

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council
Monday 9th August 2021 at 6.30pm
In the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr Mike Oldnall (Chair), Cllr Simon Jenkins, Cllr Dale Pilchowski, Cllr Graham Banks, Cllr Nigel Puddicombe, Cllr Fenella Oberman
Clerk/Finance Officer: Julia Evans
County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance
District Councillor:
Members of the Public: Five members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
192/21	District Cllr Nathan Boyd.	
	ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
193/21	Cllr Puddicombe for agenda Item 7c	
	ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 2021	
194/21	Cllr Puddicombe proposed approval of the minutes of the Emergency Committee meeting held on Monday 12 th July. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed.	
	ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
195/21	<p>a) 170/21 (145/21) – Revisions to the Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Boyd was still trying to establish when the Parish Council should begin revising the Neighbourhood Plan. No progress.</p> <p>b) 172/21 – Notification of Traffic control measures and roadworks. Cllr Constance noted that utilities required a permit to carry out works on the highway, and therefore the Parish Council should have been notified. The only exception to this was emergency works. Cllr Constance to liaise with Cllr Boyd and confirm the permitting process, particularly with regard to works on verges.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>YC/NB</p>
	ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
196/21	<p>Cllr Constance had sent written reports which had been circulated. At the meeting she reported that:</p> <p>a) The waste and recycling centres were under review again. She noted that the lease on the Stanford site was due to expire. She felt that if closures were to be required, Stanford was the wrong venue to choose. Cllr Oldnall pointed out that the current waste collection issues made the waste and recycling centres vital for residents. She urged the Council and all residents to complete the questionnaire.</p> <p>b) Speedwatch had been resurrected and was due to be up and running by November. Funding was potentially available for the cameras, and she was keen to move the initiative forward. Cllr Jenkins asked whether everyone would be retrained. Cllr Constance thought this would be the case due to the new equipment. Cllr Jenkins to speak to Andi Cunningham. Cllrs Jenkins and Oldnall to liaise with Shrivenham Parish Council.</p> <p>c) The SID device and multiple poles in use in Uffington had become the model for the entire county.</p> <p>d) She continued to insist on communications between OCC and Swindon Borough Council, even though there was a dearth of information. She noted that Amazon was to move into Symmetry Park and an Environmental Assessment was to be carried out on the Honda site. She was concerned about the impact that additional development in Swindon would have on the A420.</p> <p>e) OCC was progressing the 20mph speed limit for villages. A progress report on this would not be available until September.</p> <p>Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.</p>	MO/SJ
	ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
197/21	Cllr Boyd sent a written report which had been circulated.	
	ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM	
198/21	a) White Horse Hill. Andy Foley gave an update on the National Trust’s activities at White Horse Hill. He reported that scouring of the Horse had been carried out and chalking was to take place on 23 rd August. Work on the ‘Shepherd’s Steps’ footpath was expected to be complete by September. British Blue cattle had been introduced	

	<p>onto the hill to graze the banks of the Manger. Complaints had been received about the food outlet in the car park. It was unclear whether the business was viable and would continue to operate from there. Cllr Jenkins asked that the Parish Council should be kept informed about work being carried out on the hill so that it could be publicised as necessary.</p> <p>b) Britchcombe Farm. Andy Foley reported that the purchaser had ten campsites throughout southern England. He had been in touch with the North Wessex Downs AONB. He was concerned about the knock-on effect of any development on the landscape of White Horse Hill. Other members of the public raised concerns about noise nuisance, litter, the impact on the road and on foot traffic. There were further concerns about light pollution. A member of the public noted that a survey had been undertaken. Cllr Oldnall urged people not to jump to conclusions and noted that there were residents who would welcome more activity on the site because it would bring business to the village. Cllr Constance noted that the original planning permission for a campsite was limited to a fixed number of days per year and there were no amenities on site. She felt that the District Council would have a view on Rural Business. A strong factor against any development of the site would be permanent development in the AONB. Andy Foley pointed out that the wood was a SSSI. Cllr Oldnall noted that an environmental impact statement was available on the Vale website; he agreed to circulate the link.</p> <p>c) Resurfacing Green Lane. A resident had sent a note, which had been circulated to the Parish Council, reporting that the surface of the lane was in a very poor condition. He noted that it had only been patched twice in 15 years. He had asked regular users what should be done and the view was that more investment was required. He asked the Parish Council if financial assistance could be provided. Cllr Oldnall pointed out that there were other unadopted lanes in the village and the Parish Council did not usually fund their maintenance and that there was no money in the budget for this type of expenditure. All members were asked for their opinions on the request, and all felt that it would create an unwelcome precedent. Cllr Oldnall reported that unfortunately the Parish Council would not be able to offer financial assistance for the project. The resident was recommended to approach the Upper Common Lane residents' association for ideas how such repairs might be funded.</p> <p>d) Poacher's Cottage. Refer to minute reference 205/21 below.</p>	MO
ITEM 8 - ONGOING PROJECTS		
199/21	<p>Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments. Cllr Jenkins reported that this item should be renamed 'Access to the paddock' in future. The entrance to Footpath 9 had been opened up by the removal of the shed and surrounding fence at the same time as the installation of the new security fence in conjunction with the school. The one outstanding job was the cutting back of the hedge to the line of trees to maximise the width available. Mr Pepler was to do this. The other strand of the project was to discharge the remaining conditions on the 2012 Change of Use approval by the Vale District Council. A query about this had been sent to the Solicitor who was drawing up a deed of variation to the 2012 approval as to whether a planning application to discharge the conditions should be submitted straight away. Cllr Oldnall felt it should wait until the Solicitor had responded on the matter. Cllr Pilchowski asked whether car parking would be created at the allotments. Cllr Jenkins stated that this would be considered once the remainder of the project had been completed.</p>	SJ
200/21	<p>Improvements to Footpath 19. Cllr Jenkins reported that the installation of the kissing gates was in progress. Five had been installed. The final four would require the landowners to open their gates to enable installation to proceed. Cllr Oldnall reported that Mr Coxhead had thanked Cllr Jenkins and Keith Pepler; he was very pleased with the work that had been carried out so far. Cllr Jenkins noted that there was some paperwork to be completed, which he would be working on. Cllr Oldnall agreed to take photographs of the new gates as and after they were installed. Afternote: The installation of all 13 kissing gates was completed on 13 August 2021.</p>	SJ/MO
201/21	<p>Improvements to Broadband Cllr Oldnall reported that a quote had been due on 17th June but had not been received. OCC had not made any progress either. Afternote: Meeting arranged with Openreach on 30 August.</p>	KF MO
ITEM 9 - PLANNING MATTERS		
202/21	<p>New Applications to be considered:</p> <p>a) P21/V1908/HH – 1 Jacksmeadow. Two storey side extension. Deadline 13th August. Cllr Oldnall pointed out that this was a resubmission; the Parish Council did not object</p>	Clerk

	previously. There were no objections.	
203/21	To consider any new applications received since the publication of this agenda: a) P21/V2000/HH – 6A Broad Street. Double storey rear extension and single storey rear extension. There were no objections. Afternote: a different application had been subsequently received for this property.	
204/21	Update on outstanding planning applications: a) P21/V0467/FUL – Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road. Proposed erection of a self-build dwelling with new access. Permission granted. Cllr Jenkins was concerned about the decision made by the District Council. Cllr Oldnall had written to Cllr Boyd about the decision making process and apparent contradictions. b) Planning Appeal Consultation - P20/V0394/FUL - UFF – Meadowgold – Appeal Dismissed. The Parish Council had submitted a reply to the RTPi on 26 July. Awaiting response from RTPi.	NB
205/21	Planning Advice Requested. a) Poachers Cottage. Cllr Oldnall pointed out that this was not a planning application. The residents had presented their proposal to the Parish Council for comment ahead of a submission. Following discussion it was agreed that the proposal would only be visible from the rear of the property and there would be no impact on the surrounding area. Clerk to reply to the residents.	Clerk
ITEM 10 – FINANCE		
206/21	a) To approve August payments: Payments totalling £1767.23 were approved. Proposed: Cllr Puddicombe, seconded: Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise the payments online. b) Q1 Review. Cllr Puddicombe had completed the Q1 review and approved all the bank reconciliations.	MO
ITEM 11 - THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST		
207/21	a) Review of RoSPA Report Cllr Oberman reported on the following matters which had arisen in the RoSPA report: i. Gates: rubber buffers were fitted to lessen entrapment risk. It was not possible to alter the position of the hinges ii. Stile: there were deep holes in the top of the wooden posts; stones and filler were to be inserted to level them off. iii. Ball games area: there was a "no climbing" warning on the large Parish Council notice at the edge of the field. It was felt unnecessary to re-iterate this message with individual notices on the MUGA equipment. iv. Toddler multiplay: this will continue to be monitored for splintered/rotting timber. It was considered a very minor problem at present. v. Big swings: all shackles and bolts at the top of the chains were removed, checked for wear and greased. No replacement bolts were required. All other comments were noted, but as the swings were very old, their stability and safety were monitored monthly, and none of the other recommendations were considered practicable. vi. Small swings in playground: all shackles and bolts at top of the chains were removed, checked for wear and greased. One worn bolt was replaced. The corrosion in the frame top of the cradle seat was to be monitored. The nuts and bolts beneath seats were an integral part of the swing and replacement would require a complete new seat. Safety conditions were monitored monthly. vii. Junior multiplay: ground levels around trip hazards were raised with turf. viii. Little monkeys climbing equipment: Splits in timbers to be monitored. b) Monthly play area inspection. Cllr Oberman reported that the ground in two of the gateways was very worn. She was to ask David Forster to put some binding on them. There were no problems in the playground. It was pointed out that one of the rubber mats under the swings was raised. Cllr Oberman to speak to David Forster about this. c) Applications to use the field.	FO

	<p>On 11th September there will be a celebration of 50 years of scouting. There will be a climbing wall on site. They had requested permission for car parking on the field. Cllr Oberman had pointed out that this would be weather dependent.</p> <p>d) Litter Bug. It was reported that some of the notices had come down but they had been reinstated.</p>	FO
ITEM 12 – ALLOTMENTS UPDATE		
208/21	<p>Allotments Cllr Puddicombe reported that two plots had been identified as requiring remedial work. The tenants will be asked if they wish to renew or not. There were two other plots that may be converted into half plots.</p> <p>a) Review of Tenancy Agreement and Code of Conduct. The redrafted documents had been circulated. They had been approved in principle in July. Cllr Oberman proposed approval, Cllr Pichowski seconded. RESOLVED. Clerk to issue updated documents to all plot holders.</p>	NP Clerk
ITEM 13 – OSR UPDATE		
209/21	<p>OSR Update Cllr Puddicombe reported that the museum was open but visitor numbers were quite low.</p> <p>a) Review of Building Action Plan. There was no update on the Building Action Plan. Mrs Pilcher was trying to get costing for the stonework repairs. The Fire Risk Assessment had been reviewed; this was virtually unchanged from the 2019 version. This was approved. It was noted that there was an incorrect date in the document, and it was suggested that titles rather than personal names should be used. Cllr Puddicombe to make these amendments.</p>	NP
ITEM 14 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS		
210/21	<p>a) Review of Bias in Decision making. The content of the policy had not been changed. Clerk to add the standard footer to the document. The document was approved.</p> <p>b) Advertising Policy. The document had been reformatted but the content of the policy was unchanged. It was agreed to remove paragraph 2.4 as this was no longer relevant. The document was approved pending this change.</p>	Clerk Clerk
ITEM 15 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)		
211/21	<p>a) Burial Ground signs. The signs had been installed.</p> <p>b) White Horse Road Signs. No progress.</p> <p>c) Footpath 4. Cllr Jenkins had submitted a portfolio of photographs to OCC Countryside Access Team who have to liaise with Network Rail to get the work done. This was likely to take time.</p> <p>d) Verge cutting. BGG to be asked to schedule the final cut for the end of September or early October. Cllr Jenkins and Mr Godsell to tidy the verges of the Jubilee Field.</p> <p>e) Pond Dredging. It was felt that the pond may need dredging again. Cllr Jenkins to speak to Malcolm Hinton.</p>	CLOSED Clerk/SJ SJ
ITEM 16 - GENERAL		
212/21	<p>a) Village Event. Cllr Oldnall reported that there had not been sufficient volunteers to enable Church Teas to participate but the Flying Pig was confirmed. It was suggested that the PTA may be able to provide teas. Cllr Oberman to try and establish a contact for the PTA, Cllrs Jenkins and Oldnall reported difficulties getting replies to their emails. Cllr Oldnall to start publicising the event.</p>	FO MO
ITEM 17 - CONSULTATIONS		
213/21	<p>a) OxCam Arc. It was felt that this did not really affect Uffington. Cllr Jenkins was concerned about the huge amount of housing associated with this. To be discussed with Cllr Boyd.</p> <p>b) Oxfordshire 2050 Plan. This was a massive piece of work. A seminar was being run by ONPA on 19th August which Councillors Oldnall and Jenkins would attend.</p> <p>c) Swindon Electric Car charging. It was agreed not to comment on this as it was very peripheral to Uffington residents.</p>	SJ/MO
ITEM 18 – CORRESPONDENCE		
214/21	<p>a) Verges Cllr Oldnall reported that the ownership of verges was complex. He was to draft a response to the resident who questioned ownership of some trees in a verge.</p> <p>b) Celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee 2022 It was agreed that celebrations should be held. Councillor Oldnall to write to the</p>	MO Clerk (agenda)

	<p>National Trust (beacon), Village Hall and Church (meal) suggesting a joint approach.</p> <p>c) Poplar Trees A resident reported that a poplar tree close to their property was putting up shoots in her garden and was concerned that this might cause subsidence cause subsidence. The resident was selling their property and a survey was due on the following day. Discussion followed. It was agreed that no action was possible prior to the survey. Cllr Puddicombe suggested asking the Parish Council insurer to survey the site to get an independent opinion. Clerk to arrange this. Afternote: the survey did not comment on the trees.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>Clerk</p>
ITEM 19 – MATTERS FOR THE SEPTEMBER AGENDA		
215/21	<p>a) Thames Water Presentation. Cllr Oldnall had notified Thames Water that the presentation needed to move to the September meeting and he was awaiting their confirmation.</p>	
ITEM 20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
216/21	<p>The next meeting will be on Monday 13th September at 18.30 in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.</p>	

The meeting closed at 20.45