

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council
Monday 8th July 2019 at 7.30 pm
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr Simon Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Graham Banks, Cllr Nigel Puddicombe, Cllr Fenella Oberman, Cllr Dale Pilchowski

Clerk/Finance Officer: Julia Evans

District Councillor: Cllr Nathan Boyd

County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance

Members of the Public: c38 members of the public; those who signed the attendance list are listed attached.

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| 152/19 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Mike Oldhall. | Action |
| 153/19 | DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS Cllr Puddicombe for agenda item 15a. | |
| 154/19 | MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 10th JUNE 2019 Cllr Puddicombe proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 th June; Cllr Banks seconded. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed. | |
| 155/19 | REMAINING BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING a) 131/19 (107/19 - 77/19 - 52/19 - 29/19 - 4/19 - 326/18 - 299/18) – Community Speedwatch. This matter was discussed at a recent NAG meeting. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner was still looking into it. Awaiting a response to the equipment that can be purchased. b) 131/19 (111/19) – White Horses Project. Support was sought for a North Wessex Downs AONB project involving all the White Horses, including Uffington. Ewa Prokop and Katrina Porteous had been put in contact with each other. | SJ Closed |
| 155/19 | COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT Cllr Constance's written report was circulated ahead of the meeting and would be filed with these minutes. The report was concerned with OCC's Climate Action programme. Cllr Constance was thanked for attending. | |
| 156/19 | DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT Cllr Boyd reported that everything was quiet at the Vale; the new administration was settling in. A climate change committee was to be established. The UB Neighbourhood Plan would go to Cabinet on 12 th July with a recommendation for adoption. The inspector has reported that LPP2 was sound. The new administration was looking at this plan in detail and it was unlikely to go forward for adoption before the Autumn. There was a 12 month window for adoption. The Road Traffic meeting on 4 th July had been postponed. Cllr Boyd was thanked for attending. | |
| 157/19 | POLICE REPORT No report. | |
| 158/19 | OPEN FORUM Mr Rumble apologised for the sound in the room. The Village Hall committee are looking to install an audio system in the future. Mr Reid-Rutherford asked whether the proposed allotment bridge was on private land and whether access would be restricted. Cllr Jenkins confirmed that the bridge was not for general use; there was a legal requirement on the Parish Council to install a bridge to permit vehicles to reach the private land beyond the allotments. All other residents were concerned with agenda item 15a. Before opening the discussion Cllr Jenkins reported that the matter was about legal issues and stated that anyone was able to make a comment before 15 th July. The flyer that had recently been circulated in the village was discussed. The work that the author does for the village was acknowledged, however the flyer contained inaccuracies. Cllr Jenkins reiterated that the matter was about legal issues, not emotions. Cllr Jenkins read out a statement from Mr Griffiths on behalf of the applicant's family. Cllr Constance then stated that the flyer was misleading and 'extraordinary'. Regarding the timing issue, as discussed in the flyer, the application to de-register was first attempted 40 years ago, but was not possible at the time. The current application was submitted to OCC in 2017, but there were currently a large number of similar applications at OCC that have yet to be processed. The timing of the application had nothing to do | |

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| | <p>with the Neighbourhood Plan. The intention of the application was to de-register the land as common land, now that the law makes this possible. She reminded the meeting that the applicant's father had sold the Jubilee Field to the village for a nominal £50. Cllr Constance urged that residents supply evidence of previous use of the land in question. She firmly stated that de-registration would simply clear the common land title from the land; it would not give permission for development.</p> <p>A resident questioned how the land came to be registered in the first place. Cllr Jenkins explained.</p> <p>Mr Gaulle stated that he had photographic evidence of the use of the land. Cllr Jenkins urged that he send it to OCC.</p> <p>Mr Godsell reported that he, Mr Henville and Mrs Monk had helped residents prepare their evidence, which had been sent to OCC. Others were in the pipeline and would be submitted before the deadline.</p> <p>Residents requested that the Parish Council support their objection to de-registration. The Parish Council was reminded of the situation regarding the village shop some years ago. Cllr Constance stated that the applicant's previous action <i>may</i> have been due to the law as it stood at the time. Supporting or objecting to the application would not make any difference at the moment: it was a matter of law and all about evidence.</p> <p>Mr Henville outlined the tests required to permit de-registration and confirmed that people would not be wasting their time if they submitted their evidence.</p> <p>A resident asked about the decision process. Cllr Constance agreed to find this out.</p> <p>Mrs Pilcher raised concerns about the comments made in the flyer about the Parish Council. She pointed out that the Parish Council had needed to carry out research and noted that this had all being going on in the background since the last meeting. Cllr Constance endorsed this.</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins asked the members of the public if anyone was in favour of deregistration. No one was.</p> <p>A resident stated that he wanted the land to be used by villagers. Cllr Jenkins reminded members of the public that the land was privately owned.</p> <p>Another resident raised concern about bias at OCC. Cllr Jenkins outlined the decision making options: OCC may decide, it may go to an external Planning Inspector, or it may go to a Public Enquiry.</p> <p>A resident accused Cllr Constance of bias; she swiftly and strongly addressed this inaccuracy.</p> <p>The Open Forum was closed at 8.50pm.</p> | YC |
| | ONGOING PROJECTS | |
| 159/19 | <p>Creation of a Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan was approved at the referendum held on 4th July. Uffington Parish Council and Baulking Parish Meeting were pleased with the result. Cllr Jenkins noted that the NPSG had worked hard on the project, and residents were thanked for their input. More information was available on the Vale and NP websites.</p> | |
| 160/19 | <p>Old Schoolroom Repairs</p> <p>A submission for the Oxford Preservation Trust 2019 awards was submitted, but no visit had been arranged. It can therefore be assumed that the submission was not successful. An update on the sarsen stones was carried forward.</p> | SJ |
| 161/19 | <p>S106 and CIL Contributions</p> <p>The Parish Council committed to providing a vehicle bridge at the allotments. Money has been reserved from S106 funds. The meeting agreed that plans for the bridge should now commence.</p> | SJ |
| 162/19 | <p>Communications Survey</p> <p>Carried forward to August.</p> | MO |
| | PLANNING MATTERS | |
| 163/19 | <p>New Applications to be considered</p> <p>None.</p> | |
| 164/19 | <p>Update on outstanding planning applications:</p> <p>a) P19/V1075/HH – Little Thatch, Chapel Lane. Alterations to access, driveway and front garden. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>b) Packers Forge, High St. Two storey rear extension, internal remodelling and removal of outbuilding and erection of three-bay garage. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>c) P18/V0003/O – Dragon Hill. The appeal against the application to build two bungalows was allowed.</p> <p>d) It was noted that the new house on Broad Street is to be called The Beeches.</p> | |
| | FINANCE | |

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| 165/19 | To approve July payments: It was agreed to include the invoice from THMH, which had been received that day, in the July payments. The payments were approved. Proposed: Cllr Oberman, Seconded: Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED. Cllr Jenkins to authorise the payments online. The accounting summary was signed. | SJ |
| 166/19 | Data backup Clerk to discuss with Cllr Oldnall. | c/f: Clerk/MO |
| 167/19 | THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST a) Monthly Play Area inspections: Cllr Oberman reported that the play area was OK. She was concerned about the 'Waitrose' bench and suggested that it be removed. Cllr Banks pointed out that the fixing was quite substantial. Cllr Pilchowski agreed to remove it. It was agreed to proceed with the work. Proposed: Cllr Oberman, Seconded: Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. The installation of a new gate is awaiting a quote. b) Poplar Trees: Cllr Jenkins to get in touch with Mike Harvey from Arbocare. | DP FO c/f SJ |
| 168/19 | ANNUAL/QUARTERLY REVIEWS a) Review of Burial Ground Policy. Carried forward to August. b) Review of Asset List. Carried forward to August. c) Review of Burial Ground Fees. A meeting is to be arranged between Cllrs Jenkins and Banks and the Clerk. d) Review of Advertising Policy. It was agreed that no changes were required. e) Review of Grant Application form. It was agreed that no changes were required. | c/f c/f SJ/GB/Clerk |
| 169/19 | UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES) a) Grass cutting. It was noted that BGG had been around the village that day. b) Litter Picking. An entry had been placed in The Courier about the young people who carried out litter picking in the village for their DoE award. A group in Bishopstone had asked if the Parish Council would be interested in a joint litter picking initiative. It was agreed to decline. | |
| | GENERAL | |
| 170/19 | Application to rectify Common Land Register at Pond House. a) Application to rectify the Common Land register at Pond House: Cllr Jenkins read out the preamble and the legal conditions which had to be satisfied for the application for de-registration to be successful. He had discovered from the minutes of Parish Council meetings at the time that Mr Spence was in regular attendance at Parish Council meetings in 1969 and 1970 in relation to this matter and the Parish Plan. It is recorded that he was aware of the registration of the land as common land but did not make an objection. From this, it is also clear that Pond House had been constructed in c1975 in the knowledge of the extent of the common land. The Parish Council had found no further documentary evidence of the use of the land since it had been recorded as The Town Green in 1785 and registration in 1972, but was aware that many older residents might have such evidence. It had to be assumed that as the land was in the ownership of the Craven Estate and known as the Town Green or The Green, all residents for a considerable period of time would have taken it to be Common Land. Research had also shown that the land fitted the definition of waste land of a manor. Cllr Jenkins stated that the Parish Council options were to say nothing or oppose deregistration. He then asked each member in turn for their comments. Four members present were in favour of opposition; one abstained due to a conflict of interest (see 152/19 above). It was noted that if the land remained registered as Common Land or was de-registered, it would remain privately owned. Cllr Jenkins was thanked for all the work he had carried out. Cllr Jenkins to circulate a draft response which would be submitted before 15 th July. b) Nomination of Trustees for Uffington Museum Trust. Cllrs Oberman, Jenkins, Banks and Oldnall were nominated. Cllr Puddicombe volunteered to stand if any of the other Councillors decided not to. | SJ |
| 171/19 | CONSULTATIONS None. | |
| | CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR THE AUGUST AGENDA | |
| 172/19 | Vale Community Awards: Nominations must be received by 9 th August. Cllr Jenkins to put an item in the next email newsletter. | SJ |
| 173/19 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be on Monday 12 th August 2019 at 7.30pm in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall. | |

The meeting closed at 21.40