

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council  
Monday 10 February 2020 at 7.30 pm  
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

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

Clerk/Finance Officer:

District Councillor: Cllr Nathan Boyd

County Councillor:

Members of the Public: 2 members of the public

		Action
28/20	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> County Cllr Yvonne Constance and Clerk/Finance Officer Julia Evans.	
29/20	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> None.	
30/20	<b>MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2020 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2020</b> Cllr Puddicombe proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January, Cllr Oldnall seconded. Cllr Pilchowski proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January, Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED. The minutes of both meetings were signed.	
31/20	<b>REMAINING BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b> a) <b>04/20 (280/19 - 252/19 - 226/19 - 201/19 - 177/19 - 155/19 - 131/19 - 107/19 - 77/19 - 52/19 - 29/19 - 4/19 - 226/18 - 299/18) – Community Speedwatch.</b> No progress. Cllr Jenkins reported the frustration expressed at the recent NAG meeting, at the continuing silence on this issue from Thames Valley Police. b) <b>04/20 – (280/19 - 252/19 - 226/19 - 201/19 - 194/19) – Consideration of a Winter Salt bin.</b> The bin had been installed at the end of January. c) <b>04/20 (280/19 - 272/19) – Improvements to Footpath 19.</b> The plan is to replace the stiles along sections of Footpaths 18, 19 and 27 with kissing gates, subject to grant funding being available. The landowners involved have given approval in principle; a meeting is awaited to discuss further details. d) <b>04/20 (288/19) – Printing welcome packs.</b> See under Minute 37/20 below.	CLOSED  SJ
32/20	<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b> No report was received.	
33/20	<b>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b> Cllr Boyd reported: a) The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee met on 28 January and discussed the Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Steering Group and the appointment of a Councillor to represent the Council, the Year One Work Programme, Forward Programme and Car Park Fees and Charges. The next meeting will be held on 30 March 2020. b) Cabinet Meeting – The February meeting was on Monday 3 February. There was a long agenda which included Affordable Housing & Oxfordshire Growth Deal, Neighbourhood Planning Funding, the budget 2020/21 and Capital Programme 2024/25 – details are on the Vale website. The Cabinet will make recommendations to the full Council which will meet on 12 and 19 February. The second meeting is necessary as Thames Valley Police are not meeting until 14 February to set their precept. Once received the Vale Council will be in a position to complete its budget and set Council Tax for the forthcoming year. c) Planning – The Vale has published an update on Planning Policy which is a useful document and all Town and Parish Councils will have received a copy. <b>(Afternote: A copy was requested).</b> d) Recycling – A number of waste enforcement events have been arranged during February and March. The nearest to Shrivenham will be held on 28 February between 1100hrs and 1300hrs at The Beacon in Wantage. e) The Vale Recycling Team are supporting the Sustainable Shrivenham event which will be held on Saturday 28 March 2020. f) Defence Academy – The Station Commander has arranged for the Local Liaison Group to meet on 17 March. It has been almost three years since this group last met.  <b>Planning.</b> Cllr Jenkins requested that the Decision Notices on planning applications should	

	include relevant UB NP policies, as is the case with Local Plan policies.  <b>Neighbourhood planning.</b> Cllr Boyd stated that the SODC Local Plan remained frozen, with the Secretary of State, but it could be handed to OCC for implementation. A review of a made NP becomes necessary if the Local Plan should fail. Cllr Oldnall stated that Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Association (ONPA) were hoping for meetings at senior level with Vale and other District Councils.  Whilst Cllr Boyd does not currently hold surgeries, if residents have any issues he can be contacted on 07568 707469 or <a href="mailto:nathan.boyd@whitehorsedc.gov.uk">nathan.boyd@whitehorsedc.gov.uk</a>	NB
34/20	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> The report had not yet been received.	
35/20	<b>OPEN FORUM</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that the landowner was considering installing two shepherd's hut type caravans for holiday lets, on land adjacent to Footpath 27; he had suggested a site meeting with Cllrs prior to the next monthly meeting.	SJ
	<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>	
36/20	<b>Old Schoolroom Update</b> a) <b>Sarsens</b> - No progress. Waiting for assistance. May need to seek an alternative to David Foster as he is now away on his annual long holiday. b) <b>Electrical Survey and Portable Appliance Testing</b> – Cllr Jenkins stated that he had not received a response from one of the electricians he had approached, and therefore Simon Newman had been requested to rectify the reported issues in the OSR. Expenditure of up to £100 was authorised without any further quotations being sought. Proposed: Cllr Oldnall, Seconded: Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED.	SJ
37/20	<b>S106 and CIL Contributions</b> a) <b>Allotment Bridge</b> – Cllr Jenkins had circulated an update (dated 5 Feb 20) ahead of the meeting. A meeting with the Environment Agency and representatives of OCC had been held on 10 February. The EA would send follow up comments, but made it clear that it would be hard to comply with their requirements for a new bridge, which would be complicated and costly. The OCC representatives pointed out that they would not need to be involved if the existing footbridge was retained but if the footbridge was incorporated into the vehicle bridge, maintenance, safety and insurance would become the responsibility of the council (or land owner). The stream is an awkward shape at that location and its profile must not be altered, so extensive engineering works would be required on both banks; they would not approve a piped culvert as this did not meet national regulations. Separately, the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education had advised that the request for an access through Uffington Primary School and the School playing field should be declined. Research into other options continues. b) <b>Request from the Uffington Community Garden to build a greenhouse.</b> Quotations in the name of the Parish Council had been received for all elements of this project. The net cost would be £1,982.01 (plus VAT of £396.40), of which it was anticipated that the White Horse Show Trust would donate £757.16 (to be confirmed). Confirmation was awaited from VOWHDC whether any form of permission was required. There was no change in the Parish Council's support for this project. c) <b>Request from the Village Hall for S106 funds to install a new AV system.</b> Mr Rumble stated that research into the project was continuing; he hoped that a quotation from the selected supplier would be available in March. d) <b>A seat near the shop for Community bus passengers.</b> Cllr Oberman reported that the quote for installation from D & G Forster amounted to £560. The price for a Glasdon Phoenix seat was £506.98 – total £1,067 (excluding VAT). There was no change in the Parish Council's support for this project. It was agreed that one quote for installation was sufficient, as D&G Forster is known to be very competitive on price, he has the necessary expertise having installed the other benches, and should be supported as a local trader. e) <b>Improvements to The Courier</b> – Cllr Pilchowski reported that he and Cllr Oberman had met to discuss how improvements could be made to the Courier, in conjunction with simplifying the Welcome Pack. They recommended, in outline, that newcomers to the village should receive a personally delivered copy of the latest Courier, with an abbreviated Welcome Pack insert. The latter would contain information on the Benefice Churches, local doctors / dentists etc, but advertising and information on most village activities would be moved into the Courier. The Parish Council endorsed the outline proposal and a detailed one would be presented to the next meeting.	SJ  SJ / Clerk  FO  DP/FO
	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>	



	that the membrane was re-usable. Proposed: Cllr Oldnall, Seconded: Cllr Banks. RESOLVED. f) <b>To consider the request for a grant from the South and Vale Citizens Advice Centre.</b> Clerk to advise further on this organisation and its relationship to Uffington residents if possible. Carried forward to next meeting.	Clerk (agenda)
41/20	<b>To consider the Parish Council Aims and Objectives for 2020/21.</b> A draft had been circulated prior to the meeting. After a short discussion, it was agreed that this item should be carried forward for approval at the next meeting. Any suggestions for changes or inclusion should be notified to the Chairman and Clerk.	Clerk (agenda) All
	<b>THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST</b>	
42/20	<b>Monthly play area inspections.</b> No problems were reported.	
43/20	<b>Report on poplars.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that quotations from two tree surgeons for pollarding as recommended in the ArboCare survey dated 24/10/2019 were still awaited. (The survey stated: <i>'Although not necessary, it may be prudent to reduce the trees by 3m, all around the crowns. This would reduce the weight of the limbs and mitigate the effects of wind on the crowns'</i> ). However, one of the tree surgeons had stated that this work would be nearly as expensive as his original quote for removing the trees, as the majority of the cost would lie in accessing the top of the trees and dealing with the power cables. It was agreed that this subject should be closed. The Parish Council had exercised in full its duties of care and diligence; the trees were not unsafe and any damage would be covered by the insurance policy; a review should be carried out every other year – next one in 2021/22.	CLOSED
	<b>ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>	
44/20	<b>Review of Information Security Policy.</b> Cllr Oldnall stated that the three issues raised at the last meeting had been addressed in the revised draft circulated on 9/2/2020. The draft was approved for finalisation and uploading to the website. Proposed: Cllr Pilchowski Seconded: Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED.	MO
	<b>UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b>	
45/20	a) <b>Pond dredging.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that Mr Hinton had stated that the work would be carried out in the week commencing 17 February. b) <b>Hedge.</b> The old bushes / brambles etc had been pulled out over two weeks ago and the site was ready for the new plants. Cllr Oberman agreed to coordinate the planting. c) <b>To consider participation in the Great British Spring Clean.</b> It was agreed not to participate. To take part would detract from the Jubilee Field Tidy on 21 March, and a candidate for the Duke of Edinburgh award was still engaged in clearing litter from verges and ditches throughout the parish. d) <b>Vale Deep Clean.</b> A query had been raised about the effectiveness of the deep clean arranged by the Vale for three days from 23/01/2020 to 27/01/2020 - litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds/moss on pavements. The Clerk was requested to seek a report from the Vale on what had actually been completed. e) <b>To appoint the grounds maintenance contractor for 2020.</b> It was agreed that Uffington Sports Club should be appointed as contractor for the mowing of the Jubilee Field and other Parish Council property for the 2020 season. Proposed: Cllr Oberman Seconded: Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED. A confirmatory letter was to be written. Additionally, the Parish Council contract with BGG Ltd for the mowing of urban and rural verges in the parish has to be confirmed.	FO  Clerk  Clerk
	<b>GENERAL</b>	
46/20	<b>Consultations</b> None	
47/20	<b>CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR THE MARCH AGENDA</b>	
	<b>The following to be included on the March agenda:</b> a) Parish Council Aims and Objectives for 2020/21. b) Report from the interim internal audit c) Request for a grant from the South and Vale Citizens Advice Centre	Clerk
48/20	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> The next meeting will be on Monday 11 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.	

The meeting closed at 21.45.