

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm  
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr Simon Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Karen Pilcher, Cllr Mike Oldnall, Cllr Paul Coad, Cllr Fenella Oberman, Cllr Graham Banks

District Councillor: Cllr Robert Sharp

County Councillor:

In attendance: Julia Evans (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the Public: Mr Rumble, Mr Coxhead, Mr and Mrs Holborrow

299/17	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> County Councillor Yvonne Constance sent her apologies.	Action
300/17	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b> Cllr Pilcher and Cllr Oberman declared an interest in agenda item 10a (ii).	
301/17	<b>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017</b> Cllr Pilcher proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2017. Cllr Coad seconded. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed.	
302/17	<b>REMAINING BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:</b> <b>276/17 (247/17 - 22/17 - 217/17) Dog Waste Bin on Jacksmeadow</b> - Cllr Sharp agreed to investigate the situation regarding the adoption of the estate by OCC Highways. No progress. <b>276/17 (247/17 - 192/17 - 164/17) Sign for Children's Play Area</b> – The sign has been delivered and is awaiting installation. <b>276/17 (247/17 - 192/17 - 176/17) Consideration of advertising charges</b> – Cllr Oldnall has received a number of enquiries for adverts on the website. The current policy does not cover web advertising only. It was agreed that website only adverts would be permitted, for which the cost would be £10 per annum , and a link to an external commercial website from the advert would be acceptable, at the discretion of the Council. . Cllr Banks queried the cost of a half page advert in The Courier. It was agreed that this should increase to £40. <b>276/17 (271/17) – Village Trail opening</b> – Cllr Pilcher reported that the opening on 18 <sup>th</sup> October was very well attended. The Wantage Herald attended and reported on the event. Two posts are still to be installed. It was suggested that a smaller version of the map should be installed in the telephone kiosk. This will cost £275 + delivery. Perspex boxes will also be required to hold the trail leaflets. These cost £20. There is some money left in the Community Art fund, and Cllr Pilcher is liaising with Abigail Brown. It was reported that the leaflets are being well used. Cllr Oberman reported that it is getting muddy in front of the information board and suggested laying some slabs.. Cllr Pilcher asked Mr Coxhead if there was a suitable location for the Garrards Farm post. Mr Coxhead agreed to look into this. Cllr Pilcher to liaise with him.	RS  SJ  CLOSED    KP
303/17	<b>COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT</b> Cllr Constance sent a written report: a) resurfacing of Craven Common has been completed. Some concerns about the standard of the work have been referred to officers who will check that it has been done to specification. Cllr Constance has asked for a report back. b) on 29th November there will be a meeting of villages along B4507 to consider an agreed position in order to press County for a lower speed limit on B4507. Cllr Constance hopes that all villages will be represented. c) Cllr Constance has met with the Countryside Access Forum to start work on a restatement of policy on BOATs ( by-ways open to all traffic) to protect the interests of non- mechanised users - horse riders and walkers - who complain that mechanised	

	<p>traffic makes the tracks unsafe and unusable. These tracks must be available for use by all users.</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins asked Councillors for their view on the B4507 speed limit. The consensus was that an overt lower speed limit would encourage more over-taking and thereby increase the risk of accidents. It was felt that it was better to leave the speed limit as it is. No one was available to attend the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Jenkins to inform Cllr Constance. Cllr Jenkins to inform Dave Cavanagh about the BOATs.</p>	SJ
304/17	<p><b>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT</b></p> <p>Cllr Sharp reported that the LPP2 consultation was open until 22<sup>nd</sup> November. He reported on the Town and Parish Forum event, which he believed was useful. Cllr Jenkins agreed. The presentation slides will be available on the Vale website. The topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Flooding and how to prepare for it</li> <li>b) LPP2</li> <li>c) Didcot Garden Town and where the funds will come from</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Sharp noted that OCC have bid for £250m for infrastructure. Another bid has gone in for £10m for the Wantage eastern relief road.</p> <p>He observed that questions over the Dragon Hill site would need to wait until the Reserved Matters application had been received.</p> <p>Cllr Sharp was thanked for attending.</p>	
305/17	<p><b>POLICE REPORT</b></p> <p>Report not available.</p>	
306/17	<p><b>OPEN FORUM</b></p> <p>Mr and Mrs Holborrow presented their plans to redevelop the site of the Old Post Office. They noted that as it will be a self-build it will be exempt from CIL. The site is brownfield and uncontaminated. There will be a change of use. Account has been taken of a tree very close to the site; the tree is owned by neighbours and is subject to a TPO. A tree survey has been carried out; there is a root protection area and the architect is working around this. There will be two small windows facing Norton House.</p> <p>Mr and Mrs Holborrow were thanked for attending.</p> <p>Mr Coxhead raised concerns about the Neighbourhood Plan handling of Green Spaces. He wanted to know who owned The Green; he feels that it is Common Land. His view was the people did not want it to be designated Green Space. He requested that the Parish Council establish who legally owned the land. Cllr Banks noted that previous owners of The Cottage on The Green registered the land as Common Land. Cllr Jenkins agreed to try and establish who owns the title. There was a discussion on the letter sent out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group regarding Green Space. Mr Coxhead felt it would have been better if people had been approached personally rather than by letter, but it was explained that the NP SG had decided that as the information to be passed over was complex, it was better that all recipients should receive a uniform, consistent, letter, which invited recipients to discuss the proposal with the NP SG.</p> <p>Mr Coxhead was thanked for attending.</p>	SJ
	<p><b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b></p>	
307/17	<p><b>PARISH COUNCIL ASSETS AND LAND REGISTRY</b></p> <p>Awaiting a response from Land Registry.</p>	
308/17	<p><b>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OFF FERNHAM ROAD</b></p> <p>Awaiting information from the developers.</p>	
309/17	<p><b>COMMUNITY LED PLAN UPDATE</b></p> <p>There is only one outstanding point. Cllr Jenkins to speak to Anne Richardson regarding support for the elderly. Cllr Pilcher to raise it with Anne Smith at the Afternoon Club.</p>	SJ/KP
310/17	<p><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE</b></p> <p>A letter has been sent out regarding Green Space. An open meeting for all residents of the Plan Area is to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The Landscape Capacity Assessment is</p>	

	available on the website. Two Parish Council sites have been suggested for designation as green spaces – the Jubilee Field and the Allotment Gardens. Both sites are already protected. Cllr Banks questioned whether the designations would conflict and whether it is possible to have more than one designation on a piece of land. Cllr Jenkins to check the hierarchy of designation with the planning team. Cllr Oldnall pointed out that recreation grounds and allotments have been designated as green spaces all over the country.	SJ
311/17	<b>TBSM UPDATE</b> A paper was circulated regarding the 1989 trust deed. Cllr Jenkins requested volunteers to review the document. Cllrs Pilcher, Coad and Banks agreed. Cllr Jenkins to arrange a meeting. It may be possible to draw up a deed of amendment without using a Solicitor. The squirrel has been removed from the Old Schoolroom. Cllr Pilcher reported that she had reviewed the forward plan. The Parish Council needs to regularly review the building action plan after each UMT meeting. Cllr Pilcher to circulate the action plan. The five year electrical installation review is due in March 2018. Cllr Pilcher is asking Mr Newman to look into this. To be included in the 2018 budget.	SJ  KP
312/17	<b>OLD SCHOOL ROOM UPDATE</b> A paper on the fund raising strategy was circulated. The meeting approved the document. So far £4350 has been raised. An enquiry has been submitted as to whether the Parish Council is eligible to apply for a grant from the Heritage Lottery fund. Cllr Jenkins asked whether fund raising events should be considered. Cllr Pilcher was concerned about volunteers to run the events and that they might not raise enough money in relation to the effort involved. It was agreed to reconsider the suggestion once the outcome of the grant applications was known. Cllr Jenkins to give some thought to a bridge event. Cllr Jenkins to write a letter of thanks to all benefactors. Clerk to send details.	SJ  SJ/Clerk
313/17	<b>S106 CONTRIBUTIONS – STATION ROAD DEVELOPMENT</b> The second half of the playground payment is due. A deposit is due for the new slide. The Capital Grants scheme conditions are such that work cannot start on the new slide until 22 <sup>nd</sup> January. It was questioned whether paying a deposit constituted starting work. Cllr Pilcher suggested waiting to hear from WHST before paying the deposit. This was agreed. Cllr Jenkins to speak to the Grants officer at VOWHDC (Carole Cumming). Clerk to check with Ross Heyburn regarding the tennis club funds. Cllr Oberman reported that she is unhappy with the surface under the newly installed play equipment. Cllr Jenkins to discuss with Playdale. The new equipment has received good reports from local children.	SJ  Clerk SJ
	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>	
314/17	<b>New Applications to be considered:</b> P17/V2886/HH – Grounds Farm Bungalow, Fernham Road. Single storey side extension. Response due by 17 <sup>th</sup> November. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. P17/V2670/FUL – Former Post Office, Broad Street. Proposed new dwelling with access. Response due by 24 <sup>th</sup> November. The Parish Council had no objections to this application.	
315/17	<b>Update on outstanding planning applications</b> P17/V2625/HH – Field Cottage, Upper Common Lane. Erection of a greenhouse and a summerhouse. The Parish Council had no objection to this application. <b>Not yet determined.</b> P17/V2143/HH - West View Fernham Road. Single storey oak framed garden room extension to side following demolition of existing single storey extension. <b>Permission granted.</b>	
	<b>FINANCE</b>	

316/17	<p><b>To approve November payments and sign cheques:</b> A full list of payments is attached to these minutes. Cllrs Jenkins and Pilcher proposed and seconded approval of payments totalling £6700.88. RESOLVED. The cheques were signed. The Playdale cheque was not approved.</p>	
317/17	<p><b>Review of draft budget for 2018/19</b> Cllr Oldnall reported:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget has been based on last 3 years including the ½ year update discussed at the last meeting</li> <li>2. Some significant items need to be considered over next few years. Those that exceed ability to fund in one year will be put into ring-fenced ‘pots’ (EMR) until we have sufficient.</li> <li>3. S106 funds are excluded and are planned and monitored separately – although they pass through PC bank account</li> <li>4. Main expenditure changes as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Village maintenance – up from £7,000 to £11,000. Particularly routine tree surgery and looking ahead for the large poplars, and capital outlay for various purchases.</li> <li>o Old Schoolroom - £4,000 - £2,000 precept + £2,000 UMT (TBC)</li> <li>o Note: there is a possibility that the Neighbourhood Plan will run out of funding due to extended project timeframe. An application has been made to the WHST but may not be sufficient. No grant is shown for this – if a grant application is to be made this will be known by the December PC meeting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Main income changes arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A potential £2,000 from UMT which was raised at last UMT meeting. To be requested again at next meeting</li> <li>o OCC continues at current rate (was agreed for 3 years)</li> <li>o Small anticipated income from Courier advertising</li> <li>o Precept increase needed to balance budget of £3,500 (17.5%). Noting that whilst this may seem high some of this will come from Jacksmeadow and remainder from genuine increase. This is above inflation (c 3%) and the precept is not yet capped but may be in future.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>It was noted that the £3,500 increase is largely due to putting money aside to deal with the poplars. Cllr Pilcher suggesting obtaining impartial advice on whether the trees did present a danger. It was suggested that Tim Stringer may be able to help. Cllr Jenkins to contact him. To be reviewed again in December.</p> <p>An entry to be included in the budget for Old School Room safety checks.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the 4 tonnes of chalk that had been purchased by Mr Cole for the Old School Room repairs. It was agreed to wait until the jobs have gone out to tender before deciding what to do about this.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>Clerk</p>
318/17	<p><b>Grant Applications</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Be Free YC – it was agreed to donate £25.</li> <li>b) UBW Minibus – it was agreed to wait until the December meeting.</li> <li>c) WIAC – it was agreed that the Parish Council cannot guarantee three years of funding.</li> </ol>	Clerk (agenda)
<b>ANNUAL/QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>		
319/17	<p><b>Jubilee Field Tidy</b> 16 people took part in the field tidy. The rubbish was burnt. The side of the field by the swings and Upper Common Lane were covered.</p>	
320/17	<p><b>Review of Culverts and Ditches</b> There has been no heavy rain to challenge the system. The stream is running freely. Thanks to all who keep it clear. Special thanks to Barry Godsell and others. Mr Coxhead will be clearing the ditches around his land.</p>	
321/17	<p><b>UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b></p>	

	Cllr Banks reported that it was noticeable that the hedges around the Jubilee Field had not been cut recently, but suggested leaving it until next year.	
	<b>GENERAL</b>	
322/17	<b>Monthly Play Area inspections</b> Cllr Oberman carried out the inspection on 13 <sup>th</sup> November and presented the report. The surface under the new equipment is a concern. See minute reference 313/17 above.	
323/17	<b>To consider revised Grant policy</b> Section 14a has been changed. Clerk to check with OALC regarding the wording for VAT. The policy was approved subject to OALC agreement.	Clerk
	<b>CONSULTATIONS</b>	
324/17	<b>Vale Local Plan Part 2 – Closes 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> There are no allocations in LPP2 for Uffington. The Parish Council had no comment to make.	CLOSED
	<b>CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR THE NOVEMBER AGENDA</b>	
325/17	<b>Letter regarding parking in Patrick's Orchard</b> The letter was discussed. The Parish Council is unable to take any action on this matter because there are no parking restrictions in the area. Clerk to write back to the resident who raised the issue. <b>Hall bookings</b> Clerk to book the hall for 2018.	Clerk  Clerk
326/17	<b>JUBILEE FIELD TRUSTEES REPORT</b> Cllr Banks want to close the charity. This may not be possible. The original trust deed will need to be reviewed in light of advice received.	
327/17	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b> The next meeting will be Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30pm in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.	

The meeting closed at 10.40 pm