

Minutes of the meeting of UFFINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Tom Browns School Museum at 7.30pm on Monday 21st January 2008.

- 1. Present:** Cllrs. Mr. G Banks Chairman, Mrs. S Smith, Mrs. H Godsell, Mrs. K Pilcher & Mrs. B Jones - Assistant Clerk.

4 members of the public attended.

Apologies: Cllr. Mr. J Helsby & Mrs. C Shanly - Clerk.

The Cllrs. welcomed Brona Jones as the assistant clerk.

- 2.** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th November 2007 were proposed by Cllr Mr. G Banks, seconded by Cllr Mrs. H Godsell & signed off by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising:

Footpath to St. Mary's Church – Cllr Mr. G Banks confirmed all monies are coming from donations, so that the Parish Council can pay the invoice. The gates have been rehung, but Cllr. Mrs. S Smith commented that the gates to the burial ground were not in alignment. Mrs. F Forster agreed and said the reason for this, is that the tarmac had altered the position of the gates.

4. Planning:

- a) Shotover Corner Cottage – tree pruning permitted.
- b) Moor Hill Farm – alteration to verandah permitted.
- c) Moor Hill Farm – alteration to bathroom permitted.
- d) Dragon Hill Road – the Chairman forwarded the Parish Council's objections.
- e) Oxlease Farm – Cllr Mr. G Banks raised to the Planning Office concern over the proposal for 36 stables. Noting that the extra traffic caused by horse owners and riders could be a problem on the narrow section of Clay Pit Lane leading into Uffington.
- f) The Crest, Sower Hill – proposal for mobile home 'granny annex' – no objections raised.
- g) South View Farm – proposal to demolish 6 buildings & build a new house – no objections raised.
- h) Waylands, Shotover – erection of a new dwelling was REFUSED.
- i) Station Road – erection of 5 dwellings, for affordable housing were permitted.

5. Finance:

- Litter picking up to Christmas £85 – paid.
- VWHDC Dog Bins £46.21 – to pay.

Precept for 2008/9

- The Precept is currently £10,105.
- It was proposed to increase the Precept to cover increase in insurance and audit costs and general inflation – agreed to increase by 5% (£600).
- The Parish Council has received an offer of £5,000 from WHS specifically towards flood relief.
- It was proposed by Cllr Mrs. H Godsell that Precept should increase to £12,600 for 2008/9. This would include £2,000 for the new equipment. (Discussed under item 6.) It was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. K Pilcher. This represents £6 p.a. Band D equivalent.

6. Jubilee Field

- Hedges, ditches and grass cutting have been done.
- Pond area needs to be strimmed. Cllr Mr. G Banks will make some contacts. The area round the pond needs to be cleared of lots of fallen branches. Cllr. Mrs. H Godsell proposed a tidy up Sat. 26th Jan. at 10am agreed Cllr. Mr. G Banks.
- We are waiting the promised funding for the new equipment from Sovereign Housing. Even with the promised donation we will still have a shortfall. Cllr Mrs. H Godsell proposed that we should increase the Precept by £2,000 to cover the shortfall cost of the equipment. Cllr. Mrs. K Pilcher agreed.

7. Upkeep

- Cllr Mr. G Banks pointed out to Oxfordshire Gateway Reporting System that a Way marking post that had been erected in Upper Common Lane had no finger pointing towards the path. They fixed this.
- Cllr Mr. G Banks reported a leak to Thames Water outside the Vicarage – this too was fixed.
- Ditches and culverts in the village still need to be kept clear. Cllr Mr. G Banks has produced a list of ditches & culverts that need attention. Proposed to contact ditch owners to clear their part of ditch that they are responsible for. With a notice put up in the shop too. Contact farms and the Vale Gateway to do their part. The last resort is, if the householders don't do anything about clearing their ditches, the District Council has the power to get the work done then reclaim the cost.

8. Correspondence

- There is a meeting on 14th February about Post Offices affected by closure or reduced hours. The list of the Post offices affected will not be published until 5th February.
- Mark Leahy has a diseased cherry tree – it was agreed it could be cut down.

9. Date of next meeting: Monday 25th February 2008 at 7.30pm.