

# Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of Uffington Parish Council

## Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 6:30pm

### By Zoom videoconference

Present: Cllr Mike Oldnall (Chair), Cllr Simon Jenkins, Cllr Graham Banks, Cllr Nigel Puddicombe, Cllr Dale Pilchowski, Cllr Fenella Oberman  
 County Councillor: Yvonne Constance  
 District Councillor: Nathan Boyd  
 Members of the Public: One member of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – CONFIRMATION OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING	Action
139/21	Cllr Oldnall explained the rationale for the Emergency Meeting which was necessary as full Council meetings could no longer be held by videoconference since 6 May 2021 and the current restrictions in the Hall made meetings unsatisfactory.	
	<b>ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
140/21	Clerk/Finance Officer: Julia Evans	
	<b>ITEM 3 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
141/21	None	
	<b>ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL AND MONTHLY MEETING and the MINUTES OF THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST AGM HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021</b>	
142/21	Cllr Puddicombe proposed approval of the minutes of the AGM held on Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Jenkins seconded. RESOLVED. Cllr Oberman pointed out a spelling mistake in the minutes: change 'Mrs Trickler' to 'Mrs Trichler'. Cllr Oberman proposed approving the minutes of the Jubilee Field Trust AGM held on 5 <sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Puddicombe seconded. RESOLVED Cllr Pilchowski proposed approving the minutes of the Parish Council monthly meeting held on Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Puddicombe seconded. RESOLVED.	Clerk
	<b>ITEM 5 – MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE 2021</b>	
143/21	Cllr Pilchowski proposed approval of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED.	
	<b>ITEM 6 – REPORT FROM THE UBW SUPPORT GROUP</b>	
144/21	The status of the Support Group had been confirmed to the VOWHDC as 'dormant'. As agreed at the last meeting, this item is now closed unless the Covid situation warrants its future inclusion.	Clerk
	<b>ITEM 7 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
145/21	a) <b>OSR Update.</b> Cllr Puddicombe reported that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Trustees meeting on 17 May had re-elected all officers.</li> <li>ii. The Curator would be applying for a 'restart grant' of up to £8000.</li> <li>iii. The annual building inspection had been completed by Andrew Townsend Architects and some non-urgent actions had been identified for completion in 2022. These were to be transferred to the Action Plan.</li> </ol> b) <b>Oxfordshire Plan 2025/CPRE briefing.</b> No immediate action was required but Cllrs Oldnall and Jenkins planned to attend the ONPA session in July (exact date not yet known) where this was to be one of the main topics. Progress with the Oxfordshire Plan and the joint Vale and South District plan 2041 would continue to be monitored to identify the optimum 'intercept' point for updating the UB Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the two remained in sync. Cllr Boyd undertook to consult with the Vale planning team (Deborah Bryson?) to identify a suitable date.	NP  MO/SJ  NB
	<b>ITEM 8 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>	
146/21	Written report submitted previously. Cllr Constance stated that she hoped that once the new administration was fully established they would continue to progress the projects started and planned by the previous administration, particularly the traffic management measures.	
	<b>ITEM 9 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>	
147/21	a. <b>Vale Matters.</b> Cllr Boyd provided an update on Vale matters including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The South and Vale District Plan 2041 which had published the (Vale) Call for Sites results (Note: these have previously been publicised to Uffington residents)</li> <li>ii. Calling-in of planning applications had only a 28 day period from submission so should be submitted promptly in order to meet this timescale.</li> </ol>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. There were still some issues around Biffa brown bin collections due to the shortage of drivers. Missed bins should be left out until collected.</li> <li>iv. Boundary changes had been published on line and Vale was affected in 3 areas. Parishes were invited to comment. Cllr Boyd would forward the Oxfordshire 'pack' which included the associated maps.</li> <li>v. Planning advisory meetings had started.</li> <li>vi. There were delays to the introduction of electric charging points and civil parking enforcement.</li> <li>vii. Beacon Wantage was re-opening from September.</li> </ul> <p>b. <b>Bin Collections.</b> Cllr Boyd will enquire about the situation regarding emptying bins when the lid was not properly closed as this was causing annoyance and confusion to residents.</p> <p>c. <b>Grants.</b> Cllr Boyd had been unable to find any information on 'festival grants' and had not yet received a response to his internal enquiry, therefore the assumption was that these were no longer available (for the proposed 30 August event) but would confirm this in due course.</p>	NB  NB  NB
<b>ITEM 10 – OPEN FORUM</b>		
148/21	<p>The member of the public present (Ms Kat Foxhall - KF) had attended the virtual Vale Climate Action Event on behalf of the Council. The key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Generally disappointed due to lack of concrete action but Vale at an early stage with its climate action plan.</li> <li>ii. There is still a lack of top-down direction and most targets are long term without plans to achieve them. The best approach is therefore for bottom-up pressure from parish councils coupled with improved communications messages.</li> <li>iii. Case studies were useful but provided only limited lessons.</li> <li>iv. Presentations from local sustainability/climate action groups all very positive.</li> <li>v. Main opportunity for the Council is to ensure environmental factors are included in planning applications. Eg ground source heat pumps rather than oil/gas.</li> <li>vi. Council should look at opportunities for ecological improvement eg verge cutting regime and introduction of public electric vehicle charging points.</li> <li>vii. Emergency Plan should reflect need for self-sufficiency in case of, for example, water supply interruption.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Foxhall volunteered to assist the Council as necessary and was thanked for her attendance at the Event and for her back briefing.</p>	
<b>ITEM 11 - ONGOING PROJECTS</b>		
149/21	<p><b>S106 Funds</b> Cllr Jenkins had circulated an update to the S106 funding situation including that available for the 'Allotment Bridge' project.</p> <p><b>Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The work by Pepler Fencing had been completed and the invoice had been submitted.</li> <li>b) The hedge had not been cut back as far as the tree line as originally planned because the School had requested that it, and the old chain link fence, be left in place to define the boundary. Pepler Fencing had agreed to complete this if subsequently required.</li> <li>c) The legal response had been received from the Crown solicitors with an estimated cost of £10k or more. This had brought into doubt the value for money of purchasing this small piece of land.</li> <li>d) Cllrs Jenkins and Oldnall were meeting with Mr Avenell on 22 June to discuss the way ahead following the Pepler work and cost of the land. <i><b>Afternote:</b> Following the visit, Cllr Jenkins agreed to produce a summary report for Mr Avenell explaining how we had got to the current situation so that a decision on a mutually acceptable solution to this long standing problem could be put to the Council's advisers, for the preparation of a draft deed.</i></li> </ul>	SJ
150/21	<p><b>Improvements to Footpath 19</b> The 13 gates which had been ordered but had still not been delivered in spite of repeated chasing. Cllr Jenkins had agreed an extension of the time limit for the TOE funding to be claimed. The sum of £5000 from S106 contributions had been received along with the £1000 from the OCC Countryside Access Team. <i><b>Afternote:</b> The kissing gates were delivered on 23 June.</i></p>	
151/21	<p><b>Dog Bin at Jacksmeadow</b> See Item 12c. Item CLOSED</p>	Clerk
152/21	<p><b>Improvements to Broadband</b></p>	

	<p>The website had been updated with the FAQ and other information following the Zoom meeting. Ms Foxhall reported that over 80 names, including 14 business sites, had been added to the Community Project and submitted to Openreach for costing. Some additional names had been received after the cut-off date but would be added at a later stage if possible. An initial costed response from Openreach was expected by 25 June. Ms Foxhall hoped to be able to report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Ms Foxhall was thanked for her work on the project.</p>	KF
153/21	<p><b>Proposal For a Village Lengthman</b> Cllr Oldnall reported that he had been monitoring spend in areas which might prove suitable for transfer to a 'lengthman contract' but last year had been atypical due to the pandemic and, given the variety of tasks, no definitive conclusion had yet been reached. To be carried forward.</p>	C/F MO
<b>ITEM 10 - PLANNING MATTERS</b>		
154/21	<p><b>New Applications to be considered:</b> None</p>	
155/21	<p><b>To consider any new applications received since the publication of this agenda:</b> None</p>	
156/21	<p><b>Update on outstanding planning applications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>P21/V1282/HH – 26 Jacksmeadow.</b> Two storey side extension. Awaiting determination.</li> <li>b) <b>P21/V0467/FUL – Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road.</b> Proposed erection of a self-build dwelling with new access. Awaiting determination.</li> <li>c) <b>P21/V1142/HH – The Clock House, High Street.</b> Extension to existing building. Awaiting determination.</li> <li>d) <b>P21/V0465/HH – 11 Jacksmeadow.</b> Proposed rear/side extension. Approved.</li> <li>e) <b>P20/V1739/FUL and P20/V1740/LB – Dovecote, Britchcombe Farm.</b> Retrospective application for conversion of dovecote to a dwelling. Awaiting determination.</li> <li>f) <b>Planning Appeal Consultation - P20/V0394/FUL - UFF – Meadowgold – Appeal Dismissed.</b> Awaiting response from RTPI.</li> </ul>	
<b>ITEM 11 – FINANCE</b>		
157/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>To approve June payments:</b> One extra payment (Minuteman £124 for Trail leaflets approved at May meeting) was to be added to the previously circulated list bringing the total up to £4526.16 were approved. Proposed: Cllr Pilchowski; seconded: Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to add the Minuteman payment online and Cllr Jenkins to authorise all the payments online.</li> <li>b) <b>New Insurance Premium.</b> The Clerk had investigated alternative insurance options as the existing premium had risen by almost £400 to c £1870pa. Aviva had quoted £1060 for an annual premium or £1010 for a 3 year 'fix'. Subject to there being no reduction in cover or terms and conditions (particularly the 3<sup>rd</sup> public liability cover of £10M) taking this was proposed by Cllr Puddicombe, seconded by Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</li> </ul>	MO SJ  Clerk
<b>ITEM 12 - THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST</b>		
158/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Monthly play area inspection.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Cllr Oberman reported that the equipment had been inspected and there were no issues except that the gateways were getting very muddy. Cllr Oberman was asked to get a quote for the work.</li> <li>ii. She had ordered the replacement sign previously authorised.</li> <li>iii. She also noted that one of the sanitiser bottles was missing which she was trying to locate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) <b>Applications to use the Field.</b> There had been several applications to use the Field. Following a short discussion it was agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Charges should only be raised for those who were profiting from the use of the Field and so local organisations and villagers would not normally be charged.</li> <li>ii. No music was allowed as it was difficult/impossible to control the volume.</li> <li>iii. If fires/BBQs were used they should, ideally, be on the concrete area to the south of the field. If on the grass, any damage would have to be repaired.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Oberman was asked to respond to the pending, and any future applications, based on these principles.</p> </li> <li>c) <b>New/Larger Rubbish bin.</b></li> </ul>	FO         FO

	The Waste Team had responded to Cllr Jenkins' enquiry stating that they were carrying out a review of rubbish bins (including dog waste bins) and would not be considering any requests until the review was complete. They had also stated that requests could be submitted for any overflowing (public) bins outside the regular emptying days. Action to be CLOSED pending the review outcome.	Clerk
<b>ITEM 15 – ALLOTMENTS UPDATE</b>		
159/21	<b>Allotments</b> Cllr Puddicombe reported that there were now only 3 empty plots on back row.	
<b>ITEM 16 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>		
160/21	<p><b>a) Review of Allotment Tenancy Agreement and Code of Conduct.</b> Cllr Puddicombe reported that he and Mr Godsell had carried out an initial review of the Tenancy Agreement and Code of Conduct and that they needed amending to reflect better the current situation with fewer empty plots and especially with regard to dealing with the few tenants who did not adequately tend their plots. He would be circulating draft revised versions for approval at the July meeting which addressed these issues.</p> <p><b>b) Report on Defibrillators and Training</b> Cllr Pilchowski reported that all defibrillators were in good working order. The Central Ambulance website database system still had teething problems and was unable to accept the names of all guardians properly – action ongoing. Training was still required but this had been postponed until lockdown has ended; probably September.</p>	NP
<b>ITEM 17 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b>		
161/21	<p><b>a) Burial Ground</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that the signs in the burial ground were very old and damaged and proposed that new signs were installed with the hope that passers by would dispose of rubbish more appropriately. Cllr Jenkins volunteered to draft new wording and proposed ordering the signs. Seconded Cllr Oldnall. RESOLVED. Cllr Banks reported that there had been no new applications for burial plots in the past year.</p> <p><b>b) VAS</b> The VAS on White Horse was not working. Cllr Oldnall agreed to check the battery and reported that he was about to point the VAS in the opposite direction.</p>	SJ  MO
<b>ITEM 18 - GENERAL</b>		
162/21	<p><b>a) Sports Club S106 Application.</b> The Parish Council had previously supported the planning application for the Sports Club to expand and improve their clubhouse facilities. This S106 application was to utilise their S106 'Clubhouse' allocation (£16486) to pay for the subsequently approved work. The submission had been returned by the Vale for more information including agreement from the Parish Council. Agreement was proposed by Cllr Oberman and seconded by Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to contact VOWHDC (Beth Elkins) to clarify exactly what was required and assist the Sports Club as necessary with their resubmission.</p> <p><b>b) Village Event</b> Cllr Oldnall outlined the progress and stated that he would issue a regular (approx weekly) update on progress to all councillors and leads for the various activities planned. After discussion it was decided not to take forward the suggestion of having a bouncy castle for children as this would need a volunteer organiser and would require funding. As it now seemed unlikely that there would be a grant available from the VOWHDC (See Item 9) Cllr Oldnall proposed that the Council should make a grant of £200 to cover any incidental costs. Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED</p>	MO
<b>ITEM 19 - CONSULTATIONS</b>		
163/21	None.	
<b>ITEM 20 – CORRESPONDENCE</b>		
164/21	<b>Litter Bug Detectives Trail.</b> The VOWHDC had run a successful 'Litter Bug Detectives Trail' in various parks within the district over half term in April/May and a similar trail was planned for the summer holidays. In the absence of a large 'park' in Uffington it was proposed that the trail could be operated by combining Jubilee Field locations with the existing Village Trail. Cllr Jenkins proposed that Cllr Oldnall should apply to VOWHDC to run the scheme in Uffington. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED.	MO
<b>ITEM 21 – MATTERS FOR THE JULY AGENDA</b>		
165/21	<b>a) Thames Water Presentation.</b>	

	Thames Water had been contacted but had not confirmed the speaker's availability for the Council meeting on 12 July. Councillors confirmed that an evening face-to-face meeting was required even though Thames Water would prefer a daytime meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed to delay the meeting further and for it take place immediately prior to the August Parish Council meeting, at 18.00. However, if Thames Water would not agree to this then another date/time would need to be agreed. Cllr Oldnall to respond to Thames Water with revised suggestion. Cllr Oldnall and the Clerk, who is aware of the issues, to start putting together a list of questions.	MO Clerk
<b>ITEM 22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>		
166/21	The next meeting will be on Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> July at 18.30 by Zoom.	All

The meeting closed at 20.45