

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6:30 pm  
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr Mike Oldnall, Cllr Simon Jenkins, Cllr Kat Foxhall, Cllr Nigel Puddicombe, Cllr Richard Charles, Cllr Fenella Oberman,

In Attendance: Sandy Adams

District Councillor: Cllr Sue Caul

County Councillor:

Members of the Public: 1

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
248/23	Apologies were received from Cllr Garwood and Cllr Constance. A discussion took place about distributing items in Cllr Constance's absence. Cllr Caul volunteered to act as the point of contact in her absence.	SC
	<b>ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
249/23	None	
	<b>ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023</b>	
250/23	Minutes were agreed subject to 2 amendments: i. Village maintenance – needs 4th bullet point to include ditch clearing. ii. Item 243/23 word missing Proposed Cllr Jenkins Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed.	SA
	<b>ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
251/23	<b>a) New Bus Service</b> Passengers are using the bus service. There is some confusion over the bus stop location and there was a lack of clarity on the timetable, which does not show return journeys. This may need to be clarified with the bus companies.	
	<b>ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>	
252/23	None.	
	<b>ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>	
253/23	Cllr Caul provided an update <b>a) Wicklesham Quarry</b> The Vale has submitted a response to the application. <u>Key Points:</u> i. Site not allocated for development in Local Plan ii. County Council needs to satisfy the details over the quarry SSSI and the biodiversity issues iii. Concerns over the large-scale height and form. iv. Would have a significant adverse effect on lighting and visual amenity. v. The ward councillors will be submitting separate objection returns. vi. Cllr Oldnall requested a copy of Vale comments (though these should become visible on the OCC website). <i>Afternote: See <a href="#">here</a> for OCC website .</i> <b>b) HIF1.</b> HIF1 is a series of 4 major infrastructure improvement projects in the Didcot area which is largely Government funded. Planning permission was rejected by the Vale in July 2023 and so was called in by the Secretary of State for DLUHC. The Pre-Enquiry was held in December 2023 and the Enquiry will run from 20 <sup>th</sup> February until May 2024. <b>c) Developer contributions</b> For the Vale October £287,496.00 CIL and released £1,333,000 of S106 money National planning application fees increased as of the 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2023. Increased by 25% on all applications except 35% on major ones. <b>d) National Landscapes</b> AONBs are now renamed National Landscapes. <b>e) Integrated Care Boards</b> Integrated Care Boards replaces CCGs. Consultation is looking for comments which opened on November 17 <sup>th</sup> and will finish on January 31 <sup>st</sup> 2024. Cllr Caul volunteered	SC

	<p>to send a link. This is primarily for outpatients in the local community. Cllr Foxhall stressed the need to highlight the cross-over with different regions for Uffington residents.</p> <p>f) <b>Local Green Spaces Grants</b>  At the November meeting Cllr Jenkins had requested more information regarding funding for local green spaces initiatives. Cllr Caul had confirmed that grants would be available from TOE and bids for the next tranche will close on 8 January 2024. Cllr Caul was thanked for attending</p>	
<b>ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM</b>		
254/23	<p><b>White welcome gates</b> – A resident stated that a suggestion had been received via Facebook that white gates on the verges at the village entrances would enhance the ‘welcome’ to the village. The resident had looked at options and there was considerable variability of pricing according to the design. This item had previously discussed with regards to traffic calming but had been dismissed due to being restrictive to large farm machinery. Cllr Charles noted the initial thoughts in other local villages were for traffic calming. A discussion took place as to whether this would actually make the village more welcoming. Concern was expressed over not putting signs on landowners and Highways land and the need for approval. Cllr Oldnall agreed to contact OCC Highways to ask about the process and likely costs of installing white welcome gates.</p>	MO
<b>ITEM 8 – PLANNING MATTERS</b>		
255/25	<p>a) New applications to be considered: None</p> <p>b) To consider any new applications received since the publication of this agenda.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. <b>Wicklesham Quarry.</b> Update from Cllr Caul provided in Item 6 District Councillors report.</p> <p>b) Update on outstanding planning applications:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i) <b>P23/V2452/HH, Gibbons Cottage Broad Street Uffington Faringdon.</b>  The application is for: Extend existing dropped Kerb (circa 3.5m) to the South of the property to create a new access. Remove the existing small stone wall and gate to create access (to be constructed under permitted development). Install free draining hardstand material. Awaiting Determination.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">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. Awaiting determination.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iii) <b>P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm.</b> Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination. Afternote: additional lighting information provided on 13 November.</p> <p>c) <b>Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Cllr Jenkins had written to Ricardo Rios (RR) (South &amp; Vale Planning) in June regarding planning decisions which have had substantial and adverse impacts on the village. A meeting had been held (including with a member of Ashbury Parish Council and ONPA committee member). Whilst the planning decisions had been largely ignored, RR had stated that there is an opportunity to put some mandatory rules and design codes into any updated version of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). RR had also offered to facilitate a workshop on reviewing the Plan.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii. Cllr Oldnall had provided the NP information to Cllr Garwood and suggested that his review should be carried out in 2 phases: Phase 1 to check the NP and identify any changes required to the higher-level policies and studies which would necessitate a change to the Neighbourhood Plan. Phase 2 is to consider whether the policies had been applied effectively on applications since the Plan had been made (July 2019). Following RR’s offer of a workshop (see above), a meeting was to be requested in the New Year to discuss the way ahead (see above).</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iii. Cllr Garwood had provided a preliminary document which will form a useful basis for the meeting with RR. A request for volunteers to assist with NP was to be placed in the Courier. Cllr Foxhall volunteered to assist. It was noted that the terminology concerning the settlement hierarchy had changed to ‘Tiers’. Cllr Foxhall volunteered to share the information she had on this.</p>	<p>KF</p> <p>MO</p> <p>KF</p> <p>MO</p>

ITEM 10 – ONGOING PROJECTS		
256/23	<p>a) <b>Access to the Paddock</b> Ownership of the paddock had been transferred to Anna Bendall. Draft Heads of Terms (HOT) for a licence for Anna to use the footpath had been circulated. Cllrs Puddicombe and Garwood had suggested some minor changes There were no further comments. The draft HOT was approved. Proposed Cllr Jenkins Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED. The next step is for Oxfordshire County Council to draft the licence.</p> <p>b) <b>Support for Uffington Shop</b> No change – Cllr Jenkins had chased the electrician to complete the refitting of the external light and to provide his final invoice, which is . expected to be c£240..</p>	MO / SJ  SJ
ITEM 11 – FINANCIAL MATTERS		
257/23	<p>a) <b>To approve November payments</b></p> <p>i. Cllr Jenkins queried the double payment for British Legion. It was agreed this should be £120 which represented the cost of the wreath (£20) and the £100 donation approved at the November meeting. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, seconded Cllr Charles.</p> <p>ii. Payments were agreed. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, seconded Cllr Charles.</p> <p>iii. Cllr Oldnall to authorise the bank transfers.</p> <p>b) <b>Penultimate budget draft.</b> Cllr Oldnall discussed the revised budget draft. The following changes from the previous draft had been made:</p> <p>i. Altered amount in Play area. The planned S106 funding has been reduced to £20,000 to avoid additional conditions for larger amounts. The Planning Application cost has been included in the contingency and the balance will form the basis of a WHST bid.</p> <p>ii. The draft budget was approved. Proposed Cllr Jenkins. Seconded Cllr Charles.</p> <p>iii. Precept was set at £30,000 Proposed Cllr Jenkins. Seconded Cllr Charles</p> <p>c) <b>Uffington Church Clock</b> Cllr Jenkins raised the subject of the Church Clock with regards to the fundraising so far and whether the Parish Council would consider a grant. It was concluded that there are still some issues in obtaining an up-to-date quote as it is dependent on any additional work which may come to light during the repair process. Cllr Oberman is exploring funding options (in her Clock Working Group role). A grant will be considered when costs become clearer.</p>	MO
ITEM 13 - OSR UPDATE		
258/23	<p><b>OSR Update</b></p> <p>a) PAT testing had been completed. The electrical checks are due to be carried out on 24th January which will coincide with the defibrillator checks. It is expected that these will take a full day.</p> <p>b) It had been suggested that the door lock needed adjustment/replacement, however adjustments had been made to the key instead.</p> <p>c) A representative from a local security company had made some additional recommendations but had noted that they are just recommendations and not mandatory. Mrs Pilcher (Curator) was concerned about what value over a motion camera might bring and which could cause some GDPR concerns.</p> <p>d) Further consideration is needed as to whether the back window next to Church Cottage could have some vulnerability and if so how it might best be secured.</p>	
ITEM 12 – JUBILEE FIELD TRUST		
259//23	<p>a) <b>Monthly play area</b> – Cllr Oberman to complete inspection 12/12/2023.</p> <p>b) <b>No applications to use Field</b></p> <p>c) <b>Dates for Field tidy</b> – Agreed date 23<sup>rd</sup> March which coincides with the Keep Britain tidy week. Afternote: Cllr Oberman will be on leave and a substitute organiser will be required on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Litter pick 13/14<sup>th</sup> April. Clerk to book litter kit.</p> <p>a) <b>New play Equipment</b> – Cllr Caul offered support for the planning application for the play equipment, which is in the process of being completed, but problems have arisen submitting via the Planning Portal. Cllr Oldnall will give Cllr Foxhall access to the Planning Portal to advise.</p>	Clerk  MO

ITEM 13 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS		
260/23	<p><b>Grievance Policy</b></p> <p>a) It had previously been agreed that the Dignity at Work policy should follow the NALC template. Cllr Oldnall queried whether Grievance and Complaints policies were both required. Cllr Oldnall to re-circulate both policies to ask for suggestions.</p>	MO
ITEM 14 – VILLAGE UPKEEP		
261/23	<p>a) <b>Poplars</b></p> <p>As a result of further wind damage to branches of the second poplar on Upper Common Lane, Cllr Jenkins had obtained quotations from BGG Ltd as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To dismantle both large poplars to ground level and clear all waste (£4,650).</li> <li>2. To dismantle one large poplar and clear all waste (£2,550).</li> <li>3. To remove the damaged limb and branches leaning over the track and clear all waste (£520).</li> </ol> <p>Cllr Jenkins noted that BGG Ltd and another tree surgeon had recommended that both large poplars should be dismantled as they had become very large, potentially unsafe and a threat to nearby properties. An option of pollarding was discussed but discarded as it would be expensive, unsightly and be a recurring cost in the future. It was accepted that removing both poplars would result in the growth of suckers (which can be trimmed off) and it was suggested that removing both poplars might affect the water table. After discussion it was agreed that both trees should be dismantled for safety reasons and eco-plugs inserted to safely kill the roots. Proposed Cllr Jenkins. Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. <b>RESOLVED.</b> It was further agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That it was essential to communicate this decision and the reasons to the village and particularly local residents. Cllr Foxhall agreed to inform local householders and Cllr Oldnall to include the information in the forthcoming Winter Courier</li> <li>2. A plan should be made during the spring/summer to redevelop area with tree planting as part of the area redevelopment which had started with the felling of the first poplar. Cllr Foxhall agreed to produce information for the Spring Courier to communication plans to redevelop the area</li> </ol> <p>b) <b>Allotment Grass cutting</b> - Cllr Jenkins to chase Brian White to see if the Sports Club would be interested in taking this on.</p> <p>c) <b>Village Maintenance Contract</b> – No further information from the allotment holder survey had been received. An outline of the potential contract scope had been included in the Winter Courier to give local people/firms a chance to express their interest. Cllr Oldnall stated that he plans to tender the work more publicly would be made early in the New Year.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>KF / MO</p> <p>KF / MO</p>
ITEM 15 - ALLOTMENTS		
262/23	a) Cllr Puddicombe announced that there was one new tenant.	NP
ITEM 16 – GENERAL		
263/23	a) Speedwatch has recorded that 59 vehicles have been notified to the police this year.	
ITEM 17 – CORRESPONDENCE		
264/23	a) <b>Oxfordshire Councils charter</b> – Discussed briefly, responses closed 10th December 2023.	
ITEM 18 – MATTERS FOR THE JANUARY AGENDA		
265/23	a) Grievance/Dignity at work policies.	MO
ITEM 19 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
266/23	The next meeting will be held on <b>8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</b>	

The meeting closed at 20.32