receive information or suggested items for consideration at the next meeting

Andrew Le Clercq asked if the PC would consider including all the village green trees in a 3-yearly inspection. The Chair had agreed this earlier, so this will be added to the next Agenda. He suggested that the power in the telephone box could be used to power future events held on the village green - a short discussion followed, including the question of whether the electric supply is safe (as far as can be determined it is). Bar Pritchard pointed out that the Ferry Road signpost had fallen down - she will report this to Highways - and then asked for clarification as to whether future tree beech tree inspections were already included (and therefore paid) in the invoices paid to the contractor/ecologist; Cllr Willies responded that this was not the case.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and bid all, goodnight. The meeting closed at 9.48pm

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Appendix A (13 July 2022) Report: Accounts reported against the budget quarterly					
IAW Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control (section Financial Reporting)					
<u>BUDGET 2022/23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>		
Estimated Gross Payments					
Accountants	25.00	0.00	25.00		
Training	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Clerk's wages	1430.00	0.00	1430.00		
Clerk's expenses	224.00	0.00	224.00		
HMRC	0.00	0.00	0.00		
CGM (grass maintenance - 15 cuts)	612.00	0.00	0.00		
CGM (herbicide treatment - twice)	66.00	0.00	66.00		
Hedge maintenance (1 cut)	334.64	0.00	334.64		
RoSpa	86.40	0.00	86.40		
St. John the Evangelist donation	175.00	0.00	175.00		
Royal British Legion donation	30.00	0.00	30.00		
Insurance	162.21	0.00	162.21		
Village Hall Hire/Zoom meeting	84.00	0.00	84.00		
Bank charges	60.00	20.00	40.00		
War memorial cleaning	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Village Green bench	380.00	0.00	380.00		
Insurance for playground (see note 1)	0.00	0.00	0.00		
	3669.25	20.00	3037.25		
Estimated Receipts					
Village Green Hire	90.00	60.00	30.00		
National Trust Lease	200.00	0.00	200.00		
Precept	3292.00	1646.00	1646.00		
VAT Refund	170.00	0.00	170.00		
	3752.00	1706.00	2046.00		
Bank Reconciliation					
Bank Balance b/f	3910.87				
<u>Add Receipts:</u>					
Ryston Runners hire of the village green	100.00				
Mr. David Hotchin's donation- pay for the beech tree	8226.23				
Mr. D. Hotchkin's further donation	1936.00				
Oxborough Village Hall hire of the village green	60.00		2239.62	estimated	
sub-total	10322.23			balance end	
<u>Less Payments:</u>				of financial	
Bank charges (June/July)	10.00			year 2022/23	
Dr. Stump - beech tree	8976.23				
Torc Ecology - beech tree	1986.00				
sub-total	10972.23				
Bank Balance @ 4 July 2022	3260.87				
Note 1: There was an additional insurance for the playground items/fencing: £164.51 which was paid by a villager. The Budget needs to be updated to include this for the current year.					