

Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council Monday 11th September 2023 at 6.30pm At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

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

In Attendance: Julia Evans, Sandy Adams

District Councillor: Cllr Sue Caul

County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance

Members of the Public: 3 members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & WELCOME	Action
190/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There were no apologies for absence. b) Cllr Dave Garwood and new Clerk Sandy Adams were welcomed. 	
	ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
191/23	Cllr Foxhall for agenda item 8a.	
	ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th AUGUST 2023	
192/23	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 August 2023 were approved. Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Charles. RESOLVED. The Minutes were signed.	
	ITEM 4– REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
193/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Larger waste bins outside the Shop. An additional collection had been arranged with BIFFA for Thursdays. The Vale was looking at changing how bins were managed, so there could be a change in future. 	CLOSED
	ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
194/23	<p>A written report had been circulated. At the meeting Cllr Constance reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) She was trying to get the report from CPRE about the Joint Local Plan. b) The CEO’s report had been circulated but there had been problems opening it. Cllr Constance to look into this. c) The OCC Planning Committee had refused the HIF1 application to link Milton interchange with Culham Science Centre. The refusal brings the delivery of local plans into question and could lead to unregulated development. The Secretary of State had now called this in. <p>Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.</p>	YC
	ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
195/23	<p>Cllr Caul reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The enquiry into the HIF1 application was due on 5th December and was to last for eight days. OCC had requested a one-month extension. b) Working on the December date, the Vale would be on track for delivery of the draft Joint Local Plan. c) Access and parking arrangements were being finalised for the Slate House planning application. New drawings were being supplied after which a decision would be made. After note: This application was approved on 12 September. d) There was no progress on the Sower Hill application. <p>Cllr Caul reported on Airband providing fibre broadband in Stanford in the Vale. Cllr Foxhall outlined Uffington’s experience with the company. Cllr Caul was thanked for attending.</p>	
	ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM	
196/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mr Godsell outlined the work he carried out on the allotments and around the village. He explained that his equipment was ageing and he was worried that his age was beginning to affect his ability to carry out the work. He requested that the Parish Council should plan ahead so that he could gradually reduce his workload. Further discussion is recorded in minute reference 204/23 below. b) Mr Rumble noted that the hedge between the village hall car park and the road needed cutting. The contractor will cut the outside and top, and it was noted that a resident had volunteered to cut the inside. Cllr Oldnall to contact them. <p>The members of the public were thanked for attending.</p>	MO
	ITEM 8 – PLANNING MATTERS	

197/23	<p>a) New Applications to be considered.</p> <p>i. P23/V1862/HH & P23/V1863/LB – Vale Cottage, High Street. Repairs and improvements to interior and exterior of listed cottage including works to repair internal partition wall, installation of air source heat pump, replace uninsulated concrete and timber floor with breathable flooring and underfloor heating system, repair internal wall coverings, repair boundary wall, repair and replace porch roof covering, replace front door. Response due by 15th September. Cllr Foxhall left the room. There were no objections. Cllr Foxhall returned to the meeting.</p> <p>b) To consider any new applications received since the publication of the agenda. None.</p> <p>c) Update on outstanding planning applications.</p> <p>i. P23/V1842/S73. Change to Dragon Hill Plot No 2 – incorporate the garage as interior floor space. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>ii. P23/V1765/LB – Lilac Cottage, Woolstone Road. Replace decorative ridge of roof thatch with flush cut design, crafted with wheat straw to match existing thatch. Awaiting determination. After note: Granted.</p> <p>iii. P23/V1739/HH and P23/V1740/LB – Lilac Cottage, Woolstone Road. Two storey rear extension to create larger kitchen to ground floor, and master bedroom with balcony to first floor. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>iv. P22/V2252/HH – Slate House, Upper Common. Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. Granted.</p> <p>v. P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm. Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination.</p>	MO
ITEM 9 – ONGOING PROJECTS		
198/23	<p>a) Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments). No progress.</p> <p>b) Upgrade to FP4. Cllr Jenkins reported that the project had been completed and all the grant money had been received. There would be a formal opening on 4th October.</p> <p>c) Project to improve the pond area. Cllr Oberman reported that there had been a suggestion to level the site and turn it into a glade with a bench and woodland wildflower. Residents were to be consulted. The priority was to deal with the poplar shoots and brambles. Cllr Jenkins to get quotes to remove the tree stump. Cllr Foxhall noted that brambles and deciduous leaves were the best environment for hedgehogs and we should be doing everything possible to support them.</p> <p>d) Support for Uffington Shop. A sum of £345 was required to alarm the roller shutters. £600 (including the electrical work) was approved for the completion of the project. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Oldnall. RESOLVED.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>SJ/FO/KF</p> <p>SJ</p>
ITEM 10 – FINANCE		
199/23	<p>a) To approve September payments. The payments for approval totalled £1733.59. Proposed Cllr Charles, Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise.</p> <p>b) External Audit Report for 2022/23. The report was received and noted. The external auditor had made an observation about dates. The internal auditor did not feel this was an issue.</p> <p>c) Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2023/24. Lightatouch was appointed, Proposed Cllr Oldnall, Seconded Cllr Charles, RESOLVED.</p>	MO
ITEM 11 – JUBILEE FIELD		
200/23	<p>Cllr Oberman reported:</p> <p>a) Play Area Inspections. The recommendations in the RoSPA report were to be carried out. Cllrs Charles and Oldnall volunteered to assist.</p> <p>b) Applications to use the field. None.</p> <p>c) Football goal on Jubilee Field. It was noted that the facility was very popular with children. A letter had been written to the complainants.</p> <p>d) New Play equipment, including for disabled children. The plan was for two swings and a basket swing to replace the old swings on the Upper Common side</p>	<p>FO/RC/MO</p> <p>CLOSED</p>

	of the Jubilee Field, and a tall climbing net was also under consideration. Two quotes had been received and a third was awaited. The cost was likely to be in the region of £30k. It was proposed that the remaining S106 money was used to fund this; further funding would be required and it was suggested that the WHST be approached. Approval to use the remaining S106 funds was granted. Proposed Cllr Oberman, Seconded Cllr Foxhall. RESOLVED.	FO FO
ITEM 12 – OSR UPDATE		
201/23	a) The building report had been circulated. The cracking that had been noted was superficial and was to be filled when redecoration next took place. Stains on the ceiling were nothing to worry about but the moss on the roof needed to be carefully removed. Gutters were to be cleaned annually. Trees growing next to the wall needed to be trimmed. A full survey was required in 2024. The UMT Chairman felt that three quotes should be obtained for this. The building Action Plan should be updated; Cllr Puddicombe to look for it. Once received Cllr Charles was to integrate it into his plan.	RC/NP
ITEM 13 BURIAL GROUND		
202/23	A new register had been purchased. The notice at the burial ground was to be changed when the new Clerk takes over the administration. A resident had purchased a seat which was to be installed under the oak tree. To be added to the asset register.	JE
ITEM 14 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS		
203/23	a) Complaints Procedure. The document had been circulated ahead of the meeting. There had been a few minor amendments. The document was approved. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. b) Anti-Fraud Policy. The policy had been circulated ahead of the meeting. There had been a few minor amendments. The policy was approved. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. c) Dignity at Work Policy. To be redrafted and recirculated. d) Grievance and Disciplinary policy. To be redrafted and recirculated.	MO
ITEM 15 – VILLAGE UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)		
204/23	a) Hall car park hedges. Refer to minute reference 196/23 above. b) Case for external assistance with village upkeep. Further to Mr Godsell's request (minute 196/23 above), Cllr Puddicombe had developed a paper which was to be circulated. He requested an 'in principle' agreement for extra spend if volunteers did not come forward to assist with village upkeep. It was noted that the work was regular and quite heavy duty. The additional cost was estimated at around £2.5k pa. There had been no responses to a recent call for volunteers and he requested that provision was made for this spend in next year's budget. Discussion followed. It was agreed to call for volunteers again. Cllr Oldnall agreed to look at including the costs in the draft budget for next year.	MO
ITEM 16 – ALLOTMENTS UPDATE		
205/23	a) Allotment rents. It was agreed to keep the rents the same for the coming year.	
ITEM 17 – GENERAL		
206/23	a) Community Speedwatch. Cllr Jenkins reported that 38 vehicles had been reported to the police this year. It was becoming difficult to get people to volunteer. Cllr Jenkins to put out another request. b) Recruitment of new Clerk. Ms Adams had been appointed. c) Councillor Responsibilities. A few amendments were suggested. To be updated, put on the noticeboard and uploaded to the website. d) Village EV charging. Cllr Oldnall had registered the Council's interest in the scheme. The village hall had also registered an interest. The Parish Council was content to let the Village Hall Committee lead on this. e) Winter preparedness. No additional salt was required for the bin at the Village Hall. Installation of new salt bin at Sower Hill to be chased up.	SJ CLOSED MO CLOSED JE
ITEM 18 – CONSULTATIONS		
207/23	a) Rural Transport. OCC had initiated a consultation for improved rural bus services, including that a bus service through Uffington should be reinstated. The timings could suit school children, but Cllr Charles noted that the school timings were greyed out, were cost dependent and were only one way; there did not appear to be a return journey. The school route was the one that was important to the village. The other routes were the same as the UBW minibus. Cllr Charles to send notes on this and Cllr Oldnall to develop a response.	RC/MO

	b) Landscape Assessment. This was not discussed.	
ITEM 19 – CORRESPONDENCE		
208/23	a) Wellington Bomber Memorial Stone. The landowner had stated that he would be maintaining the Memorial. To be added to the Asset Register.	JE
ITEM 20 - MATTERS FOR THE OCTOBER AGENDA		
209/23	a) 2024/25 Budget	
ITEM 21– DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
210/23	Monday 9 th October 2023 at 6.30pm.	
	It was noted that this was Mrs Evans' final meeting. She was thanked for her work over the last 8 years.	

The meeting closed at 21.04