

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council
Monday 8th January 2024 at 6:30 pm
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr Mike Oldnall, Cllr Simon Jenkins, Cllr Kat Foxhall, Cllr Richard Charles, Cllr Fenella Oberman, Cllr Dave Garwood.

In Attendance: Sandy Adams

District Councillor:

County Councillor:

Members of the Public: 6 Members of the public were present

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
1/24	Apologies were received from Cllr Caul, Cllr Puddicombe, Cllr Constance.	
	ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
2/24	There were none	
	ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2023	
3/24	Corrections – Item 6b – change Vale to OCC. Proposed Cllr Jenkins. Seconded Cllr Garwood.	SA
	ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
4/24	Letter to be written to OCC Highways regarding the white welcome gates to be carried forward – Cllr Oldnall	MO
	ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
5/24	No report received.	
	ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
6/24	Apologies received	
	ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM	
7/24	<p>Mr Wyard provided a briefing on the recent flooding to a ditch surrounding his low-lying property which had put his home at risk of flooding. It was noted that each year the ditch fills but usually subsides before flooding the property. The last time it flooded his property was 2007. He described the lie of the land and the direction of water flow and explained that on Thursday it breached the top of the level which ran down towards the house. A discussion took place over the direction of the ditch and whether it was part of a watercourse and who was the landowner. Cllr Jenkins offered to investigate.</p> <p>Mr Coxhead stated that the flooding issue is not going to be resolved until each landowner takes responsibility for their own land, and there were consequences of each landowner not maintaining their ditches and waterways.</p> <p>Mrs Farrant discussed blockages and ditch clearances including those next to Bridge Cottage. She enquired as to when the small pipes under Shotover Corner were last cleared [not known]. There was a short discussion over whether some of the clearances were OCC’s responsibility [the culverts under the road are]. Finally Mrs Farrant asked whether additional ‘Road Closed’ signs could be made available.</p> <p>Mr Coxhead added that the volume of water recently is too much for the size of the pipes and reiterated that all areas of the village needed to be considered for flood protection. He also mentioned the foul smell from the pond area which was assumed to be sewage pollution as a result of the flooding.</p> <p>These items were considered further under Item 14/24b.</p>	SJ
	ITEM 8 – PLANNING MATTERS	
8/24	<p>a) Planning:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) New applications to be considered:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. P23/V2732/HH - The Lees, Upper Common, Uffington</p>	

	<p>The planning application is for an extension and partial conversion of garage to include new front porch, along with over cladding of north elevation. No objection.</p> <p>b) To consider any new applications received since the publication of this agenda.</p> <p>i. P23/V2877/FUL – Jubilee Field, Uffington. 5. 35m tall Spacenet (children's play equipment) on the parish council owned Jubilee Field. Decision date forecast to be 16th February 2024.</p> <p>Update on outstanding planning applications:</p> <p>ii. P23/V2452/HH, Gibbons Cottage Broad Street Uffington Faringdon. The application is for: Extend existing dropped Kerb (circa 3. 5m) to the South of the property to create a new access. Remove the exiting small stone wall and gate to create access (to be constructed under permitted development). Install free draining hardstand material. - Additional information submitted. – Awaiting determination.</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/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm. Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>b) Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Oldnall discussed the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance (ONPA) body. A meeting will be held Saturday 13th January but unfortunately neither Cllrs Jenkins nor Oldnall was available to attend. Cllr Oldnall responded to a question from Cllr Foxhall requesting information on the ONPA for which he commented that they offer support and assistance on planning policies and especially neighbourhood plans. Cllr Garwood stated that a review will need to be done on previous planning applications and decisions to establish the degree to which they had followed the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Oldnall stated that this should take place after the meeting with Ricardo Rios which had yet to be arranged. Cllr Garwood noted that according to his review so far, there may need to be some medium change reviews, some policies will need to be reconsidered to reflect the effects of things which have changed such as Covid and technology.</p>	MO and DG
ITEM 10 – ONGOING PROJECTS		
9/24	<p>a) Access to the Paddock Cllr Jenkins noted that Ms Bendall had approved the draft Heads of Terms for the licence; OCC legal will now draft the licence.</p> <p>b) Support for Uffington Shop Cllr Jenkins reported that the external light is still awaiting installation. He had chased Simon Newman but has had no response. Cllr Oldnall suggested requesting that the external light could be installed by the electrician who will be checking the defibrillators. Cllr Garwood to speak to the electrician on 21st January. Cllr Oldnall to notify Simon Newman that if there is no progress, another person could be requested to complete the work.</p>	MO SJ DG MO
ITEM 11 – FINANCIAL MATTERS		
10/24	<p>a) To approve December payments December payments were approved. Proposed Cllr Jenkins Seconded Cllr Charles. Cllr Oldnall to authorise the bank payments. Clerk to send out invoices for the Courier.</p> <p>b) Budget No Change from the previous draft. The RFO has submitted the precept to the Vale. Cllr Oldnall noted an increased quote for the Sports Club mowing contract by £100 and would amend the budget to accommodate this.</p>	MO SA SA MO

ITEM 13 - OSR UPDATE		
11/24	<p>OSR Update</p> <p>a) Electrical inspection 24th January 2024. b) Museum Trust meeting 29th January 2024.</p>	
ITEM 12 – JUBILEE FIELD TRUST		
12/24	<p>a) Children’s play area Cllr Oberman had carried out the monthly inspection on 8/1/2024 – there were no problems.</p> <p>b) There were no applications to use the field.</p> <p>c) Dates for Field tidy – Agreed date 23rd March which coincides with the Keep Britain tidy week. Cllr Oberman will be on leave and a substitute organiser will be required on 23rd March.</p> <p>d) Litter pick 13/14th April. The equipment had been ordered.</p> <p>e) New play Equipment. There was concern that the planning decision date may delay the process and require further funding if there is a delay receiving the S106 money. The waterlogged ground may also delay the construction. Cllr Oberman will write to Kompan with regards to keeping them informed of progress. Cllr Oldnall to draft a note for the weekly email informing villagers of the submitted application (and the information on the poplars – see 14/24 below).</p>	SA FO MO
ITEM 13 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS		
13/24	<p>Grievance Policy</p> <p>a) Cllr Jenkins discussed the NALC policy. It was agreed to adopt the NALC policy with minimal changes and discard the Dignity at Work policy. Cllr Oldnall to recirculate with suggested minimal amendments.</p>	MO
ITEM 14 – VILLAGE UPKEEP		
14/24	<p>a) Poplars Cllr Jenkins announced that the poplars will be removed 29th/30th January 2024. Cllr Foxhall noted one objection to remove the trees and will respond with rationale to the complainant. It was agreed that some chippings should be left for path maintenance.</p> <p>b) Flooding. Cllr Jenkins noted that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increased water flow strength had moved the allotment footbridge 18 inches downstream. <i>Afternote: moved back (but not raised) by OCC on 13 January 2024</i> ii. He had replied to a resident who had suggested that the pond should be increased in size to reduce flooding, stating that this would not affect the overall flow of water down the High Street to Shotover Corner once the pond was full (as is normal) and that a larger, deeper pond might also be more dangerous. iii. He had completed his flooding report and thanked Mr Coxhead for his support in drafting the report. He explained that Government guidance required landowners to allow water to flow and to remove any obstacles which reduce flow. iv. The flooding report should be endorsed by the Council and sent to the 3 landowners of the sections of the stream identified in the report. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, seconded Cllr Foxhall. Cllr Jenkins to forward the approved document to the Clerk for distribution. v. Cllr Foxhall noted that the importance of getting water out of the village was paramount. <p>Cllr Jenkins was thanked for his timely work on this item.</p> <p>Cllr Foxhall wondered whether the Parish Council could invest money into supporting homes which flood easily. Grants had been made in 2007 to provide support flooded householders and a resident had noted that another local village had been able to get a grant to provide assistance for flood relief. Cllr Foxhall noted that there was a new initiative to provide support to flooded householders in future and would forward details when available. Use of the OCC flood toolkit was discussed. Cllr Foxhall was working for the Vale Nature working group to discuss flooding resilience. It was suggested that the Vale Climate Action Fund may also be a suitable source of funding. Cllr Foxhall to provide updates as necessary.</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins noted that the risk of flooding should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Oldnall suggested that it should also go into the Emergency Plan and risk</p>	SJ SJ/SA SA KF

	<p>register. <i>Afternote: The Emergency Plan review is due in February.</i></p> <p>Cllr Jenkins had enquired where some pollution was coming from as villagers had reported smells and sent a photo of 'froth' on the pond as well as effluent around certain manholes. Cllr Jenkins to send photos to the Clerk to send to the Environment Agency and Thames Water and request testing. Further discussion took place about the discharges from the sewage works.</p> <p>Cllr Oldnall concluded that it is necessary to check on other affected villagers with regards to flooding before finalising the actions to be taken.</p> <p>C) War memorial repair. There was damage to the war memorial caused by the recent high winds. The clerk is liaising with the insurance company regarding damage and was awaiting a response. Cllr Jenkins noted that there will be a need for professional advice. Clerk to chase.</p> <p>d) Litter pick - 13/14th April 2024. Clerk has ordered kit and waiting confirmation.</p> <p>e) Village Maintenance Contract Cllr Jenkins stated that Jason Woodage had provided a quote for the mowing work between the plots and the provision of water at the allotments. Cllr Jenkins stated that he would email the Clerk to include Jason in the list of those expressing an interest in the maintenance contract. He noted that there were several other possible bidders. Mr Godsell had postponed a meeting with volunteers until he returns from holiday in February. Cllr Jenkins discussed the quotes so far. Cllr Oldnall agreed to produce an Invitation to Tender to detail the work required and inviting applications. Cllr Charles suggested that jobs/duration should be defined clearly so that comparable quotes could be made. Cllr Charles also suggested individuals who could undertake specific tasks and it was agreed that a local contractor would be preferable, subject to value-for-money. Cllr Foxhall strongly advised that a sustainable solution to provide a suitable water supply should be considered.</p>	<p>SJ/SA</p> <p>SJ/MO</p> <p>SA</p> <p>MO</p>
ITEM 15 - ALLOTMENTS		
15/24	None	NP
ITEM 16 – General		
16/24	<p>a) The Courier. Thanks were extended to Giles Dawson and James Whishaw for the timely production and circulation of the Courier over the holiday period.</p> <p>b) Councillors' forum. Cllr Oldnall asked for volunteer councillors interested in attending. Cllr Oldnall to circulate dates.</p>	MO
ITEM 17 – CORRESPONDENCE		
17/24	<p>a) Oxfordshire Councils Charter. Councillors were asked to respond personally if interested in this scheme.</p> <p>b) OCC lane rental schemes. Councillors were asked to respond personally if interested in this scheme.</p>	All
ITEM 18 – MATTERS FOR THE FEBRUARY AGENDA		
18/24	<p>a) Policy Reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Grievance Policy ii. Standing Orders iii. Finance Regulations iv. Emergency Plan 	SA
ITEM 19 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
19/24	<p>The next meeting will be held on 12TH February 2024, in the Old School Room at 6. 30 pm</p> <p>Cllr Charles sent his apologies for the next meeting.</p>	

The meeting closed at 20.37.