

## Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Mike Oldnall, Cllr Graham Banks, Cllr Karen Pilcher, Cllr Fenella Oberman  
Clerk/Finance Officer: Julia Evans

District Councillor: Cllr Robert Sharp

County Councillor:

Members of the Public: Denis Alston and clients, Geoff Rumble, Paul Coad, Sue Jennings, John Hatcher, John Gregson, Fred Challis

182/16	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> Cllr Constance sent her apologies.	Action
183/16	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b> None.	
184/16	<b>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016</b> Cllr Pilcher proposed acceptance of the minutes of the Monthly and Closed Session meetings held on Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2016. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed.	
185/16	<b>REMAINING BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:</b> <b>Bus Service/Community Bus:</b> In an email sent to Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Constance asked for thanks to be given to John Hatcher for his assistance regarding the UBW minibus. Cllr Constance also confirmed that OAP bus passes would not be eligible for the OCC dial-a-ride service. Mr Hatcher reported that the UBW minibus team had canvassed households to understand the needs of villagers following the cessation of the 67 bus service. He noted that only 12 responses were received out of 400. He reported that there is a possibility of an additional run to Wantage on Wednesdays and they may consider taking the bus on to Abingdon with a stop at Millets. Mr Hatcher is in discussion with other villages. Cllr Jenkins asked whether there is likely to be any interest in the proposed OCC dial-a-ride service. All councillors felt that there would not. Cllr Jenkins to respond to Mike Alderson with this information. Cllr Sharp reported that Stanford in the Vale's minibus will cease shortly due to the introduction of the new 67 service from Faringdon to Wantage.	SJ
186/16	<b>COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:</b> Cllr Constance's email to Cllr Jenkins is discussed in minute 185/16 above.	
187/16	<b>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:</b> Cllr Sharp reported that the training being held across the Vale at the end of July will explain how the changes to the planning system will work. He also reported that Abingdon Leisure Centre is closed for maintenance, but the open air pool is open. There are plans to replace this pool in the future. The District Council is awaiting a report from Price Waterhouse Cooper on devolution, and currently favours the 'three unitary' option. Cllr Jenkins asked whether residents will be able to comment on the proposals. Cllr Sharp confirmed that there would be a public consultation. When asked how the final decision would be made, Cllr Sharp stated that it will be made by Parliament. Cllr Sharp reported that there had been an increase of over 5% in new businesses starting up across the county. He also noted that from 1 <sup>st</sup> August some back room services at the Vale will be outsourced and shared with other District Councils, which will result in financial savings. Cllr Sharp was thanked for attending.	
188/16	<b>POLICE REPORT:</b> This was not available.	
189/16	<b>OPEN FORUM:</b> Mrs Jennings reported on her proposal to organise games on the Jubilee Field during	

	<p>the summer holidays for younger children. They will take place on August 3, 10 and 17, at 10.30 am on the Jubilee Field. . Mrs Jennings asked for volunteers to help. Cllr Jenkins confirmed that there were no insurance implications for this activity, which would be covered by the Parish Council’s insurance policy. Mrs Jennings was thanked for attending.</p> <p>Mr Challis reported on his concerns about the sewerage system. He had previously sent an email to Cllr Jenkins. All the sewerage from White Horse and Jack’s Lea goes into a manhole on his property before entering the main sewerage system. When built this manhole was intended to accommodate 10 houses, but now serves 32 on White Horse and, in the future, 36 from Jack’s Lea. During emergency situations the relevant authorities always comment on the fact that the flow is too slow. Mr Challis noted that roots have now grown inside the clay pipes. Thames Water have removed some of them, but suggested that a camera was required to investigate properly. However, once the emergency situation was resolved the promised investigation was not pursued. Cllr Banks expressed concern over the reported slow flow. Cllr Jenkins pointed out that all blockages should be reported and noted that in 2014 Thames Water recommended improvements to the system. However, they changed their minds in 2015. Cllr Jenkins agreed to go back to Thames Water about this situation and to copy Cllr Sharp into the correspondence. Cllr Jenkins also agreed to send out a village email asking people not to flush wet wipes and other non-flushable products; an entry had been placed in the Summer edition of the Courier. Mr Challis was thanked for attending.</p> <p>Mr Alston, architect for the Craven Yard planning application presented details to the Parish Council. The site has planning consent for a 3 bedroom house and the application is for an extension to this. The ridge height of the extension will be lower than the main house. Drainage will be via a biodisc system. There is allocated parking space and an oak framed car port. The site has been cleared and the planning officer will be visiting the site later this week. Mr Alston reported that the front hedge, which has been removed, will be reinstated. The old septic tank will be removed. He also noted that a landscape plan will be produced. Mr Alston stated that the Design and Access statement will be revised to show the new location for the sewerage system at the front of the property, and also to reflect that the proposed solar panels will not be installed. The paperwork will be changed following the meeting with the planning officer. In response to a question regarding fire risk due to the proximity of the chimney to the thatched roof of the adjacent property, Mr Alston stated that such a risk did not exist. Mr Alston was thanked for attending.</p>	SJ
	<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>	
190/16	<p><b>Parish Council assets and Land Registry:</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that the conveyances for the museum were still with Crowdy and Rose.</p> <p>He raised the question of a small parcel of land belonging to the Parish Council at the rear of 22 Craven Common. Mr Foster, the owner of 22 Craven Common, would like to purchase this land. Cllr Jenkins has obtained confirmation of the Parish Council’s title to the land and could see no reason for the Parish Council to retain it. It was agreed that Mr Foster should pay all costs relating to the transfer of title. Cllr Pilcher proposed agreeing to the transfer. Cllr Banks seconded. RESOLVED. Cllr Jenkins to discuss with Mr Foster.</p>	SJ
191/16	<p><b>Station Road development:</b> It was noted that a few houses on the development have now been occupied. Nothing further to report.</p>	
192/16	<p><b>Proposed Housing Development opposite Jack’s Lea:</b> It is hoped that details of the proposal can be displayed at the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Nothing else to report.</p>	
193/16	<p><b>Community Led Plan update:</b> Cllr Pilcher reported that she had spoken to the shop about toilet facilities. The tenant has agreed to speak to the shop in Ashbury to determine the cost of opening the facilities. It has been agreed that the facility would</p>	

	not be advertised, but would be made available to those in need..	
194/16	<b>Creation of a Neighbourhood Plan - update:</b> A public consultation event is scheduled for 14 <sup>th</sup> July. Nothing further to report.	
195/16	<b>Development of an Emergency Plan:</b> This is ongoing.	
196/16	<b>Museum Update:</b> Cllr Jenkins has obtained 3 quotes for an insurance valuation of the Old School building: £600, £350 and £200. Cllr Banks proposed accepting the Page Robson quote of £200. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED. Cllr Jenkins to arrange the valuation for 26 <sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Pilcher reported that a review of the museum structure had been carried out and had identified duplication especially in Finance and Insurance. Proposals for a restructure have been circulated. There was discussion on who should appoint the curator and on the role of the Friends of the Museum following which it was agreed that paragraph 6 of the proposal should be reviewed. Cllr Pilcher reported that she has started obtaining quotes for the building repairs. Cllr Jenkins agreed to forward contact details for John Cole. She has also started work on the Listed Building application which will be necessary to complete the repairs.	SJ  KP  KP
	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>	
197/16	<b>New Applications to be considered:</b> <b>P16/V1433/FUL</b> – Two storey rear extension to previously approved permission for one dwelling at Craven Yard. Following discussion the meeting agreed to respond with No Objection, but to include requests for changes to the documentation as discussed in minute 189/16 above. Cllr Jenkins to develop a response.	SJ
198/16	<b>Changes to planning scheme of delegation:</b> The Clerk and some councillors have been booked onto a training session being held on 28 <sup>th</sup> July in Wantage. Cllr Sharp discussed this matter in minute reference 187/16 above.	
199/16	<b>S106 CONTRIBUTIONS:</b> <b>MUGA:</b> Two quotes have been received – from Playdale and Wicksteed . The Wicksteed quote has been used in the application for these funds. The application has been submitted. There will still be a funding shortfall and the Parish Council will need to look elsewhere for this. Cllr Jenkins to contact Wicksteed for a quote for a smaller second unit, rather than two of the same size. Playdale have also provided a quote for the removal of some of the low level equipment in the playground and its replacement with a jungle climber and gravity bowl. <b>Public Art:</b> The meeting scheduled for 28 <sup>th</sup> July at 3pm has been postponed to 25 August. The venue has been changed. Clerk to inform Abigail Brown. <b>Allotment Bridge:</b> Cllr Jenkins has discussed the matter with Mr Avenell who has confirmed that a track is not required. This will reduce the cost of the bridge to just under £30k. Plans will now need to be drawn up and builder's quotes obtained. <b>Tree Planting:</b> Cllr Pilcher suggested that the Uffington Volunteers could produce a proposal for this. Mr Rumble agreed to look into it. On the question of a Christmas tree, it was confirmed that these funds could not be used to fund an annual tree. Cllr Pilcher to go back with this information. <b>Footpaths:</b> Cllr Jenkins to speak with Mr Cavanagh on this. <b>Speeding:</b> The speed monitors have been booked. <b>Village Hall:</b> Cllr Jenkins to remind the Village Hall Committee to put forward a proposal. <b>Museum:</b> The Curator is preparing a proposal for this. It was noted that the spreadsheet needs to be updated with costs.	SJ  Clerk  SJ  Mr Rumble  KP  SJ  SJ  KP Clerk
	<b>FINANCE</b>	
200/16	<b>To approve June payments and sign cheques:</b> A full list of payments is attached to these minutes. A query was raised on the BGG invoice which showed an incorrect amount for the urban cut. Payment of this invoice	

	was not approved. Clerk to query with BGG. Cllrs Oberman and Pilcher proposed and seconded approval of payments totalling £610. RESOLVED. The cheques were signed, with the exception of the BGG cheque.	Clerk
201/16	<b>Q1 Finance Report:</b> It was reported that the review of the Q1 accounts is underway and will be presented at the August meeting. A report of performance against budget was given which highlighted a slight overspend.	
202/16	<b>Review of VAT Registration:</b> It was reported that a response on the VAT threshold for Local Authorities was awaited from Mr de Wilton. Cllr Jenkins to chase.	SJ
203/16	<b>Oxfordshire Together</b> A new contract was presented to include two rural cuts. The meeting agreed to sign the new contract. It was reported that BGG need 1-2 weeks' notice in order to schedule the next cut.	Clerk
	<b>ANNUAL/QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>	
204/16	<b>Annual Review of Fixed Assets Register:</b> A meeting has been scheduled for 12 <sup>th</sup> July to review the register. <b>Annual Asset inspection:</b> Cllr Jenkins to ask John Cole to schedule this.	SJ
205/16	<b>Review of Contracts and Leases:</b> The updated schedule has been agreed. It was suggested that this should be divided into 'in' and 'out'. Clerk to update and recirculate. It was agreed that the register should be available for public inspection on request and should not be held on the website.	Clerk
206/16	<b>UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b> It was reported that the stream is now running again, but the stream near the weir needs a lot of work – this ditch needs digging out. Cllr Jenkins to discuss with Mr Salmon. Cllr Jenkins reported that he had identified some contractors who may be able to dredge the pond. They are Malcolm Hinton, Andy from Shellingford and Dawson & Marsh, who carried out the work last time. Cllr Jenkins will ask for quotes. Cllrs Jenkins and Banks to meet to discuss the scope of the work required.	SJ  SJ/GB
	<b>GENERAL</b>	
207/16	<b>Monthly Play Area inspections:</b> Cllr Oberman presented the latest inspection report. It was reported that the wooden agility trail is breaking off at one end. She suggests having the broken piece removed. Cllr Oberman agreed to investigate.	FO
208/16	<b>Report from OCC Unitary workshop:</b> This was not available.	
209/16	<b>Website:</b> It was noted that all outstanding updates have now been done.	
210/16	<b>Casual Vacancy:</b> Mr Coad has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Cllr Jenkins to speak with him.	SJ
	<b>CONSULTATIONS</b>	
211/16	None.	
	<b>CORRESPONDENCE/AOB</b>	
212/16	Cllr Banks thanked Helen Godsell for painting the play equipment. It was reported that BIFFA are to start emptying the waste bins in the play area. It was noted that reports to the council should not exceed the length of time stated in the Standing Orders, which is 5 minutes per person.	
213/16	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b> The next meeting will be Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2016 at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.	

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm