

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 6.30pm  
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

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

County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance

District Councillor: Cllr Nathan Boyd

In Attendance: Mrs J Evans (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 8 members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
136/22	Cllr Graham Banks.	
	<b>ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
137/22	Cllr Jenkins for agenda item 9a(iii).	
	<b>ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022</b>	
138/22	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May were approved. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting (AGM) held on Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May were approved. Proposed Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED. The minutes of the Jubilee Field Trust Annual meeting held on Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May were approved. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED.	
	<b>ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
139/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>114/22 (79/22 - 54/22 - 29/22, 23/22) – Operation London Bridge.</b> Cllr Oldnall reported that the shop had agreed to host the book of condolences.</li> <li>b) <b>114/22 (79/22 - 57/22a) – Thames Water.</b> Cllr Oldnall reported that he had not yet written to Thames Water. He had been awaiting statistics from them which had now been received. In the meantime a resident had been writing to them directly. Cllr Oldnall felt that it was not worth duplicating correspondence. He agreed to write to the PR person asking to be informed in advance of any works that were to take place. Cllr Jenkins asked for the road to be repaired and a resident had asked for the gate to the site to be repaired. Cllr Oldnall agreed to follow this up.</li> <li>c) <b>70/22 – Tree Survey.</b> Carried Forward</li> <li>d) <b>117/22 - VAS –</b> Messagemaker to provide a quote for the repair. The VAS is out of guarantee. Clerk was requested to follow up by obtaining a repair quote.</li> <li>e) <b>Insurance Policy.</b> The policy had been auto-renewed because of the Long Term Agreement. Cllr Oberman noted that the new bench should be included and agreed to establish the value. Clerk to inform the insurer. Afternote: value notified.</li> <li>f) <b>February and April 2023 meeting dates.</b> The hall was not available on 13<sup>th</sup> February as it had been booked for the Panto. Mrs Pilcher suggested meeting in the museum instead. This was agreed. April 10<sup>th</sup> was Easter Monday so it was agreed to move the meeting to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Clerk to book the hall.</li> </ul>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>MO</p> <p>MO</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
	<b>ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b>	
140/22	<p>Cllr Constance reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) She had sent her monthly report by email.</li> <li>b) That she had sent the latest update on the 20mph speed limit by email. She noted that it still did not confirm costs or when the rollout would take place. She pointed out that all parishes that had registered by January should be implemented by the end of 2022. There were 78 villages in the scheme and OCC officers were experiencing difficulties assessing the needs of each location. The Police have acknowledged the adoption of the scheme but would not be adopting it. She felt that the scheme, even without Police enforcement, would still help reduce speeding in villages through increased awareness.</li> <li>c) She was working with families who needed transport to King Alfred’s in September.</li> <li>d) Tree planting could be registered on the Queen’s Green Canopy. Cllr Oberman had this in hand but pointed out that registrations would not be accepted until October.</li> <li>e) Cllr Constance congratulated the village on the successful Jubilee event.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.</p>	

ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT		
141/22	<p>Cllr Boyd reported that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EV Park and Charge scheme was now live.</li> <li>There had been 22 applications to the Climate Action Fund.</li> <li>Live events and movies were being held at the Beacon in Wantage. The venue's long-term viability was to be reviewed by the Vale later this year.</li> <li>90% of households had received their Council Tax rebates. The rest should receive theirs by 4<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>The Joint Local Plan was out for consultation by 25<sup>th</sup> June. He advised that Parish Councils should respond, and that Councillors could also respond as individuals.</li> <li>The Vale was extending their Household Support Fund.</li> <li>A date was still awaited for the Inspector to hear the Baulking planning appeals.</li> <li>There was a Nature Recovery and Biodiversity Forum being run by Cllr Dr Paul Barrow (Ridgeway Ward). He noted that this was worth attending when it didn't clash with a Council meeting.</li> </ol> <p>Cllr Jenkins noted that the Local Plan was vague and he could not see anything much to comment on. Cllr Boyd noted that it was at a very early stage, but urged comment, especially if it was felt that more substance was required. All comments would be reviewed by the Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Cllr Constance felt that new builds should have higher energy efficiency standards and that this should be included in the plan.</p> <p>Cllr Oldnall asked how the Government's Levelling Up white paper would affect the Local Plan. Cllr Boyd felt that this was currently unknown but this should not prevent plans being created or revised.</p> <p>A resident asked whether there was a timetable for the publication of the new Design Guide. Cllr Boyd noted that it had been published on the scrutiny website today.</p> <p>Cllr Boyd was thanked for attending.</p>	
ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM		
142/22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Proposal to replace a conservatory.</b> Mr Creese was intending to submit a planning application to replace his conservatory with an extension. The footprint would stay the same. The new room would become a kitchen. The pitch would be slightly elevated. The development would be as energy efficient as possible. He planned to instal grey water harvesting, solar panels and an air source heat pump. Cllr Jenkins noted that air source heat pumps were noisy. Mr Creese said it would be at the back of the property, away from neighbours. They also planned to install doors onto the currently open garage. Cllr Pilchowski noted that a similar application had been refused even though the Parish Council has no objections. There were no other observations from councillors.</li> <li><b>Poles for FTTP broadband.</b> Two residents had attended to discuss this issue. Cllr Oldnall outlined the problems with the Airband proposal which had caused a great deal of concern in the village. He pointed out that the area was to be re-surveyed and a new plan produced by 17<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Oldnall had a meeting with Airband planned for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. It was noted that there were sites where a new pole had been strapped to an existing pole; there was some confusion about what this was for. Cllr Constance felt that it was to extend the reach of the FTTP.</li> <li><b>Container on Broad Street.</b> Two residents wanted further information on proposals to install a container on Broad Street to serve as an office for the developers during the Post Office build. The residents were aware that the appropriate licence had been obtained but they were concerned that the size would have an impact on traffic in the area. Cllr Oldnall agreed to speak to the applicant.</li> <li><b>Planning application.</b> The applicant for Dragon Hill had attended to answer any questions from the Council under Item 9b.</li> </ol> <p>The members of the public were thanked for attending.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>MO</p>
ITEM 8 – ONGOING PROJECTS		
143/22	<p><b>Improvements to Broadband.</b> This was covered in minute 142/22 above. It was noted that the Openreach offering had not been progressed by Openreach and the time period for the Government grant period had expired. The Government had recently announced a replacement scheme in Project Gigabit 2A which aims to provide 85%+ of UK premises with access to gigabit-capable (1Gbps) broadband connection by end of 2025. It is not known whether Uffington would be included in the new scheme, especially given the latest Airband plans.</p>	MO

144/22	<b>Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments).</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that the landowner had appointed advisors for the proposed easement and transfer deed and was awaiting comment from them.	SJ
145/22	<b>Conversion of the three stiles on FP26.</b> The kissing gates had been delivered. Awaiting an installation date.	SJ
<b>ITEM 9 – PLANNING MATTERS</b>		
146/22	<p><b>New Applications to be considered:</b></p> <p>a) <b>P22/V0962/DIS – Post Office, Broad Street.</b> Discharge of condition 6 (sustainable drainage scheme). For information only.</p> <p>b) <b>P22/V1141/FUL – Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road.</b> Proposed erection of 2 x 4 bed detached dwellings (self-build). Response due by 15<sup>th</sup> June. It was felt that the application did not meet many local plan policies and appeared to have totally ignored the Neighbourhood Plan. There were also flood risk issues. It was unclear whether the principle of planning on the site still applied as the previous applications were for bungalows. It was felt that proposal was too large for the site and was contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan. It was unanimously agreed to object. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to draft a response.</p> <p>c) <b>P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm.</b> Retrospective. Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Response due by 17<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Jenkins declared an interest in this application, but as the applicants were unable to be present, he offered a few factual remarks.</p> <p>i. <b>Change of use.</b> The applicants were under the impression that change of use to equestrian had been obtained in 2003, when stables were first put into the barns.</p> <p>ii. <b>Arena.</b> The new arena was well designed and built. It had been lowered into the ground and angled in such a way that only a sliver of the north-eastern corner could be seen from Whitehorse Hill. It was well known in the local equitation scene and was in regular use by individuals, by professionals for teaching purposes and by groups such as the Pony Club. It had been in use for some 2 to 3 years.</p> <p>iii. <b>The lights</b> were specifically designed for this type of arena so that the light was directed down and very little escaped upwards, as described in the Design and Access statement.</p> <p>iv. The establishment catered for 64 horses at livery and 5 staff were employed. It was a successful livery yard with British Horse Society accreditation, catering for a very important leisure industry in this area.</p> <p>There were no objections but councillors expressed a desire to see the hedging extended to make the site invisible from Whitehorse Hill and the floodlights to be of a type that minimised lighting spill which might spoil the dark skies area. Proposed Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED.</p> <p>d) <b>P22/V1285/FUL – The Old Police House.</b> Variation of conditions on application P18/V2052/FUL to remove the condition of planting new hedges behind the newly installed post and rail fence. Response due by 23<sup>rd</sup> June. In the original application the Parish Council had been keen on the planting. It was felt that the site was currently very stark and open and that the original condition should be adhered to and that native hedging was the preferred solution. It was agreed to object to the application. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED. It was noted that the original application was for a self-build property which was not liable for CIL, but as the property had been sold the situation may have changed.</p> <p><b>Afternote:</b> the VOWH had notified that the change in CIL circumstances had been registered and they would be actioning as necessary.</p> <p>e) <b>P22/V1042/FUL – Land north of Baulking Lane, Baulking.</b> Change of use of land to residential for one Gypsy Traveller family. The development to comprise one static caravan, one touring caravan, parking for two vehicles, associated hardstanding and infrastructure. Retrospective. AND <b>P22/V1003/FUL – The Fairmile Farm, Baulking.</b> Retrospective change of use to 1 no. Gypsy/Traveller pitch, comprising 1 static caravan and 1 touring caravan and associated works. Response due to both applications by 23<sup>rd</sup> June. It was noted that there were inconsistencies in the applications. The case officer had noted that the applicants had not applied for a place on an established site. It was agreed to object to both applications. Cllr Jenkins to develop a response. It was agreed to object and to respond quickly. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>MO</p> <p>SJ/MO</p>

147/22	<p><b>To consider any new applications received since the publication of the agenda</b></p> <p>a) <b>P22/V1363/T28.</b> Prior notification for the proposed installation under telecommunications code system operators of eighteen 11 metre wooden poles. The pole will be installed with 9 metres above ground. The Parish Council had not been formally consulted on this application which was discussed under Item 7b. It was RESOLVED to respond to reflect the degree of local concern.</p>	MO
148/22	<p><b>Update on outstanding planning applications:</b></p> <p>a) <b>P22/V0962/HH – Little Orchard, Packer’s Lane.</b> Proposed detached garage. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>b) <b>P22/V0486/FUL - Moor Mill Barn Moor Mill Farm.</b> Full planning application for change of use of an agricultural barn to a dwelling, together with associated external alterations, Formation of a garden, provision of parking, installation of ground source heat pump and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) unit, roof-mounted solar panels and boundary treatment. Granted.</p>	
149/22	<p><b>Britchcombe Farm</b> Cllr Jenkins reported:</p> <p>a) The CEO of Lovat Parks had failed to respond to an invitation to attend the Parish council meeting that evening.</p> <p>b) No planning application from Lovat Parks had yet been submitted and there was no indication of any relevant action at Britchcombe Farm.</p>	
<b>ITEM 10 – FINANCE</b>		
150/22	<p>a) <b>To approve June payments:</b> Payments totalling £3466.65 were approved. Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, seconded: Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise the payments online.</p>	MO
<b>ITEM 11 - THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST</b>		
151/22	<p>a) <b>Monthly play area inspection.</b> No issues were reported. The small swings needed painting. It was suggested that this should wait until the RoSPA inspection had been completed. Mrs Pilcher agreed to put an item on Facebook asking for a volunteer. If there was no volunteer then Cllr Oberman was requested to seek quotes for the work.</p> <p>b) <b>Memorial Bench on Jubilee Field.</b> Cllr Oberman to get an indication of cost for the insurance policy. Clerk to add to the asset register. A note of thanks to go into the next Courier. <b>Afternote:</b> The cost has been provided.</p> <p>c) <b>Applications to use the field.</b> A wedding reception had booked to use the Village Hall and to place a marquee on the Jubilee Field on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Notice had been given to residents via the village email and Facebook. Cllr Jenkins to put it in the village email again this week. There had been no further enquiries.</p>	FO/Mrs Pilcher  Clerk/MO SJ
<b>ITEM 12 – OSR UPDATE</b>		
152/22	<p><b>OSR Update</b></p> <p>a) <b>Repairs.</b> The window had been replaced on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The invoice had yet to be received. Cllr Puddicombe had not yet received a response from Andrew Townsend regarding the annual inspection.</p>	NP
<b>ITEM 13 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>		
153/22	<p>a) <b>Data Protection Policy.</b> There were no changes necessary except the formatting.</p> <p>b) <b>Communications Policy.</b> There were a few minor changes. The Parish Council’s Facebook page was to be included and the standard header block was to be added to each policy. Subject to these changes the policies were approved.</p> <p>c) <b>The Courier.</b> Cllr Pilchowski and a member of the public questioned whether The Courier should move to a digital product as most people simply threw away the magazine. Cllr Oberman asked whether more people would read it if it was digital. Cllr Oldnall pointed out that the last survey had indicated that the majority of respondents wanted to retain the printed magazine. It was noted that some people did not have access to electronic communication so a physical product was required. Mrs Pilcher felt that the magazine needed a revamp, especially the cover. It was agreed to put a short questionnaire in the next edition. Cllr Oldnall then raised the issue of distribution. Cllr Jenkins and Mr Rosier volunteered to take this on.</p>	Clerk          MO SJ/Mr Rosier
<b>ITEM 14 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b>		
154/22	<p>a) <b>Village Stream.</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p>b) <b>Grass Cutting.</b> BGG were to cut the verges within the next week.</p> <p>c) <b>Bus Shelter.</b> This had been repaired. It was noted that the telephone box and the bus shelter would need renovation next year. To be included in the 2023/24 budget.</p>	CLOSED

	d) <b>State of Stiles on Footpath 4.</b> The dangerous steps had been replaced, but the stiles have still not been done. Advice was awaited from Arthur McEwan-James about the whole footpath.	SJ
<b>ITEM 15 – GENERAL</b>		
155/22	<p>a) <b>Celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee 2022.</b> Cllr Oberman was thanked for coordinating such a good event. Although informal it was very successful.</p> <p>b) <b>World Heritage Site.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported:</p> <p>i. He had recently been consulting with the White Horsehill Action Group (WHAG) about the application form for inscription of Whitehorse Hill as a WHS, which had to be submitted to DCMS by 15 July. He was experiencing difficulties in obtaining agreement on the proposed area boundaries from stakeholders. The North Wessex Downs AONB had advised of a number of practical, management and financial problems which would follow from the submission of an application form and the form itself ideally required specialist knowledge not readily available in the WHAG.</p> <p>ii. He had therefore suggested that the idea be dropped. The Parish Council accepted this, subject to the caveat that an application at some stage in the future should not be written off, and also that this decision was subject to a further discussion with the WHAG scheduled for 14 June. <b>Afternote:</b> The WHAG agreed on 14 June that it should continue to develop an application form for submission to DCMS by 15 July, and that the area for inscription should be limited to the Whitehorse Hill SSSI, a very limited amount of adjoining land, and Waylands Smithy.</p>	SJ
<b>ITEM 16 – CONSULTATIONS</b>		
156/22	a) <b>Joint Local Plan.</b> The consultation was open until 23 <sup>rd</sup> June. Cllr Oldnall was to review the plan and respond on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors were asked to comment individually as well.	MO/All Councillors
<b>ITEM 17 – CORRESPONDENCE</b>		
157/22	None.	
<b>ITEM 18 – MATTERS FOR THE JULY AGENDA</b>		
158/22	a) <b>Allotments.</b> Clerk to include on July agenda. Cllr Puddicombe reported that there was an increasing infestation of rodents. Vale Game had been approached but were unable to offer any advice at the moment. Cllr Puddicombe and the Chair of the allotment association felt that the responsibility for vermin control was down to individual plot holders.	Clerk (agenda)
<b>ITEM 19 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>		
159/22	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 6.30pm. Cllrs Oberman and Oldnall gave their apologies in advance. <b>Afternote:</b> This meeting was subsequently CANCELLED due to leave and other commitments.	

The meeting closed at 20.53