

## Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council Monday 10 August 2023 at 6.30pm At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr Mike Oldnall (Chair), Cllr Fenella Oberman, Cllr Richard Charles, Cllr Kat Foxhall, Cllr Simon Jenkins.

In Attendance:

District Councillor: Cllr Sue Caul

County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance

Members of the Public: 5 members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
169/23	Cllr Nigel Puddicombe and Mrs J Evans (Clerk).	
<b>ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>		
170/23	Cllrs Foxhall, Oberman and Charles declared, for the purpose of all future Parish Council meetings until further notice, that they (and Cllr Puddicombe when present) were Trustees of the Uffington Museum Trust.	
<b>ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2023</b>		
171/23	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 July 2023 were approved. Proposed: Cllr Oberman, Seconded Cllr Charles. RESOLVED. The Minutes were signed.	
<b>ITEM 4 – ADOPTION OF AN ADDITIONAL COUNCILLOR</b>		
172/23	The applicant was not present and this Item was heard in open session. Only one applicant had responded to the recent repeated advertising in the Courier. Mr David Garwood had applied to be co-opted to the Parish Council. His details had been circulated and there were no objections to his co-option. His application was proposed by Cllr Oldnall and seconded by Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to inform Mr Garwood and the Clerk to carry forward the Declaration to the next meeting.	Clerk/MO
<b>ITEM 5– REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>		
173/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Report on CPRE meeting on the Vale 2041 Local Plan. Cllr Constance reported that she had not attended this meeting.</li> <li>b) Larger waste bins outside the Shop. See District Councillor report below.</li> <li>c) Wicklesham Quarry planning application. Cllr Oldnall reported that the application to the Vale District Council had brought many objections, but it had been withdrawn as a result of a processing error – it was the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council to which it may be resubmitted in due course.</li> </ul>	CLOSED  CLOSED
<b>ITEM 6 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b>		
174/23	<p>A written report had been circulated. At the meeting Cllr Constance reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had called in the recent decision of the county council’s planning and regulation committee to refuse the £269M HIF1 Didcot and surrounding areas infrastructure project. A possible consequence of this could be the loss of the 5-year housing land supply for both South and Vale Local Plans.</li> <li>b) Potholes are being filled with a new tarmac. Cllr Charles highlighted some good and bad results.</li> <li>c) £1,000 of Councillor Priority Funding was available; applications should be submitted by November and spending completed before the end of the current financial year. Bids were required in good time.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.</p>	
<b>ITEM 7 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b>		
175/23	<p>Cllr Caul reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Waste bins. No progress had been made on the Parish Council’s request for larger bins or more frequent emptying. The District Council’s position is that new bins on land not owned by them will not be emptied and that current emptying is being carried out as a ‘courtesy.’ Cllr Oldnall clarified that the Parish Council was not seeking additional bins, but merely that larger ones, which if purchased by the Parish Council, would be emptied. She asked for photographs. <b>Afternote:</b> Copy of an email with photographs of full bins sent to the Vale in June was forwarded to Cllr Caul on 15 August.</li> </ul>	SJ

	<p>b) A new policy on funding for affordable housing utilising CIL/S106 funds would be implemented from April 2024 and would feed into the new Local Plan; £5.4M was in the budget, but time to spend it was limited. CIL policy will not change.</p> <p>c) S106 money had been approved for new traffic lights (rather than a roundabout) at the Great Coxwell junction on the A420. It was for Highways to take this forward.</p> <p>Cllr Caul was thanked for attending.</p>	
	<b>ITEM 8 – OPEN FORUM</b>	
176/23	<p>a) Mr S Edwards outlined his plans for development work at Lilac Cottage, a Listed building. See Item 10 below. The cottage had been substantially renovated after purchase in 2016, but the outstanding area was the kitchen. The intention was to add a 3m extension on the south side to create a modern kitchen, with master bedroom above, and a small utility room on the west side. The kitchen would not be visible from the road and due to the low height of the building, hardly visible from Whitehorse Hill. The Vale’s Conservation Officer had approved the plan in principle when the earlier renovations were completed. Additionally, he wished to replace the current decorative ridge of roof thatch with a flush cut design, to match other thatched roofs in the village. Cllr Foxhall requested that attention be paid to future proofing of the energy systems; Mr Edwards confirmed that this was in hand. There were no further questions from Cllrs and Mr Edwards was thanked for attending.</p> <p>b) Mr M Rosier outlined his S73 application for variations to the plans for Plot 2 of the buildings under construction at Dragon Hill, to incorporate the garage as interior floor space. See Item 10 below. With the removal of the garage doors and the creation of additional access from the house, the original garage space would become ‘Living Area’ on the ground floor and a ‘Master Bedroom’ on the first floor. There would be no increase in the number of bedrooms or any impact on the availability of car parking space. A discussion ensued on how the current developments on the Woolstone Road had had a major and adverse impact on the ‘Landscape’ of that western approach to the village, contrary to the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Rosier acknowledged this but stated that he had not done anything illegal in the development of Plots 1 and 2 and that any blame must rest with the District Council for their approval of the plans. Cllrs agreed with this. Mr Rosier was thanked for attending.</p>	
	<b>ITEM 9 – ONGOING PROJECTS</b>	
177/23	<p>a) <b>Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments).</b> No progress: a response was still awaited from Mr Avenell on the draft licence proposed by Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>b) <b>Upgrade to FP4.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that all the new gates had been installed and the landowners were happy. There was a current shortfall in funding of £721, but response to an application for a grant was still awaited from Oxfordshire County Council. He stated that following completion of the project, the new gates should be donated to relevant landowners for future maintenance as had been done for the other footpath gates. Proposed: Cllr Jenkins. Seconded: Cllr Oberman. <b>RESOLVED.</b> Cllr Jenkins undertook to approach the landowners either side of the railway bridge with a view to them taking on the maintenance of those gates as Network Rail was unlikely to do this. A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Jenkins’ for his dogged determination to see this project through to a successful conclusion. <i>Afternote: OCC had agreed to fund the £721 shortfall.</i></p> <p>c) <b>Project to improve the pond area.</b> Cllr Oberman reported that Malcolm Hinton had recently scraped out much of the bramble thicket and partially levelled the area around the former poplar tree, which had benefitted from the extra light. It had been suggested that the area be landscaped for grass and wild flowers, but Cllr Foxhall proposed that planting of trees would be more appropriate. Cllr Foxhall agreed to investigate further and produce an alternative outline proposal.</p> <p>d) <b>Support for Uffington Shop.</b> A new door (complete with frame) and electric roller shutters had been installed on 11 July. After allowance for an invoice expected for the electrical work, c£600 remained from the public appeal. The Shop owners had received a quotation for £345 from Post Office security consultants for the new shutters to be alarmed and to re-orientate the sounder. It was recognised that this work could only be completed by Post Office approved contractors and that the Shop owners should instruct the Post Office to proceed with the quoted work from a PO approved contractor.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>KF</p> <p>SJ</p>

ITEM 10 – PLANNING MATTERS		
178/23	<p>a) <b>New Applications to be considered.</b></p> <p>i. <b>P23/V1765/LB – Lilac Cottage, Woolstone Road.</b> Replace decorative ridge of roof thatch with flush cut design, crafted with wheat straw to match existing thatch. Response due by 21<sup>st</sup> August. Cllrs had no objections.</p> <p>ii. <b>P23/V1739/HH and P23/V1740/LB – Lilac Cottage, Woolstone Road.</b> Two storey rear extension to create larger kitchen to ground floor, and master bedroom with balcony to first floor. Response due by 21<sup>st</sup> August. Cllrs had no objections.</p> <p>b) <b>To consider any new applications received since the publication of the agenda. P23/V1842/S73. Change to Dragon Hill Plot No 2</b> – incorporate the garage as interior floor space. Cllrs had no objections.</p> <p>c) <b>Update on outstanding planning applications.</b></p> <p>i. <b>P22/V2252/HH – Slate House, Upper Common.</b> Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. Awaiting determination. Cllr Jenkins to put the applicant in touch with Cllr Sue Caul. <b>Afternote: Completed on 15 August 2023</b></p> <p>ii. <b>P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm.</b> Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination. Cllr Jenkins to forward correspondence from April 2023 between the applicant and the Planning Officer to Cllr Caul. <b>Afternote: Completed on 15 August 2023.</b></p> <p>d) <b>Feedback from meeting with Ashbury NP lead.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that he had met with Pauline Smith (PS), who is also on the board of Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance (ONPA). PS is working with ONPA, local parishes with Neighbourhood Plans and with local GP surgeries to improve medical policies in the forthcoming Local Plans and NPs. Specifically, she is currently working with Elm Tree Surgery (Shrivenham) to locate new or satellite surgery premises and with OCC ‘Gigahub’ project on the idea of using village halls or other suitable premises for remote consultations with patients. No action required at present.</p> <p>e) <b>Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan.</b> Cllr Oldnall reported that he had deferred any consideration of revising the UBNP until September. In that context, it was helpful to note the following extract from the Planning Officer’s Delegated Report on an application in Baulking: ‘A Regulation 10A review (five-year review) for Local Plan Part 1 (LPP1) has been completed. The review shows that five years on, LPP1 (together with LPP2) continues to provide a suitable framework for development in the Vale of White Horse that is in overall conformity with government policy.’</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>MO</p> <p>MO</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>MO</p>
ITEM 11 – FINANCE		
179/23	<p>a) <b>To approve August payments.</b> The payments for approval totalled £13,554.68. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Charles. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise.</p>	<p>MO</p>
ITEM 12 – JUBILEE FIELD		
180/23	<p>Cllr Oberman reported:</p> <p>a) <b>Play Area Inspections.</b> The monthly inspection had not shown any major problems. However, the annual report by RoSPA had identified some items which needed attention. Cllr Charles offered to help with the large swings maintenance.</p> <p>b) <b>Applications to use the field.</b> An application to plant an oak tree in memory of a resident who had died had been approved; it would replace an ash tree removed as a result of ash die-back. A location near the shop had been identified. Cllr Foxhall had suggested that the tree should be a native species of oak. Cllr Oberman agreed to liaise with the applicant and Mr Cavanagh over clearing the area of brambles.</p> <p>c) <b>Football goal on Jubilee Field.</b> A five-a-side goal had been ordered and should be delivered on 15 August. Afternote: erected by Cllrs Oberman and Charles on 18 August.</p> <p>d) <b>New Play equipment, including for disabled children.</b> A representative from Kompan had discussed the requirement and suggested three pieces of equipment – ‘Space Net’, two new swings (to replace the old ones on the Upper Common side of the Jubilee Field) and a Basket Swing (suitable for disabled children). Planning permission would be required, because of the height. It was</p>	<p>FO/RC</p> <p>FO</p> <p>FO</p> <p>FO</p>

	agreed in principle to proceed, subject to at least one other competitive quotation from another supplier (only 2 suppliers for the required equipment had been identified to date), and agreement on a funding package, potentially including the use of S106 funding, once costs were known.	
<b>ITEM 13 – OSR UPDATE</b>		
181/23	a) Cllr Charles reported that Andrew Townsend Architects would be carrying out the annual survey on the structure of the Old School Room on 16 August.	RC
<b>ITEM 14 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>		
182/23	a) <b>Bias in Decision Making.</b> It was agreed that this policy should be adopted as it stood, as it was a compulsory County Council policy. A separate Parish Council policy was not required. b) <b>Advertising Policy.</b> The revised policy was adopted, including keeping rates as at present. Proposed: Cllr Jenkins. Seconded: Cllr Charles. RESOLVED.	
<b>ITEM 15 – VILLAGE UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b>		
183/23	a) Cllr Jenkins proposed that BGG Ltd be instructed to carry out the autumn cut of all verges and the hedge around the Jubilee Field in late September / early October. Cllr Oberman requested that this be delayed until she had consulted a resident who might cut the inside of the hedge around the village hall car park at a reasonable cost.	FO/SJ
<b>ITEM 16 – ALLOTMENTS UPDATE</b>		
184/23	a) Cllr Jenkins reported that a pile of wood chippings had been unexpectedly dumped at the allotments; a local tree surgeon had volunteered to try to find out who was responsible. In the meanwhile, it was suggested that these chippings be advertised in the village newsletter for individuals to remove.	SJ
<b>ITEM 17 – GENERAL</b>		
185/23	a) <b>Community Speedwatch.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that two sessions had been held since the last meeting. The three month 'period of grace' following the introduction of the 20-mph limit in the village had expired and any vehicles exceeding 23 mph could now be reported. 11 vehicles had been notified to the police for speeding following on the session on 10 August 2023.	SJ
<b>ITEM 18 – CONSULTATIONS</b>		
186/23	a) S106 money from the Jacksmeadow development (allocated to the Vale) amounting to £2,174 is proposed for the provision of an artificial turf pitch, perimeter fencing and floodlighting at Faringdon Leisure Centre/Faringdon Community College. There were no objections from Cllrs. b) National Highways and Transport (NHT) public satisfaction survey. Ends February 2024. Cllrs had no views at this stage but were encouraged to submit their own responses if they felt strongly about any issue.	MO MO
<b>ITEM 19 – CORRESPONDENCE</b>		
187/23	a) <b>Replacement Clerk.</b> Cllr Oldnall reported that recruitment had closed and several applications had been received. Application forms will be sent to applicants, with interviews planned for early September when the Clerk has returned from leave with the intention that a new Clerk would be appointed in mid-September. b) <b>Wellington Bomber Memorial Stone.</b> This had been uncovered recently, as a result of major pruning of the hedge in which it is located (on the line of FP 19, in a field belonging to Broadway Farm). It was suggested that this memorial be 'adopted' by the Parish Council and included on the Asset Register for future safe-keeping and maintenance purposes, subject to seeking any information about this memorial from the Uffington Museum Trustees and owners of Broadway Farm. Proposed: Cllr Jenkins. Seconded: Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED Cllr Oldnall to contact the UMT Chair, Curator and owner of Broadway Farm to check whether they had any record/knowledge of its origin and ownership. <b>Uffington White Horse Update.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that archaeological experts from the National Trust, English Heritage and including David Miles had established that parts of the White Horse had reduced in size in the last 40 years, due to soil 'creeping' forward from the edges. A committee was establishing exactly what needed to be done, and how it would be funded. No Council action was required at this stage.	MO  Clerk  MO
<b>ITEM 20 - MATTERS FOR THE SEPTEMBER AGENDA</b>		

188/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a)</b> Update Cllr Responsibilities.</li> <li><b>b)</b> Review of responsibilities for village maintenance (including the allotments).</li> <li><b>c)</b> Neighbourhood Plan – Review.</li> <li><b>d)</b> Village EV charging facility.</li> </ul>	
<b>ITEM 21– DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>		
189/23	Monday 11 September 2023 at 6.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 21.10