

## Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 6.30pm At The Old Schoolroom

Present: Cllr Mike Oldnall (Chair), Cllr Simon Jenkins, Cllr Dale Pilchowski, Cllr Graham Banks, Cllr Fenella Oberman

In Attendance: Mrs J Evans (Clerk)

District Councillor:

County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance

Members of the Public: 4 members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
25/23	Cllr Puddicombe and District Cllr Boyd.	
	<b>ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
26/23	None.	
	<b>ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023</b>	
27/23	The minutes of the Parish Council monthly meeting held on Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved subject to the correction of minor typos and rewording on the Church clock. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Banks. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed.	
	<b>ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
28/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Repairs and enhancements to the Church clock.</b> The grants policy had been reviewed and a note had been circulated. Cllr Oldnall felt that it would be possible to support a grant for the Church clock as it was not a religious or political purpose. It was agreed that no change was required to the grants policy, and it was noted that this was contrary to advice from NALC/OALC.</li> <li>b) <b>Tree in Hill View.</b> The Clerk had chased the Vale Parks Department regarding a replacement tree. Awaiting a reply. Afternote: the tree has been replaced.</li> <li>c) <b>Thames Water pipe.</b> Cllr Oldnall had investigated the metal pipe near Lilac Cottage and had identified it as a sewer air vent. As it was not in an unstable condition he did not intend to contact Thames Water about it.</li> </ul>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>CLOSED</p>
	<b>ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>	
29/23	<p>Cllr Constance had sent a written report which had been circulated. At the meeting she discussed the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Thames Water meeting.</b> Cllr Constance asked if a date for a meeting with Thames Water was available. Cllr Oldnall reported that a date had not yet been agreed.</li> <li>b) <b>OCC Budget.</b> The OCC budget was to be reviewed by the Council on 14<sup>th</sup> February. She noted that the Conservative opposition party was trying to reduce the council tax increase from 4.99% to 3.99%.</li> <li>c) <b>Spare Seats Scheme.</b> 235 children in the County, 15 of which were from Uffington, would be affected by the withdrawal of the Spare Seats scheme for school transport. Cllr Constance was liaising with the local families. She stated that the withdrawal of the scheme was a major issue for rural communities.</li> <li>d) <b>Oxford City Transport schemes.</b> The County Council was planning to spend a lot of money on transport schemes in Oxford city, which were facing increasing opposition from motorists.</li> <li>e) <b>Councillor Priority Fund application.</b> The Parish Council's application for CPF funding toward the legal costs for access to the paddock would need to be deferred to the 2023/24 financial year. Cllr Constance to establish whether the application needed to be resubmitted.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.</p>	<p>YC</p>
	<b>ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>	
30/23	Cllr Boyd had sent a written update. He reported that he was chasing the Sower Hill and Dragon Hill planning applications. He had not yet received confirmation that the Dragon Hill application would go before the Planning Committee. Cllr Oldnall noted that OCC Highways had not yet responded to the application.	

<b>ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM</b>		
31/23	<p>a) <b>Thames Water</b> – Cllr Oldnall reiterated his comments about the sewage air vent. Mr Godsell noted that a second pipe had been removed. He then reported that he had been chasing Thames Water (TW) regarding the entrance to the sewage plant. They had informed him that they had decided to set the gates further back and widen the entrance to facilitate easier access for their lorries. There was some confusion over land ownership which was holding up progress. Thames Water was in discussion with the land agent. On the wider issue of the plant itself, Mr Godsell had been in touch with Windrush Against Sewage Pollution and had made some significant enquiries of TW for which he was awaiting a response. He had discovered that the sewage discharge into the brook was under a temporary permit which had been issued in 1989. Cllr Jenkins reported that he had attended a TW presentation about future water resources. He outlined TW’s plans which would ultimately need to be signed off by the Secretary of State. He noted that their target for mending leaks was unambitious. Cllr Constance noted that this was one of the main objections against the proposed reservoir near Abingdon.</p> <p>b) <b>20 MPH Scheme</b> – A resident outlined his objection to the 20mph speed limit proposal for Uffington. He accepted the safety arguments in favour of the scheme but felt that they were largely illogical for Uffington. He felt that the consultation process was flawed as the Parish Council survey had not explicitly allowed for a ‘retain the 30mph limit’ response. He pointed out that previous consultations on this matter with the village had resulted in 50/50 responses. He questioned why Uffington was in the first tranche of the rollout as he didn’t feel the case for the proposal had been made. He quoted accident statistics for the past 10 years and pointed out that none of the accidents was within the 30mph zone. He suggested that the funds would be better used elsewhere, such as cycling initiatives and improving the quality of the roads. Cllr Oldnall stated that whilst the survey could have been better worded, the responses indicated that others had correctly interpreted the question. The 50/50 comment referred to only a very small number (&lt;10) of comments received. The vast majority of the respondents had been in favour of the scheme which had led the Parish Council to decide to take it forward. This had resulted in the formal consultation from OCC being initiated. Cllr Constance felt that Uffington may have been in the first tranche for geographical reasons. The resident was informed that people could resist the proposal by responding to the OCC consultation. It was noted that the scheme was County-wide and not just related to accident statistics. Research had convinced the Government that 20mph speed limits increased road safety and encouraged walking and cycling in built up areas. It was pointed out that there had been many responses to the Parish Council survey which indicated that speeding mattered to people. It was noted that if the scheme did not go ahead the money would not be diverted to other things. The OCC consultation ran until 10<sup>th</sup> March and residents had been informed of it. Cllr Jenkins noted that Speedwatch data had indicated that there was a speeding problem in the village. The Speedwatch team had been out 8 times and had reported 10 people to the police for travelling over 40mph.</p> <p>The members of the public were thanked for attending.</p>	
<b>ITEM 8 – ONGOING PROJECTS</b>		
32/23	<p>a) <b>Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments).</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that the landowner was discussing the license with his Solicitor. An update was expected shortly.</p>	
<b>ITEM 9 – PLANNING MATTERS</b>		
33/23	<p><b>New Applications to be considered.</b></p> <p>a) <b>P22/V2978/S73 – Dragon Hill.</b> Variation of condition 2 and removal of condition 7 of approved plans P22/V1141/FUL. Amended plans. An objection had been submitted and a request had been made for the application to be called in to Planning Committee. Cllr Jenkins pointed out that there had recently been an amendment to the original application to install solar panels. This had been approved by the VOWHDC without any consultation. Cllr Oldnall stated that this was normal for a permitted development application.</p> <p>b) <b>P22/V2987/FUL – School House Field, Broadway.</b> Retrospective application for the rebuilding of an agricultural barn. Response due by 7<sup>th</sup> February. There</p>	

	<p>were no objections.</p> <p>c) <b>P23/V0065/DIS – Meadowbrook, 4 Fawler Road.</b> Discharge of condition 4(Tree Protection) &amp; 5(Surface Water Drainage) on application P22/V1619/HH. (Proposed detached garage). For information only.</p> <p><b>P23/V0142/LB – Tamerlane Cottage, Packers Lane.</b> Replacement of flue liner which serves a woodburning stove. Raise height of the chimney stack and replace existing pot. Response due by 2<sup>nd</sup> March. There were no objections.</p>	
34/23	<p><b>To consider any new applications received since the publication of the agenda.</b></p> <p>It was noted that appeals were underway for the applications which had been refused at Baulking. The Appeal Hearing will be on 9/10/11/12 May 2023 at 10.00 am at The Pavilion, Viscountess Barrington’s Memorial Hall, Highworth Road, Shrivenham, SN6 8BL</p>	
35/23	<p><b>Update on outstanding planning applications:</b></p> <p>a) <b>P22/V2252/HH – Slate House, Upper Common.</b> Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>b) <b>P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm.</b> Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination.</p>	
36/23	<p><b>Britchcombe Farm</b></p> <p>A written report had been circulated. Nothing further to report.</p>	CLOSED
<b>ITEM 10 – FINANCE</b>		
37/23	<p>a) <b>To approve February payments</b> – The payments totalling £1626.86 were approved. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Banks. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise. Cllr Oldnall pointed out that the VAS batteries were for the unit on the Fawler Road. Cllr Jenkins suggested that the VAS may need to be covered when the team was working in the area. Cllr Oldnall pointed out that as the VAS did not display the speed of a vehicle this would not be necessary. Cllr Jenkins reported that the Speedwatch signs had been delivered.</p> <p>b) <b>Internal Auditor’s Report (less Clerk’s Employment Recommendation)</b> – The report was presented and accepted. There was nothing to be raised other than the Employment matter which was to be considered at a closed meeting of the Council.</p>	MO
<b>ITEM 11 – THE COURIER</b>		
38/23	<p>Cllr Oldnall reported that 80-90 people had said they did not want paper copies of the magazine, but only 5 people had so far provided their email address for an electronic copy. Cllr Oldnall to ensure that the editor receives hard copy of the magazine in future as he did not live in the village.</p>	MO
<b>ITEM 12 – JUBILEE FIELD</b>		
39/23	<p>a) <b>Monthly play area inspection.</b> There were no issues.</p> <p>b) <b>Applications to use the field.</b> None.</p> <p>c) <b>Feedback from the THMH AGM.</b> There was very little to report. The Coronation had been discussed and the Hall would be made available free to the village. Hire costs would not increase for the time being. More committee members were still required.</p> <p>d) <b>Grass treatment.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that the field was looking tired. He suggested asking Mr Coxhead whether he would recommend any treatment. Cllr Pilchowski was concerned about the application of treatments to the grass. Cllr Oberman would not approve the use of fertiliser. Cllr Banks suggested that the only thing necessary was to roll it to flatten it out. He didn’t feel that scarifying or any other treatment would be worthwhile. Cllr Jenkins to speak to Mr Coxhead.</p> <p>e) <b>Hole in the footpath.</b> Cllr Pilchowski reported that there was a large, potentially dangerous hole near the right-hand path toward the pond. He agreed to fill it in.</p> <p>f) <b>Additional play equipment.</b> Cllr Oberman had contacted Wicksteed about additional play equipment. They requested more details than she was able to give at the moment. No further action.</p>	FO  SJ DP CLOSED
<b>ITEM 13 – OSR UPDATE</b>		
40/23	<p><b>OSR Update</b></p> <p>Cllr Puddicombe had sent a written report.</p> <p>a) <b>Proposal for new heating system.</b> The UMT did not now expect to apply for a Parish Council grant as it had identified other sources of funding for this project.</p> <p>b) <b>Request for permission to use land behind the museum for temporary builder’s storage.</b> There was concern that this could have a detrimental effect on the museum and grassed area. Cllr Banks noted that it was not clear</p>	CLOSED  SJ

	what was to be stored or for how long. Cllr Jenkins agreed to speak to the owners to obtain more information. Afternote: Cllr Jenkins' meeting with the resident clarified the requirement and Cllr Oldnall had written to the resident to inform her that temporary daily use of the grassed area to facilitate loading/unloading was acceptable but that no permanent or overnight storage would be permitted.	
<b>ITEM 14 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>		
41/23	<p>a) <b>Emergency Plan.</b> This was circulated ahead of the meeting. No comments had been received. The plan was adopted. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</p> <p>b) <b>Business Continuity Plan.</b> It was suggested that the Clerk's IT arrangements be reviewed. To be reviewed again at the March meeting. Cllr Oldnall noted that there was also an amendment required to the Data Security Policy, which would be reviewed in March.</p> <p>c) <b>Financial Regulations.</b> An amendment was required to cover instances when an ITT was tendered electronically. Details to be confirmed by email and brought to the March meeting for ratification.</p> <p>d) <b>Standing Orders.</b> Amendments were discussed. Clerk to amend the document and bring to the March meeting for ratification.</p> <p>e) <b>Risk Assessment.</b> The item relating to the Covid support group had been changed to 'Uffington support group'. It was agreed that an information sheet for village volunteers would be useful. It was to be put onto the village website and volunteers were to be invited to read it. Cllr Oldnall and the Clerk to work on this. The risk assessment was adopted. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED.</p> <p>f) <b>Grants policy.</b> No changes were required (See 28/23a).</p>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>MO/Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>MO/Clerk</p> <p>CLOSED</p>
<b>ITEM 15 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b>		
42/23	<p>a) <b>Defibrillators.</b> Cllr Pilchowski reported that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the response from the First Responder regarding training was unclear. Cllr Jenkins offered to speak to her. Cllr Pilchowski to send the dates to Cllr Jenkins.</li> <li>ii. All the defibrillators were OK.</li> <li>iii. There were 4 volunteers for Woolstone.</li> </ol> <p>b) <b>Village Stream and pond.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that the stream was flowing well. Malcolm Hinton would be dredging the pond on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The reeds in the stream from Freemans Close to the Church needed digging out. Clerk to find a contractor to do this. Cllr Oldnall to send a map. Riparian owners to be informed that the work would be carried out.</p> <p>c) <b>Stiles on Footpath 4.</b> Cllr Jenkins had not received a response from the Countryside Officer at OCC. The matter had been escalated and Cllr Constance kept informed.</p> <p>d) <b>VAS Issues.</b> The batteries had been replaced and the VAS was working again. (See 37/23 above).</p> <p>e) <b>Additional post for village trail.</b> The one remaining post was to be installed at The Manor. Information plaques were required at a cost of £210. This was approved. Proposed Cllr Oberman, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED.</p> <p>f) <b>Review of work to poplars.</b> Three quotes had been received. One supplier had suggested that it would be cheaper (per tree) to do all three at the same time. One supplier had recommended taking out all three or none of them. Cllr Jenkins suggested asking BGG to take out the middle tree only. Clerk to notify bidders and agree felling date with the winner. Proposed Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED.</p> <p>g) <b>Salt Bin for Sower Hill.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that Sower Hill had been dangerously slippery during the recent cold spell and suggested installing a salt bin. It was agreed to apply to OCC for a bin. Cllr Oldnall to provide a map.</p>	<p>DP/SJ</p> <p>Clerk/MO</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>MO/Clerk</p>
<b>ITEM 16 - ALLOTMENTS</b>		
43/23	It was reported that one rent was still outstanding. Clerk to chase.	Clerk
<b>ITEM 17 – GENERAL</b>		
44/23	<p>a) <b>Community Speedwatch.</b> This was covered in minute reference 30/23 above.</p> <p>b) <b>Arrangements for the 2023 elections.</b> The timetable for the elections had been circulated. Cllr Oldnall to put it on the village noticeboard and information had been included in the weekly newsletter. An OALC webinar was available for</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>Clerk/MO</p>

	<p>prospective candidates in March. It was agreed to suggest that those interested in standing should attend the March meeting. It was agreed to put up a poster in the Village Hall in time for the panto. Cllr Oldnall to produce this. It was noted that Voter ID would be required for in-person voting. Afternote: posters for the election and advertising the requirement for volunteers for the Big Coronation Lunch (picnic) had been distributed for display on tables at all showings of the panto.</p> <p>c) <b>Proposal for new ashes plots in the Burial Ground.</b> The new fees for the ashes plots had been agreed. Clerk to update the Burial Ground policy. Cllr Banks pointed out that there could only be four new plots on each standard grave plot rather than the six originally envisaged.</p> <p>d) <b>Dates of the April and May meetings.</b> The April meeting, including the Annual Assembly was to be on 17<sup>th</sup> April. The May meeting, including the AGM, was to be on 9<sup>th</sup> May, but the Clerk potentially had an issue with this date. Clerk to check the village hall bookings.</p> <p>e) <b>Coronation.</b> The hall had been booked for 7<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Oldnall suggested that the arrangements be left to local groups, but Cllr Oberman felt that a certain amount of organisation was required. It was agreed to try and get someone from each of the local groups to get together and help with the organisation. Some funding could be made available from the Parish Council if people could bring forward some ideas. Cllr Oldnall to prepare an item for the Friday newsletter.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>Clerk/GB</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>MO</p>
<b>ITEM 18 – CONSULTATIONS</b>		
45/23	<p>a) <b>20 MPH scheme.</b> Cllr Oldnall to reply to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council. All Councillors were asked to reply individually as well.</p> <p>b) <b>Vale &amp; South Local Plan.</b> Information was available on how this would be taken forward. No action.</p> <p>c) <b>NPPF.</b> This was being revised again. It was to be reviewed in line with the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Oldnall planned to include a short briefing on this at the Annual Assembly.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>MO</p>
<b>ITEM 19 – CORRESPONDENCE</b>		
46/23	None.	
<b>ITEM 209 – MATTERS FOR THE MARCH AGENDA</b>		
47/23	<p>a) Ideas for the Annual Assembly</p> <p>b) Approval of funds to be transferred to EMR at the year end</p>	
<b>ITEM 20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>		
48/23	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 21.10.