

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON  
15th MAY 2023  
AT 7:00 PM THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Parish Councillors: John Chapman (In the Chair), Mark Egerton John Foster, Simon Grinstead, Astrea Hurlock, and Yassir Mahmood

**In Attendance:** Juanita Madgwick, Clerk to the Council, District Cllrs Bolton and Pett and ACSO Gary McCulloch

**Also Present:** 6 members of the public,

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Martin

**2. CHAIRMANS WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

**3. MINUTES**

The Councillors noted their acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and the Council **Resolved**, unanimously, they were a true record. Councillor Chapman signed the minutes.

**4. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

Ben the community engagement officer from Hampshire Countryside gave a presentation on what his role entails. He advised that his main job is to maintain the Rights of Way network in his section. He works with organised groups, meets landowners and Parish Councils.

Ben and his team also go out and do meet and greets, produce a monthly newsletters, produce information videos and produce podcasts.

Ben advised that there are around 75 volunteers that help maintain the Rights of Way network.

There are two ways the public can get involved and that is to become a Path Warden, where Hampshire Countryside will train you and Good Taks days were members of the public can hep the team with a project.

Hampshire Countryside would ideally like to see at least three path wardens in each Parish.

The Chairman thanked Ben for coming.

**5. RECEIVE A DEMONSTRATION ON THE NEW COMMUNITY WEBSITE**

Cllr Hurlock gave a demonstration of the new community website and explained how the community can use it as it can have multiple users to update certain sections of the website.

Cllr Chapman thanked Cllr Hurlock on all the work that she had done on the website.

**6. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BROADBAND PROJECT**

The Chairman advised that he and Cllr Hurlock had met with Openreach this recently, Openreach advised that they had been using a contractor to complete the works, but it became evident that they had not completed the job therefore Openreach have now taken the job back.

The Chairman had spoken to the engineer and was advised that the wires have not yet been connected to the main fibre cable and there were not enough skilled workers to complete this quickly.

The engineer advised that 150 houses in the heart of the village should be connected by end of May, early June. This includes the provision of a new pole in Main Road. Longwood Road and Baybridge Lane to the bottom of Greenhill should then follow very quickly, though a new pole is required halfway down Baybridge Lane. Lower Baybridge Lane has yet to be checked, but as all connections are on OPENREACH poles it should be straightforward.

The connection from Longwood Crossroads to Belmore is mostly done, needs to be checked over. So should follow quickly after Longwood Road.

There is a significant issue with the initial plan for cables to Blackdown & Woodcote, this was going to be added to Belmore link, but is not viable. A new plan is being devised for cables to go across fields from Greenhill to Blackdown. This will need to be agreed with various property owners.

In Whaddon Lane there are a few issues with the cables that need to be resolved.

Whites Hill hasn't been surveyed properly yet so there is no clear understanding of a completion date for Hensting Lane. Jackmans Hill, Owslebury bottom and Morestead will be connected from the bottom of Whites Hill, again this has not yet been properly surveyed.

My bottom line is –

- Most of village connections complete and residents notified by end of May, first week in June.
- Longwood Road, Baybridge Lane, Whaddon Lane by beginning of July. (and possibly Lower Baybridge Lane).
- Hensting Lane will follow quickly, can't give date yet.
- Owslebury Bottom, Morestead will follow Hensting, need proper surveying.
- Blackdown and Woodcote await planning and agreement with landowners.

## **7. PARISH REPORT**

Councillor Chapman presented the Chairman's report. (See Appendix 1)

## **8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

None

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....