

**OCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**CLERK:** MRS S BELL  
77 HIGHLANDS ROAD  
HORSHAM  
WEST SUSSEX  
RH13 5ND  
**EMAIL:** clerk@ockleypc.co.uk

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

A meeting of Ockley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30 pm at Ockley Village Hall.

**1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

Councillors present

Ms A Barclay Chairman  
Mrs L-J Clarke  
Mr B Thorne  
Mr J Wright  
Mr J Lee-Steere  
Mrs Z Biasuzzi  
Mr C Calvert  
Ms S Bell Clerk

4x members of the public were present and Surrey County Councillor Helyn Clack.

**2. Declaration of interests and notification of changes to members interests**

JL-S

- Jayes Park Estate
- Treasurer and Committee Member Ockley Housing Association
- Churchwarden of St Margaret's and Trustee Ockley School Building

BT

- Ockley Village Hall Representative

**3. Public session (Allocated time limit of 15 minutes at the discretion of the Chairman)**

The Ockley Society meeting is also taking place tonight at the pub but Councillors advised this date of the OPC is not the normal date and has only happened due to the rescheduling of the January meeting. All Parish meetings will return to normal from May. LJ advised she is attending the Ockley Society AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. It was advised if the OPC meetings could be added into the WOOF village diary.

Speedwatch are looking for more volunteers in order to try and cover every day as they are only able to cover 5-6 days a week at the moment. They were advised by the Police they have 97% accuracy which OPC congratulated and praised the team for all their hard work. HC has already asked Police for more presence in the village and was advised if OPC and SCC approached this jointly, funds could be raised towards the cost of the equipment for Speedwatch.

**ACTION:** To post on FB asking for volunteers.

A parishioner raised whether OPC could fund towards the cost of the maintenance of trees that are blocking the view of Leith Hill from the Cricket Pavilion. Parishioner to send pictures of the trees to Clerk to determine ownership of the trees.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

ZW to approve LJ to second.

**5. Planning matters – to consider the planning applications listed below:**

**ACTION:** JW to draft a response to Coles Lane.

MO/2024/1322/CC MAJOR

Land South of Coles Lane, Capel, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5HW

Variation of Condition 8 of planning application MO/2020/0667/PLAMAJ for the outline planning permission for a residential scheme of up to 60 dwellings, with associated landscaping, amenity space, sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS), and associated works. All matters reserved except for access to allow a phased approach to the extension and improvements to the existing footway around the junction of Coles Lane and Station Approach.

Decision: REFUSED

MO/2024/1321/CC

Land at Station Approach, Station Approach, Ockley, Surrey, RH5 5HT

Variation of condition 2 of approved planning permission MO/2021/0732 for extension to existing footpath to allow a phased approach to the extension and improvements to the existing footway around the junction of Coles Lane and Station Approach.

Decision: REFUSED

MO/2024/1818/PCL

3, Upper Oakdale Cottages, Weare Street, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5NN

Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of the erection of an outbuilding.

Appeal Start Date: 18-Feb-2025

MO/2024/1638/PCL

Oakdale Farm, Weare Street, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5NN

Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of an outbuilding.

Appeal Start Date: 18-Feb-2025

MO/2025/0239/ECL

Chenies, Woodland Drive, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5HZ

Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing development in respect of the erection of a conservatory for a period of more than 10 years.

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MO/2023/1436/PNCE

Brookwood, Weare Street, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5NH

Prior notification for conversion of farm office from Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E) into 1 No. residential dwelling (Use Class C3).

Appeal Decision: Dismissed

MO/2023/1437/PNQ

Brookwood, Weare Street, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5NH

Prior notification for the change of use of 2 No. agricultural buildings to 4 No. dwellings (Use Class C3).

Appeal Decision: Dismissed

MO/2025/0198/CAT

16, The Green, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5TR

G1 - Group of Three Ash trees suffering from Ash Die Back - Fell to ground level

MO/2024/2100/PLAH

The Oaks, Weare Street, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5JD

Creation of a wildlife pond to the rear garden area, existing hardstanding driveway to be removed and replaced with a lawn.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2024/2057/PLAH

Waleys, Weare Street, Ockley, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5NW  
Erection of part single, part two storey side/rear extension.  
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

It was suggested about setting up a planning committee and Councillors undergoing some training to get a better understanding on the planning applications. LJ and ZW happy to put themselves forward.

**ACTION:** Clerk to find what training is available for Councillors to part take.

## 6. Finance

### a) accounts to be paid

#### Ockley Parish Council

#### Accounts to be paid

#### Already paid but not yet authorized:

#### To be paid:

Mrs S Bell

Clerk's salary and expenses – month 11	£830.50
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HMRC

Tax/Ni on Clerk's salary SB/LF – month 11	£12.56
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WOOF magazine

Grant	£550
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Mrs S Bell

Clerk's salary and expenses – month 12	£830.50
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Mrs L Fletcher

Temp Clerk's salary and expenses – month 12	£86.20
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HMRC

Tax/Ni on Clerk's salary SB/LF - month 12	£33.76
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Surrey Playing Fields

Affiliation Fee 2024/25	£10
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Shirley Dean-Webster

Litter Picking Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan	£112.50
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Zurich Municipal

Insurance	£573.20
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**ACTION:** Shirely Dean-Webster litter picking ZW to write up a piece on her voluntary contribution over the years.

**b) verify bank statements to budget spreadsheet**

These were read through and JLS signed January's reconciliation.

**c) Future Spending Plan**

A list was created from suggestions from Councillors and parishioners on ideas that money could be spent on. The plan is to discuss the ideas amongst the Councillors but this would be ongoing and would be a long-term project of over three years. A lot of the suggestions the OPC may not be able to help towards due to the high costs involved and this would need to be looked whether could apply for grant funding.

Future Spending List for Ockley

- To upgrade the Cricket Pavilion – this was agreed to ask the Cricket Club on more specifics for business plan/costings
- To have a library in the old school building/book swap – OPC could possibly fund a bookshelf in the pavilion
- A safe walking route from the train station to the centre of the village with lighting – this is a big project and may require CIL money. HC advised she would send an email enquiring further on this. It was discussed this could be added into the NDP.
- Bus transport OOH/in sync with train times – JW advised this is no turning circle at top of the station for buses so would be difficult to set up a bus stop as there is no safe place for the bus to stop.
- Preserve the natural beauty of Ockley
- Support local businesses
- Safer cycle path from the village to train station with lighting
- Village hall heating
- Extension of footpath on The Green
- TLC - for OPC pay for their hire fees for the village hall, circa £300 per annum as they are cash only
- Second defibrillator – one at train station and at the Cricket Pavilion
- Allotments – Clerk to contact Leigh/Betchworth to seek advice on how they started theirs.
- "Visit Ockley" web site with downloadable audio tour of the village and info on key local attractions and plus walking routes on QR codes
- Refresh of benches
- Traffic calming measures
- Maintenance on the green
- NDP
- Play area
- Scotts Well
- Village Hall

**7. Crime figures – list to be provided**

Fifteen reports from 5th Feb -18th March 2025. Councillors noted the amount of car collisions.

**8. Future MV Local Plan**

Nothing to discuss.

**9. Footpaths in the parish**

No response from MV. There have been willing volunteers that have come forward from the post put on Facebook.

**ACTION:** AB to email HC to follow up with MV.

**10. Ockley NDP**

A Teams meeting took place with AB, JLS, CC and James Garside to restart the NDP. The main points raised was to understand what the main scope of the NDP would be and to ask for volunteers to set up the NDP group again. It was discussed applying for another grant. All Councillors AGREED for James Garside to take the lead due

to the vast involvement and work James has already provided for OPC in the past. The village needs to be made aware of the restarting of the group. HC advised it may be possible to get the grant fund reinstated from the Chief Executive and could ask James Garside to apply for grant on behalf of OPC.

**ACTION:** Clerk to find previous documentation of applying for the grant.

#### **11. Old School Building**

A meeting was held last month at the village hall to discuss the plans for the building. Another meeting on how to continue forward has been scheduled for 27<sup>TH</sup> March.

#### **12. Social Matters**

Nothing to report.

#### **13. Play Area**

The works have been rescheduled again for 26<sup>th</sup> March due to the delay in materials.

#### **14. Randhawa Farm Update**

There have been multiple breaches involving people living in caravans, possible drug manufacturing and a lot of general activity. There is a portacabin which has virtually turned into a dwelling with running water. HC advised this is an ongoing case and the agencies are unable to share details with parishioners about the investigation due to legal reasons but assured that this is being dealt with.

**ACTION:** Clerk to remind HC to contact for an update.

#### **15. Village Maintenance**

AB provided a map of The Green which showed the different sections of what part contractors do. It was discussed to get quotes for a first and last strim around cricket pitch, the maintenance of the play area, maintenance of the path and around the Scott Well.

**ACTION:** Clerk to obtain quotes.

#### **16. WOOF Grant**

The grant for the magazine has been received. It was agreed for the OPC to rent a page for every publication. It was suggested that each Councillor would take charge to add a piece into each article. This was agreed to add WOOF on all future agendas.

**ACTION:** Clerk to send document of earmarked reserves to CC.

#### **17. Ockley Dramatic Society Donation**

An updated request for a donation towards the Ockley Dramatic Society was put into OPC.

**ACTION:** Clerk to circulate email to all Councillors from Ockley Dramatic Society Donation.

#### **18. Date of next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**