Issue 32 Spring 2023

ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the people of Odiham & North Warnborough



Let's celebrate the

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

on Sunday 7th May, 12-4

Street Party, Odiham High Street

(£40 per ticket for 1 table to seat 6. Available to purchase on Saturday 1st April from 11.30am on Eventbrite

https://odihamstreetparty.eventbrite.co.uk)

Family picnic, Beacon Field
Non ticketed event

Event organisers Odiham Parish Council https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/





Odiham Parish Council

Chair's message—Cllr Angela McFarlane

It seems extraordinary that we are coming to the end of our current term as an elected Parish Council. Those four years seem to have flown by, but then I review all that has been achieved in that time and realise what a long way we have come. When the 10 candidates who volunteered for election took our places as the new Parish Council in 2019, we knew we had a few knotty challenges to sort out but we could not have imagined how the world would be turned upside down in our first year. Luckily, we have been supported by a superb Clerk in Andrea Mann who joined us in November 2019. She anticipated the impact of the pandemic on OPC business and so we were sitting in an emergency meeting of Council when the first lockdown was announced and the resolutions passed at that emergency meeting ensured that business could continue as far as possible under the guidance of the Clerk. Temporary legislation meant we could switch formal meetings to Zoom. Unfortunately, government allowed that temporary legislation to lapse despite strong lobbying from the sector. Far more residents joined and contributed to meetings online than ever attend face to face meetings. For that reason, OPC meetings are now streamed so that residents with online access can observe meetings as well as attending in person.

During the pandemic, Parish Councillors ran a telephone helpline which offered a prescription delivery service and put volunteers in touch with those needing help with shopping. It seems so long ago now but we know many people relied on OPC for vital support. The whole community responded in a remarkable way to help one another through those difficult times.

Another global crisis we have responded to is that of climate change. Through the Greening Odiham and North Warnborough Campaign and making significant changes in the way OPC assets are managed, we are having a measurable impact on Odiham Parish's carbon footprint – and there is more to come.

But perhaps our biggest challenge has been to save The Bridewell and support the opening of the book exchange (OBE) as Hampshire CC were forced to close the branch library and had no further use for the building. We were also delighted to support the Odiham Society to open the Heritage Centre in the Parish Room. The OBE was the first step and now the maintenance backlog is coming under control and there will be a new toilet, The Bridewell will begin to welcome its first community hirers. Later this year we hope to be able to offer meeting and hotdesk space to those who are struggling with home working or other space constraints.

When facing all these challenges, we have been at pains to consult the community on major decisions which have a lasting impact. Through surveys and working groups involving residents we have made sure that there is support for the OBE, retaining the Bridewell and our response to the Climate Emergency. These have informed an overarching strategy for the Parish Council, responding wherever possible to the issues you tell us are important to you and lobbying higher tiers of local and national government on matters which go beyond our mandate.





It has been an amazing and challenging time but we are proud that Odiham has been recognised by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils as Local Council of the year in 2021 and Village (Parish) of the year in 2022. (Pictured: left—Cllr McFarlane presenting Village of the Year certificates to North Warnborough Village Hall, right—Cllr Verdon presenting to The Cross Barn).

Your Council



Left to right: Cllr David Sanger, Cllr Leo Cornall, Cllr Helen Tyler, Cllr Pam Verdon, Cllr Caro Seabook, Cllr Angela McFarlane, Cllr Rowena Coleman (on screen), Andrea Mann (Clerk), Cllr Kathryn Ball, Cllr Steve Bell, Cllr Tim Griffith.

Are you interested in becoming a Councillor?

Local elections 4th May 2023

Odiham Parish Council covers the parish of Odiham which is comprised of 10 councillors representing 3 wards — 6 representing Odiham, 3 for North Warnborough and 1 for RAF Odiham. Councillors are unpaid volunteers generally elected every 4 years, unless a vacancy arises during the 4 year term.

Odiham Parish Council is the first tier of local government and has many legal powers to take action in the area it represents but has very few legal duties compared with Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council. This gives greater freedom to choose which services and projects to deliver and means we can play a vital part in representing the interests of the Odiham, North Warnborough and RAF Odiham communities, such as improving quality of life and local environment.

Councillors do not have individual authority and the Council must act as one voice. Decisions are made at meetings—there is a monthly full Council meeting and various committees and working groups, to suit every skill and interest, which every Councillor is entitled to join.

The next election is this year on 4th May and any registered elector in the parish is welcome to stand for election (*subject to certain prescribed conditions).

Being a councillor gives you a voice on local matters of interest and can be very rewarding. If you are interested in finding out more, further information is available at:

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/.../local... and https://www.hart.gov.uk/election-agents

Look out for publication of the Notice of Election on 23rd March.

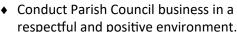
The deadline for submitting nomination papers is 4pm on Tuesday 4th April.

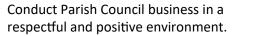
*Eligibility for office: registered electors over the age of 18, living or working in the Parish or within 3 miles of the Parish and not disqualified under the terms of the full Regulations which can be read under the Local Government Act 1972, sections 79-80.

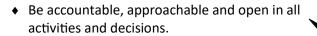
Statement of Commitment 2019-2023

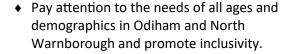
What we set out to do

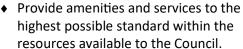
• Represent and promote the interests of Odiham and North Warnborough and ALL of its people in ALL forums.

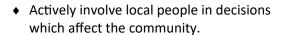


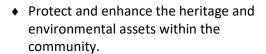












- Support community cohesion including supporting the strong relationship between the community and RAF Odiham.
- Support and promote community enjoyment.
- Support and promote the local economy encouraging prosperity and longevity.
- Promote equal opportunities and oppose discrimination.

How we have performed



Achieved—all 10 councillor positions representing the 3 parish wards are full. All vacancies filled.



- Conducted council business in a professional and respectful manner.
- Signed up to the National Association of Local Council's Civility and Respect pledge.
- Agenda reports showing research and options are published online before meetings.
- No FOI requests since early 2020.



- Engaged with community groups and ran online consultations during the process of establishing new projects and future strategy.
- Co-option Policy aims to fairly and reasonably represent the parish geographically and demographically.



- Achieved through committees by tackling some longstanding maintenance issues, listening to residents and making realistic budget provision.
- Appointed a new Amenities Officer role.



Achieved – online and face to face consultations during the process of agreeing new projects, determining future strategy and running community



- Demonstrated through planning decisions in line with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Supported new heritage centre.
- Developed new Conservation Area Appraisal.
- Improvements to Council owned listed buildings.



- Maintained relationships with Station Commander.
- Worked together on Remembrance, and Jubilee celebrations.
- RAF Odiham nominate RAF Station ward councillor.



- £14,500 grant funded to InOdiham and the Hook & Odiham Lions towards the cost of running community events.
- Direct event management of civic events.



Set up informal business forum, High St business WhatsApp group, updated Visit Odiham leaflet, seasonal advertising, opportunities at events.



Full inclusivity considered for all decisions, services and activities.

Responding to unforeseen challenges and opportunities 2019-2023

Quickly filled councillor and staff positions arising from resignations to ensure no interruption to Council business.

Responded to Covid.
Implemented Covid regulations, switched to virtual meetings and benefitted from 3 Covid project grants.

Set up the Odiham Book Exchange following HCC's decision to close Odiham Library, giving local people access to books.

Enabled new premises for the Odiham Society to set up a small heritage centre in The Parish Room. Took over The Bridewell freehold which will secure premises for OPC, PCSO, MP and Book Exchange and preserve the building for community use.



Developed new Village Centre Area
Action Plan with community
representatives and support from
Hart District Council—to protect and
enhance the High St area.

Won approximately £47,000 of external grants and donations for parish projects.

Supported the community in its bid to save The Bell Public house and made representation to the Hart Planning meeting which resulted in 3 change of use applications being refused.

Action Plan 2021-2026



Facilitated a public meeting which included details of a pre-application for a proposed warehouse development at junction 5 of the M5 in North Warnborough.

Updated and adopted a new

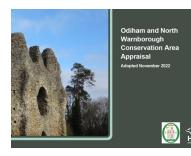
Conservation Area Appraisal on the
recommendation of Hart

District Council.



Celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Created a new Town Crier,
voluntary role for the
Jubilee celebrations and made
this a permanent position.



Planted a new community orchard in an unused meadow as part of the Jubilee's Green Canopy pledge.





Invited to join The Greening
Campaign Phase 2, funded by
Hampshire County Council, due to
success with Phase 1—including loan
of thermal imaging cameras.



Reports from committees—Planning & Development Committee

What we set out to do

- Update Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Character Appraisal.
- Land at Montford Place
- ◆ Land at Dunley's Hill
- Expansion of preschool as part of Crownfields site
- Developers' contribution for NP site at Hook Road, North Warnborough

What we achieved

- ◆ Completed and adopted by Hart District Council in November 2022 as a supplementary planning document.
- No progress has been made with this project as the original developer, Persimmon Homes has still not finished the landscaping in accordance with the landscape management plan and Hart have not yet issued a certificate of practical completion as there are still problems with the site.
- An outline planning application was submitted by a developer for this land but the plans were not in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan and was refused by Hart District Council. The developer has submitted an Appeal which has not yet been decided.
- The Crownfields site has nearly reached the point where development can start. There is a 0.25 ha area of land which will be passed to the Parish Council which is to be used for the pre-school. In the short term it will be used as a car park for staff and a drop off area for parents.
- Planning permission was refused for this site. There is another developer interested and they have attended two
 Planning Committee meetings to present their ideas.
 These meetings were attended by nearby residents and was useful for all present. Preliminary discussions were held about community projects.
- ◆ Since April 2022 the Planning Committee has met every 3 weeks to consider over **130** planning applications.

Other Applications:

Lodge Farm: A request for a Scoping Opinion and a Pre-Application request was submitted in relation to redevelopment proposals of approximately 32 hectares land at Lodge Farm, North Warnborough. This proposal is for a very large industrial warehouse site between Lodge Farm and the M3. Hart District Council gave their advice to this application and it can be viewed on their website: https://publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do? activeTab=documents&keyVal=RDVQ0GHZ0GB00

Rural Exception Scheme: Hastoe Housing Association have found a developer willing to finish this development and residents are expected to have moved in during March 2023.

Planning ahead:

The Parish Council has agreed that a review of the Neighbourhood Plan should take place in the 2023/2024 financial year. This is to make sure it is still relevant and an important planning document. Expert advice will be sought as to the extent of any changes that can be made without having to start from the beginning of the process. A monitoring report for 2022/2023 can be viewed on the Parish Council website from the end of March.

Reports from committees—Amenities Areas Committee

What we set out to do

Improve biodiversity.



- Enhance and improve access to sporting and leisure.
- Protection and enhancement of and access to heritage.

What we achieved

- Dedicated resources to managing and promoting the Hook Road allotment site.
- Planted new community orchard.
- Developed and adopted a new Biodiversity Action Plan.
- ◆ Agreed adjustments to the grounds maintenance regime which will take place Spring 2023.
- Granted a licence to a new Forest School to use land at Colt Hill.
- Completed a tree survey report and responded to actions.
- ◆ Registered interest with Hart DC for parish to be included in new green route project.
- Installed new accessible paths to the Rec play areas.
- Responded to all play area maintenance issues which was especially challenging due to supply issues during Covid.
- Currently focusing on repairing and maintaining approx. 50 parish owned benches.
- Completed several high priority repairs to OPC owned Grade II listed assets—war memorial, North Chapel floor, re-sealing of Parish Room floor and external redecoration, repairs to Chapel Cottage chimney.

OPC acknowledges Odiham Cemetery is a valuable local asset. Over the last few months, the main burial lawn has been extended and 4 new ashes interment beds installed which will ensure sufficient

burial space for the next few years. The second phase of works to reduce the perimeter hedges is now complete with the remaining sections planned for the Autumn—the contractor estimated over 20 years' growth in some areas!

There is a War Graves section in the cemetery which is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and new signage now informs visitors there are Commonwealth War Graves located in the cemetery.

The Cemetery Rules were recently reviewed and a new memorial

bench policy adopted in response to concerns that some parts of the cemetery were looking cluttered. Please can we remind families than no plastic tributes are permitted and may be removed.



Planning ahead:

Grounds maintenance regimes will continue as normal with some additional budget this year to alter mowing frequency should the great British weather deal another unexpected hand again this year.

Budget provision has been allocated for 5 new picnic benches at Beacon Field, the community orchard and Chapel Pond play area. Relatively inexpensive benches will be provided as a trial which will reduce long term maintenance costs and allow them to be easily moved for picnicking, mowing and Winter storage. The Amenities Areas Committee will also be researching and developing plans for a small area of reflection in Odiham Cemetery where families can pay to install a memorial plaque for a loved one.

Traffic & Transport

During the current election term, we have seen significant changes and challenges in the sector which led to the Traffic & Transport Committee being disbanded in 2022. Related priorities are now debated by full Council. Hampshire County Council (HCC) is the highway authority and OPC can only refer and campaign on your behalf. The well published decline in funding simply left OPC repeating the same pleas with little chance of action. We are pleased to report some positive progress, including:

- Setting up and managing the Odiham & North Warnborough Speedwatch group— from May last year to February 136 first warning letters have been sent to drivers and 9 second time letters. If drivers speed a third time they receive a visit from the police. OPC has awarded a community grant to update the Speedwatch equipment.
- New village gateway signs either side of the RAF Odiham junction.
- A new bus shelter on the Alton Road.
- Supporting the Hampshire wide campaign for enforceable 20mph zones. HCC has announced their proposals will be discussed at their Cabinet meeting in June.
- OPC representatives attended a Hart led workshop looking to develop a Hart cycling strategy and were able to put forward routes in the parish and routes to neighbouring parishes.
- Various re-lining including Dunley's Hill and soon, sections of King Street and Palace Gate.

Rights of way—Residents of Odiham and North Warnborough (and anyone else!)

As Winter draws to a close and the signs of Spring become more evident, we at OPC are intending to take the opportunity to improve access to public rights of way in our Parish. As you will probably be aware, public rights of way allow the public to walk, or sometimes ride, cycle, or drive, along specific routes over land which belongs to someone else – the land itself is often privately owned.

To do this, we are aiming to harness the energy and enthusiasm of the community through building a volunteer workforce willing to sacrifice a few hours a month to clear and improve the local rights of way, to make our Parish better and more accessible for all. Equipment will be provided, so all you need are some gloves and enthusiasm (but any equipment, such as secateurs, loppers, shears etc you could bring would be very welcome!).

We are aiming to start the campaign in early Spring, so if you fancy some fresh air and good company, please register your interest at https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-conservation or by direct contact with the Parish Office.







Planning ahead

OPC has been campaigning for public electric vehicle charging points (EVCP's) since 2020 and Hart District Council has just announced there will be two new EVCP's installed in the Parish—one in The Bury car park and one in The Deer Park car park. We will share details about the installation when we know more.

We acknowledge local parking challenges and will continue to campaign on your behalf—repeating the message to reduce parking charges to pre 2022 levels and also taking ownership of a new parking area for Leapfrogs pre-school in the new Crownfields development site.

We will continue to follow news of Hampshire's 20 is plenty project and consider emerging opportunities.

Reports from committees—Community Committee

What we set out to do

• Supporting the High Street.

 Supporting opportunities for community cohesion.



What we achieved

- ◆ Held meetings with High St businesses, update through a WhatsApp group, flags and seasonal events.
- Developed Village Centre Area Action Plan.
- Supported the market by installing gazebo fixings.
- Updated the Visit Odiham leaflet, regularly stock High St leaflet dispensers, distribute to hotels and pubs in neighbouring parishes and run seasonal advertising.
- Display flags throughout the year.
- Grant funded InOdiham and the Hook & Odiham Lions £14,500 towards the cost of running community events.
- Ran a beacon lighting ceremony and street party to commemorate the Queen's Platinum jubilee.
- ◆ Assumed OPC's civic role for Remembrance.
- Continued funding for the Christmas tree and lights and held a tree lighting event.
- Awarded almost £20,000 community grants to local, voluntary led organisations.



Planning ahead

Over the next few months we will be focusing on the Coronation events and The Bridewell. The Bridewell community hub will provide a place to bring the community together for learning and socialising and we expect to be in a position to accept further hires late May/early June.

Budget provision has been made for hosting the 2023 Hampshire & IoW Village of the Year awards in September and funding allocated towards Bands in The Bury, Flavourfest, Spooktacula and Extravaganza. We are pleased to offer the Community Grants again next year and the next closing date for applications is 30th June https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/council-services/cg

Responding to Climate Change

It has become clear in recent years that Climate Change is a real and growing global problem which concerns the residents of Odiham and North Warnborough. As a response, OPC called together a working group of residents. They set out an Environment and Climate Change Policy listing what actions they wanted OPC to take. In February 2022 OPC adopted the policy which committed us, among other things, to join the Greening Campaign – Greening Odiham and North Warnborough was born. Since then, we have engaged with hundreds of residents – the first campaign was to choose 8 actions we would all take to reduce our carbon emissions and energy bills. As a result, Greening Campaign calculated that together we saved 177.5 tonnes of CO_2 a year. The best way to explain this is to see each tonne as about the same as a hot air balloon so that is 177 hot air balloons worth which is huge! We also together saved over £70,000.



"Imagine if that went to the scouts or the school instead of out through the roof or from lights left on – it's a very impressive sum of money."

Terena Plowright, Founder, the Greening Campaign

The second project, running currently, is the offer of thermal imaging to help residents identify where their home may be leaking heat. Imaging has now started and the project will culminate in a free online event on 22nd March with information on inexpensive ways to better insulate your home and where to find grants for the more expensive options. You can join the meeting through the Council's website https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-greening-campaign/thermal-imaging or click the link below if you are reading this newsletter online— it is open to everyone:

You're invited to join a Microsoft Teams meeting

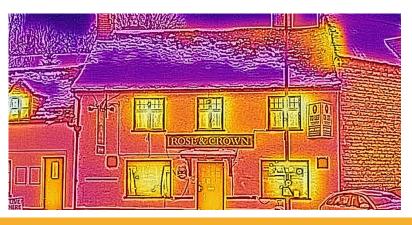
Title: Odiham & North Warnborough Energy Event Time: 22 March 2023 19:00:00 Greenwich Mean Time

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meeting

19.00	Housekeeping - Terena Plowright (ie turn off microphones, what's happening tonight)
19.05	Introduction from Cllr McFarlane - what is happening with Greening Odiham and North
	Warnborough
19.10	Terena Plowright - Understanding the images taken with the Thermal Camera
19.15	Christine Seaward - overview of the Sustainability Centre & simple home hacks
19.30	Adam Goulden - overview of Environment Centre & grants and support
19.45	Questions
20.00	Close and thank you

Thank you to the 30 volunteers who signed up to help take the images!



Responding to Climate Change

A project to improve biodiversity and help mitigate climate change is planned for later in the year.

As well as working with residents we have taken a good look at the sites OPC manages across the community. With the help of the Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust we have adopted a 5 year action plan to manage this land differently so that the recreational value is improved as well as the biodiversity. You will see examples of this across the year as areas next to hedges are left to grow longer at the Recreation Ground, the old section of the Cemetery has a different mowing regime and the western edge of the burial ground gains a new native hedge. The community orchard is now well into its second year and the fruit trees are doing well. A bench kindly donated by Odiham and Hook Rotarians invites people to stop and enjoy the view. The orchard provides a home and food source for a range of pollinating and other beneficial insects and wild flowers as well as a place for quiet contemplation in a green space.



Spending time 'in nature' is increasingly recognised as beneficial for mental health and general well-being. To help people enjoy our local green spaces, OPC will again provide picnic benches in Beacon Field, the Community Orchard and Chapel Pond Play area this Spring to add to the benches kindly donated by the Odiham Society and Rotary Club. This time we have found funds to buy them and they will stay. Over time we hope to add more in other spaces.

Finally, we keep all OPC operations under review to try and make our work, that of our suppliers and grant recipients as sustainable as possible. This newsletter is the only regular paper based communication from OPC. We review every year whether to go entirely digital – but in the interests of inclusion we do not think the Parish is quite there yet and it is everyone's democratic right to know what

the Parish Council is doing with their money. We did however ditch the envelope from the first issue in this session of Council and now use a local delivery service for all but the most far flung reaches of the Parish. We also use a local printers which offers the Carbon Footprint accreditation.



The climate emergency is the result of all of us making a multitude of small changes to the way we live our everyday lives, over decades. If we reverse those changes, and quickly, we may be in time to mitigate the consequences. If we work together – we multiply the chances of success.

A message from the Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk's role is to carry out the instructions of the Council and ensure activities are in line with legislation. The workload is incredibly varied, requiring a good knowledge of local government processes and other sectors and no two working days are ever the same. I joined OPC November 2019 and have worked as a Clerk for 17 years, but I still believe there's opportunity to learn something new every day!

During my years as a Clerk, I have seen many changes in the sector and it is inevitable parts of the Local Government Act 1972, the main legislation we work to, can seem outdated and restrictive. However, newer legislations have enabled a parish council to achieve so much more - such as The General Power of Competence in the Localism Act of 2011 which gives more power to local councils which meet certain prescribed conditions* to make changes locally, such as engaging in business related activities. I believe the rules give power to enable and not prevent positive progress and it's welcoming to see councillors sharing this view when making forward thinking decisions and robust plans for the years ahead.

We have seen a significant reduction in available funding and this requires us to look at different ways of achieving goals. As little as 10 years ago it wasn't uncommon for developers to contribute 6 figure sums when passing on public open space and this commonly funded expensive play areas, but this level of funding is now rare. We are also experiencing more costs arising from stepping in to support principal authorities' services. There may be changes on the horizon for principal authorities' services in Hampshire as indicated the in Pan Hampshire County Deal: https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s100275/Pan-Hampshire%20Deal%20Prospectus%202022.pdf. We have been told that the Government has welcomed the proposals and officials will be meeting to explore how the plans might be progressed. Although this doesn't directly affect OPC, there may be emerging opportunities and we will follow the updates from Hampshire County Council closely.

I would like to thank all Councillors and the community for welcoming me to the Parish and the support you have given me. I very much look forward to serving the future Council, along with my colleagues Bridie Tate, Deputy Clerk and Jo Peek, Amenities Officer.

Andrea Mann, Parish Clerk

Council Service Delivery in Hampshire

Hart **Odiham Parish Council Hart District Council Hampshire County Council** Allotment site **Building control** Adoption and foster care Bus passes for older or disabled The Bridewell, The Bury Car parking services people Delivering affordable housing on new King St Cemetery and orchard Civic amenity sites developments, managing the housing High St Christmas trees and lights register, helping the homeless and Libraries and museums supporting private sector housing Reporting footpath issues Meals on wheels Electoral register / elections Grit bins - requesting new ones Roads, footpaths, pot holes Food, health and safety inspections Noticeboards repairs and gritting Housing benefit **Odiham Sports Centre Trust** Registration of births, deaths and Leisure and Countryside services Parish Room Licensing including taxis and Social services (child and adult) Play areas and open spaces at Bufton entertainment Field. Chapel Pond Drive. Chamberlain Schools and education Gardens and Recreation Ground Recycling including garden waste and glass Trading standards collections Public benches Apply for a "blue badge" for Rubbish collection and dealing with flytipping Public toilets parking Street cleaning and most bus shelters Rubbish bins in the play areas On street parking enforcement (from The Local Plan and most planning 1st April) Stocks War memorial Pest control and dog warden

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https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/ https://www.facebook.com/







^{*} Two thirds of the Council must be elected and the Council must have a qualified Clerk.