

Oxenhope Conservation Initiative

Annual General Meeting

22 January 2008

The Lamb Inn, Oxenhope

Present :

Robert Mackley (Chair), David Ashcroft, Anthony Bennett, Chris Coupland, Penny Coupland, Paula Dale, Jane Mooney, John Mooney, Carole Paynter, Alison Robinson, Stuart Taylor, Rob Wright.

Apologies:

Derek Allen, Eileen Ashcroft, Rev June Medhurst, Gerry Randall

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Not available. The meeting had heard a full progress report.

Treasurer's Report:

Alison Robinson (the Treasurer) presented a report.

Income comprised £256.95 from Parish Council for insurance premium; £50 grant from Morrisons for wild flower seed; £35 income from Mrs Linda Mackley proceeds from baking and refreshments; £200 donation from Straw Race.

Only the £50 for wild flower seed had so far been spent. The insurance premium would be paid shortly.

Marsh Common:

The Chair reported on progress. 460 trees had been planted in 2007; of which 90% appeared to have survived. Control of Japanese Knotweed continued to be a problem. Repair work was required to some of the fence posts (Bradford Council would attend to these). Some further walling needed to be (re) built. Seeds had been planted and some germination had occurred. The parish council have acquired a picnic table but needed further funding to place it on site. They would be a working party in the spring, date to be fixed.

The School

The Chair reported on a meeting that had taken place that day with the Forest of Bradford at the play area situated adjacent to Oxenhope School. The outcomes had been that Fo B had agreed to undertake hedge laying on the site towards the end of February. This would be over two days, an environmental education team would work on the Friday with OCI being involved on the Saturday. The exact date was still to be fixed but Robert would circulate the details in due course.

There would be tree planting on the site on 7 March, 30 trees having been obtained. FoB would also mark existing trees for thinning for OCI to carry out in due course. Further work would involve clearing an overgrown chequerboard garden and reinstating perimeter walls.

Also projects to be undertaken on site in conjunction with the school pupils include

- The creation of a tree nursery. Pupils would plant seeds to be grown on, the young trees available to be transplanted elsewhere in the village.
- A community orchard to be planted with fruit trees already available and to be supplied by FoB free of charge.

The above proposals met with the approval of the meeting and it was agreed they should proceed as soon as possible.

Straw Race Donation

There was a discussion on how this should be spent. It was agreed to hold a bird box building day and use some of the money to underwrite this.

David Robinson to be approached to lead the planning on this project. David Ashcroft would approach Taylors for the supply of timber and John Mooney a contact in pallet manufacture.

Fund Raising

The Chair informed the meeting he had attended, on OCI's behalf, a fund raising seminar arranged by Keighley Volunteer Services. Funds were available on a constituency basis and it was agreed an application should be made for the purchase of a strimmer/bush cutter together with protective clothing and training.

Child Protection Policy

It was agreed our policy should simply be 'no child 16 or under could attend OCI working parties or events unless accompanied by his /her parent or other responsible adult'. CRB checks would therefore be unnecessary.

Other projects

The Parish Oak project was still on going. A site had been identified on the Millennium Green. The OCI was happy to be involved in the planting. A date needed to be set in conjunction with the Millennium Green Trust.

It was agreed we should take a stall at the village fete (July 19 2008) to publicise our existence and projects to the wider village community.

It was felt to be a good idea to hold a regular informal social event to which all members of the community would be welcome in order to further publicise our work. The first would be on 19 February at the Lamb (8pm).

Meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.