

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 6.30pm  
In the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr Mike Oldnall (Chair), Cllr Dale Pilchowski, Cllr Simon Jenkins, Cllr Graham Banks, Cllr Nigel Puddicombe  
Clerk/Finance Officer: Julia Evans  
County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance  
District Councillor:  
Members of the Public: None

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
299/21	District Cllr Boyd and Cllr Oberman.	
	ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
300/21	Cllr Oldnall for agenda item 19.	
	ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 8 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021	
301/21	The title of Item 19 was to be amended to 'December' and minute reference 297.21 was to be amended to '20 <sup>th</sup> December'. The minutes were approved subject to those amendments. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED.	
	ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
302/21	<p>a) <b>250/21 (224/21 - 196/21) Speedwatch update</b> – Cllr Jenkins reported that there had been a disappointing response to the call for volunteers in the weekly newsletter. A request for volunteers had been included in the Winter Courier. It was noted that there had been a little progress with the Shrivenham scheme; they were discussing the permitted equipment. The scheme was up and running in Highworth. Cllr Constance asked to be kept informed of progress.</p> <p>b) <b>250/21 (225/21) – Implementation of a 20mph zone</b> – Cllr Oldnall had included an article in the newsletter about the scheme. There had been some resistance from the village because the scheme would not be enforced, and the view was that most people do not speed through the village. Cllr Constance pointed out that the cost estimates had not yet been justified. She felt that the cost would ultimately be based on the number of signs and amount of road marking requested. It was agreed that the Clerk should register interest in (but sign up for) the scheme.</p> <p>c) <b>296/21 – A flagpole for the village</b> - It was reported that the vicar and PCC would not support the erection of a flagpole in the churchyard. Cllr Puddicombe suggesting siting it elsewhere, however Cllr Oberman felt that as most events were church related the Jubilee Field was not the best place. Cllr Banks pointed out that there were specific rules about flying flags from public buildings. It was agreed to close this matter for the time being.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>CLOSED</p>
	ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT	
303/21	<p>Cllr Constance had sent a written report which had been circulated. At the meeting she reported that:</p> <p>a) She did not yet know where the walk-in vaccination centres would be sited.</p> <p>b) The consultation on the first stage of the new Transport Strategy had been delayed until January.</p> <p>Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.</p>	
	ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT	
304/21	<p>Cllr Boyd had sent a new-style written report which had been circulated.</p> <p>a) <b>277/21 (250/21 - 224/21 - 204/21) – Planning process (formerly Dragon Hill)</b> – In an email to Cllr Oldnall he reported that there had been no progress on this matter. He had not received a response from Adrian Duffield; he would try to get an answer elsewhere.</p>	NB
	ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM	
305/21	No members of the public.	
	ITEM 8 - ONGOING PROJECTS	
306/21	<p><b>Improvements to Broadband</b> Both Cllr Oldnall and Ms Foxhall had written to Openreach and Airband respectively but no response had yet been received from either.</p>	KF / MO
307/21	<b>Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments).</b>	



	been removed and the budget for the playground had been reduced. It was noted that there was still some S106 money available which could be used for the playground. A precept of £28,000 was agreed. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Puddicombe, RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to review the expenditure on grants. Clerk to submit the precept request.	MO Clerk
<b>ITEM 11 - THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST</b>		
314/21	<p><b>a) Update.</b> Cllr Pilchowski asked what the metal bar near the pond was for. No one knew. Cllr Oberman to investigate to determine whether it was safe to leave it for children to play on or whether it should be removed.</p> <p><b>b) Monthly play area inspection.</b> Cllr Oberman reported by email that there were no problems in the play area.</p> <p><b>c) Request for a Memorial on the field.</b> A resident had requested permission for a memorial tree or bench to his parents on the field. Discussion followed on the implications of allowing a bench to be installed. It was agreed to ask the application what he had hoped for; a tree or a bench. It was felt that guidelines for the installation of benches was required.</p> <p><b>d) Applications to use the field.</b> There had been an application to erect a marquee on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June. This was the same weekend as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllrs Banks and Puddicombe felt that it might detract from the village celebration; Cllr Pilchowski felt it was a good idea. Cllr Oldnall felt that it needed further discussion. Cllr Oberman to discuss further with Mr Rumble and the hirers. Afternote: date changed to 18 June to deconflict.</p>	FO  MO/Clerk  FO
<b>ITEM 12 – ALLOTMENTS UPDATE</b>		
315/21	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p><b>a) Allotments Update.</b> Cllr Puddicombe reported that there was one applicant for a half plot. The interim fence repair had not yet taken place. Cllr Puddicombe asked if the contractors for the full repair could be appointed now since it would be some time before the work would be carried out. This was agreed. A grant of £50 for the allotments was requested and approved. Proposed Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Banks. RESOLVED. Clerk to arrange for payment.</p>	NP  Clerk
<b>ITEM 13 – OSR UPDATE</b>		
316/21	<p><b>OSR Update</b> Cllr Puddicombe reported that he had looked at the plaster in the Old Schoolroom. There were two different issues. The problem by the stairs had already been quoted for and agreed. The other issue is in an area that is hardly visible and only a crack can be seen at the moment. It was not felt that it was in imminent danger of failure and Cllr Puddicombe suggested that the area be monitored and a more formal assessment be included in the next architect's annual review.</p>	NP
<b>ITEM 14 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>		
317/21	<p><b>a) Information Security Policy.</b> This had been reviewed. The only update required was reformatting to current the standard. It was agreed that the policy should be published once reformatted. No further action required by councillors.</p>	Clerk
<b>ITEM 15 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b>		
318/21	<p><b>a) Pond Dredging.</b> Cllr Jenkins was waiting for Malcolm Hinton to visit the site and establish what work was required. It was noted that dredging would be required annually, with one third of the area being cleared each time. This requirement was reflected in the budget including an EMR sum in case of any urgent additional work.</p> <p><b>b) Village Stream.</b> The stream was running well. There were no issues to report.</p> <p><b>c) Plans for tree survey.</b> It was reported that three contractors had been identified and an ITT was to be sent out to them. Cllr Oldnall noted that the school was about to carry out a tree survey in January and agreed to establish whether they would like to join forces and have their work included with ours. The school would also be carrying out work to their own trees, including those overhanging the burial ground, at the same time.</p>	SJ  MO
<b>ITEM 16 – BURIAL GROUND</b>		
319/21	The response to the survey had not yet been submitted. This would be done by 20 <sup>th</sup> December. The response would include our concern at the potentially reduced remaining capacity if the area for each plot was increased by about 30% as was being proposed.	Clerk
<b>ITEM 17 – GENERAL</b>		
320/21	<p><b>a) Celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee 2022</b> Cllr Oldnall to contact a local caterer to run a BBQ. Cllr Oberman had volunteered to</p>	FO/MO

	<p>lead the project for the Parish Council.</p> <p><b>b) December Courier.</b> This was now complete. Cllr Oldnall thanked everyone for their contributions.</p> <p><b>c) Christmas Tree Lighting up.</b> The event had gone very well and there was a good atmosphere. It was felt that this was a worthwhile thing for the Parish Council to support in the future. Cllr Oldnall had written to the organisers to thank them for their efforts.</p> <p><b>d) Consideration of face-to-face meetings.</b> It was noted that the COVID situation was changing daily. NALC and OALC had advised that Councils should approve a scheme of delegation in preparation for future restrictions. The scheme of delegation had been circulated and was approved. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Banks. RESOLVED.</p>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>CLOSED</p>
<b>ITEM 18 - CONSULTATIONS</b>		
321/21	<p>a) <b>Community First/Healthwatch</b> – This consultation on rural isolation had been circulated. It was geared toward individuals rather than Parish Councils. No Council action was required.</p> <p>b) <b>Environmental Permits.</b> Covered in minute reference 319/21 above.</p> <p>c) <b>OCC Budget Proposal 2022/23</b> – This has been circulated. Individuals could respond and there was an option for the Parish Council to respond as well. Cllr Oldnall to look at this.</p>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>MO</p>
<b>ITEM 19 – CORRESPONDENCE</b>		
322/21	<p>a) <b>Community Governance Review.</b> The Parish Council had previously requested an additional Councillor due to the extra houses in the village. Clerk to reiterate the request on the basis of: the previous application, increased village numbers due primarily to Jacksmeadow and to provide an to create odd number of councillors to prevent the possibility of a split vote.</p> <p>b) <b>Trees on The Mound at Craven Common.</b> Cllr Oldnall had consulted with residents about a replacement tree. Costs were quite high. The resident who cut down the original tree has offered £80. Cllr Oldnall suggested that the Parish Council adds £170 to this to bring the total to £250. Cllr Oldnall to liaise with residents of Craven Common of the types of tree and planting arrangements. This was approved. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED.</p> <p>c) <b>OCC Budget Proposal.</b> OCC planned a 4.99% increase – the maximum allowed. The full budget had not yet been published but individuals were already able to comment on the OCC website.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>MO</p> <p>AI</p>
<b>ITEM 20 – MATTERS FOR THE JANUARY AGENDA</b>		
323/21	<p>a) <b>Finalising the 2022/23 budget.</b></p> <p>b) <b>Business Vehicles parking on pavements.</b> Complaints had been received about parking in Jacksmeadow. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the resident. MO to draft.</p>	<p>Clerk (agenda)</p> <p>MO</p>
<b>ITEM 21 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>		
324/21	The next meeting will be on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 18.30 in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall unless Government rules prevented face-to-face meetings at that time. If that situation was to arise a video conference meeting would be used in lieu.	

The meeting closed at 20.52