

OGAFCA GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2020 – NOTES FROM MEETING

The meeting opened at 7.30pm and was attended by the OGAFCA committee and 35 residents. Chair was Barbara Frame.

Community Safety – Bill Collier

Not much to report except that there had been a recent break-in at the Cricket Club, forcing their gates and then moving into David Luff's land and stealing a quad bike. A reminder that we need to remain vigilant at all times.

Roads & Transport – Barbara Frame

The lorry ban on the OGR came into force on 20th January. Unfortunately, until the signs go up we are not going to see a change. We were promised that this should be done by the end of February, however, I have received an update with a provisional date for the beginning of April!

Regarding the reduction in the speed limit we have now learned that the Police have said that they cannot enforce this without speed humps and width limiters. As they do not enforce the current limit this seems a little gratuitous! We are currently discussing this response with the BPC and will keep you informed of any progress.

Helen Howard raised the point that the local bus service is, once again, under threat. All agreed that more people would use the service if the bus was more frequent and the timetable better planned. OGAFCA will investigate and see if any pressure can be brought to bear to reverse any decision to cut this valuable service.

Wet Spots – Robin Howard

Robin reported on progress with the drainage issues and although progress has been made in Coningsby Lane there are still areas with flooding problems. We have had exceptional rain this winter and the point was also raised that because many fields had not been drilled yet there were no crops to hold back the flow of water. It is everyone's responsibility to keep their own ditches clear.

Website Re-vamp – Trish Pottinger

Trish reported that the website could do with an update since it has not changed since it was first created. She will work with Rod Lord (our webmaster) to make the page more dynamic and user-friendly. She is also creating an OGAFCA facebook page which will link into the Fun Day page giving us a wider audience. More details to follow.

Local Plan & Developments – Martin Hall (OGFRA)

Martin advised that the Local Plan is still being worked on although there do not seem to be many major changes in the content. The Squires site and Wyevale site are still part of the housing plan but much depends on whether the plan is adopted as currently, both sites are in the Green Belt and recently a planning application for the Squires site was rejected as it is on Green Belt land and would be detrimental to the overall appearance of the area.

There are discussions to sell the Wyevale garden centre site to Aldi. Opinion is divided on whether or not that would be welcomed by the community. The plan to build 450 houses behind that plot remains in place.

Oakley Green Telephone Kiosk – Barbara Frame

Currently it is a bit of an eyesore but it has been purchased by the Parish and the plan is to renovate it, return it to its former glory and use it to house a defibrillator. OGAFCA have been raising money to fund this project.

The Parish have got the defibrillator and we have found someone with the expertise to restore it, we just have to find the money needed. We may have a benefactor so more news to follow. The Parish clerk has arranged for the glass to be removed and the box cleaned as an interim measure.

Braywood Memorial Hall – Nikki Marsh

The hall is 100 years old and the hall committee are planning a party to which everyone will be welcome. More information to follow. They still need more people to join the hall committee to assist with the running and bookings.

Fun Day and Future Social Events

After the success of the Fun Day last year we have decided to again hold it on a Sunday, 9th August. Put the date in your diaries. We are starting to make preparations now and will soon be contacting our intrepid volunteers but we could always do with more. Any time you can give to run a stall or help to set up or pack up would be gratefully accepted. Other social events as follows:

Friday 8 May	VE tea party on Fifield Green
Sunday 24 May	Open gardens Fifield & Oakley Green
Sunday 9 August	Fifield Fun Day

Gigaclear Presentation

After the main meeting we had a presentation from Chris Morris of Gigaclear outlining their plans to introduce Superfast broadband to our villages. The first installations will begin this summer and so contracts should be available next year. He will be doing further presentations to keep us informed of progress and we will, naturally, advise you when these will happen.

Due to the packed agenda we re-scheduled Geoff Hayes' talk and he will now speak at our next general meeting. Please note the amended date.

THURSDAY 30th APRIL BRAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL