

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council
Monday 8th August 2022 at 6.30pm
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr Mike Oldnall (Chair), Cllr Simon Jenkins, Cllr Dale Pilchowski, Cllr Fenella Oberman. Cllr Graham Banks
In Attendance: Mrs J Evans (Clerk)
Members of the Public: 2 members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
160/22	Cllr Nigel Puddicombe, District Cllr Nathan Boyd and County Cllr Yvonne Constance.	
	ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
161/22	Cllr Pilchowski for agenda item 9b(v).	
	ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th JUNE 2022	
162/22	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13 th June were approved. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED.	
	ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
163/22	<p>a) 139/22 (114/22 - 79/22 - 57/22a) – Thames Water. Cllr Oldnall reported that the reed bed work had now been completed. The verge still required mending although the gate post had been done. The gateway needed to be widened but this had not been done. He had written to Thames Water. The main issues were the inability to get through on the phone, the lack of communication, the discharge of sewage and the hydraulic flooding as a result. The statistics were to be reviewed in a year's time to assess whether there had been any improvement. More work was due to be carried out in October but it was not clear whether this will mean the closure of the site again. Afternote: a further letter following up the reply from customer services will also be sent.</p> <p>b) 139/22 (70/22) – Tree Survey. Cllr Oldnall had written to the arboriculturists with Cllr Jenkins' comment. A reply had been received just prior to the meeting, too late to be reviewed. Carried Forward</p> <p>c) 153/22 – Courier Delivery. Cllr Oldnall had placed an item in The Courier regarding design and delivery. Thirteen replies had been received. Half wanted to retain a paper copy and half wanted to move to an electronic version. The number of replies was not considered significant compared to the number of residents. It was generally felt that a move away from paper would be more environmentally friendly. Cllr Jenkins expressed concern over a move away from paper as there was a need to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to read the magazine. The opinions of the members were split. The members of the public were asked for their opinion. They felt that a paper copy should be retained in addition to publicising that an electronic copy was available. It was suggested that an overview of the design might encourage more people to read it. After discussion it was agreed to keep the magazine for now and experiment with design changes. Cllr Oldnall to discuss this with Mr Packford.</p> <p>d) 142/22 – Container on Broad Street. Cllr Oldnall had spoken to the applicants and the builder concerned. The container was to serve as a comfort station for the workmen, a legal requirement. The builder had chosen the smallest container possible. He had agreed to inform Cllr Oldnall of dates once planning permission had been received. Cllr Oldnall was to publicise the dates once known. Cllr Oldnall was concerned about the impact it would have on the verges as traffic negotiated around it.</p>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>MO</p> <p>MO</p> <p>MO</p> <p>MO</p>
	ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT	
164/22	No report. Cllr Pilchowski noted that the local news had reported that the 20mph scheme was to be implemented without consultation. Cllr Oldnall noted that this was not a popular move.	
	ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT	
165/22	No report. Cllr Oldnall had wanted to speak to Cllr Boyd about a letter he had received from the planning enforcement team. Carried forward.	NB
	ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM	
166/22	<p>a) Key safe. It was noted that the key safe code had been changed.</p> <p>b) Village Trail posts. Mrs Pilcher had circulated a note about the village trail posts. Four of the nine panels had darkened making them unreadable. The panels were not under warranty. Green Space had quoted £30 per panel for new ones. One of the posts had a crack in the wood. Replacing the whole post would cost over £1000, but</p>	

	<p>it was possible that it could be repaired. Cllr Oldnall felt that a repair to the post should be attempted. Mrs Pilcher felt that £120 for the new panels was not excessive and recommended purchasing them. Cllrs Oldnall and Jenkins to consider a DIY solution in the first instance.</p> <p>The members of the public were thanked for attending.</p>	MO/SJ
ITEM 8 – ONGOING PROJECTS		
167/22	<p>Improvements to Broadband. Cllr Oldnall reported that the BT scheme had not come to fruition and Airband had now installed fibre in the village. Only 6 poles had been required and they were very inconspicuous. No complaints had been received. Fibre to the Premises was likely to be available to purchase soon. Cllr Oldnall/Mrs Foxhall planned to circulate a note explaining what had happened. It was noted that CFO had announced a scheme to connect public buildings such as the school and village hall, using BT which was unlikely to be available in the village in the foreseeable future.</p>	MO
168/22	<p>Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments). Cllr Jenkins reported that the Heads of Terms had been received and passed on to the relevant advisors. A draft easement agreement was awaited from OCC. Cllr Jenkins agreed to ask Cllr Constance to chase for this.</p>	SJ
169/22	<p>Conversion of the three stiles on FP26. The project had been completed and paid for. The TOE grant had been received. It was proposed that the gates be donated to the landowner who had confirmed he was pleased with the result. It was agreed to donate the gates. Proposed Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. Cllr Jenkins was thanked for handling the project so successfully.</p> <p>Cllr Pilchowski noted that the footpath from the telephone box to the first gate needed a lot of work as an overgrown hedge was making access difficult. Cllr Jenkins offered to cut the hedge back. Afternote: now completed by Cllr Jenkins.</p> <p>Cllr Oldnall asked whether there were any other stiles that needed converting. It was noted that the stile between the allotments and the burial ground was a good contender if a horse gate was not required. FP4 was the prime candidate but a constructive response was still awaited from Network Rail via OCC (see also 180/22b).</p>	CLOSED SJ
ITEM 9 – PLANNING MATTERS		
170/22	<p>Ratification of decisions made since the last meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) To ratify responses to applications made since the last meeting. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. P22/V1436/HH – Zaremba, Broad Street. Loft conversion and relocation of front door. Responded with No Objection. Permission granted. ii. P22/V1619/HH – Meadowbrook, 4 Fawler Road. Proposed detached garage. Responded with No Objection. Awaiting determination. iii. P22/V1684/HH – Hendra, Broad Street. Proposed garage carport with associated store, proposed porch and conversion of integral garage to habitable accommodation. Responded with No Objection. Awaiting determination. <p>The three planning applications were ratified, Proposed Cllr Banks, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> iv. OH2057352 / 1328707 BRM PLANT HIRE & SALES UK LTD' - Uffington Trading Estate, Operator license application. The background to the application had been circulated. The Parish Council was not informed of this. It had been spotted in the Swindon Advertiser. The only objection was due to the narrow roads. The Traffic Commissioner had stated that it was not their issue and should be referred to OCC Highways who had been copied on the response. Cllr Boyd was requested to report on the Vale's opinion on the application. 	NB
171/22	<p>New Applications to be considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) P22/V1771/HH – Threeways, Woolstone Corner. Proposed extension to balcony. Response due by 25th August. There were no objections. b) P22/V1141/FUL – Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road. Proposed erection of 2 x 4 bed detached dwellings (self-build). Additional information had been received on 25th July in response to the Vale officer's additional questions. Cllr Jenkins had asked Cllr Boyd to speak to the case officer and to provide feedback. No comments required. Afternote: additional comments were provided due to further questions being asked/responded to. The response reiterated the Councils objection. c) P22/V1507/LDE – 4 Jacksmeadow. Erection of outbuilding to form summer house. Application for lawful development certificate. It was noted that the structure was now 	NB

	<p>complete. Cllr Pilchowski noted that there were no restrictions on Section E development – proximity to boundary. There were no comments.</p> <p>d) P22/V1788/HH & P22/V1789/LB – The Vale Cottage, High Street. Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey replacement extension. Installation of solar panels to rear roof slope and new garage doors. Response due by 18th August. There were no objections.</p> <p>e) P22/V1782/HH – 16 Jacksmeadow. Single storey side and rear extension. Response due by 23rd August. There were no objections.</p>	
172/22	To consider any new applications received since the publication of the agenda None.	
173/22	<p>Update on outstanding planning applications:</p> <p>a) P22/V0962/DIS – Post Office, Broad Street. Discharge of condition 6 (sustainable drainage scheme). For information only.</p> <p>b) P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm. Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>c) P22/V1285/FUL – The Old Police House. Variation of conditions on application P18/V2052/FUL to remove the condition of planting new hedges behind the newly installed post and rail fence. Refused.</p> <p>d) P22/V1042/FUL – Land north of Baulking Lane, Baulking. 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. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>e) P22/V1003/FUL – The Fairmile Farm, Baulking. Retrospective change of use to 1 no. Gypsy/Traveller pitch, comprising 1 static caravan and 1 touring caravan and associated works. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>f) P22/V0962/HH – Little Orchard, Packer’s Lane. Proposed detached garage. Granted.</p>	
174/22	<p>Enforcement Dragon Hill (original house). Plans for the extension did not include dimensions. What was being built appeared very high. Cllr Oldnall had written to the planning enforcement team on the basis that the development was possibly too high and dominated the surroundings. The development, along with others in the vicinity would change the whole area. An unsatisfactory response had been received. Cllr Oldnall to speak to Cllr Boyd about the enforcement process.</p>	MO
175/22	<p>Britchcombe Farm Cllr Jenkins reported that there had been no further progress. He outlined the matter of nutrient neutrality, details of which has been previously circulated. Cllr Oldnall to invite the CEO of Lovat Parks to a meeting in the autumn.</p>	MO
ITEM 10 – FINANCE		
176/22	<p>a) To ratify July payments. The payments totalling £3702 were ratified. Proposed Cllr Banks, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</p> <p>b) To approve August payments: Payments totalling £3472.95, plus £96.60 for the RoSPA inspection were approved. Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, seconded: Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise the payments online.</p> <p>c) Finance Reports. The reports had been circulated. It was noted that only routine expenditure had been incurred so far. Cllr Oldnall requested project ideas. Repairs and painting of the village phone box and the one in Baulking, which both house defibrillators, were suggested. Cllrs Jenkins and Pilchowski to ask their contacts for quotes. It was suggested that the play equipment and the bus shelter also needed painting. Cllr Oldnall to speak to Baulking about repairs to the phone box once the cost of painting was known.</p> <p>d) Appointment of Internal Auditor. The quote from Lightatouch was presented. It was agreed to approve on a single tender on the basis of continuity, relevant experience and an acceptable price. Proposed: Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</p> <p>e) The impact of inflation. Correspondence from the internal auditor on the impact of rising inflation had been previously circulated. The comments were explained and noted. The comments and advice would be taken into consideration when constructing the 2023/24 budget in the autumn.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>SJ/DP/MO</p>
ITEM 11 - THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST		
177/22	<p>a) Monthly play area inspection. The matting under the big swings had been severely damaged. Cllr Oberman was looking at alternatives. The ground by the play area gates would need to be re-done before winter. The sign purchased for the Queen's</p>	FO

	<p>Green Canopy was already rusting; it was of very poor quality. It was noted that residents had been watering the trees and were thanked for their efforts.</p> <p>b) Review of RoSPA report. This had only recently been received. Carried forward to September.</p> <p>c) Memorial Bench on Jubilee Field. The bench had been installed and was being well used.</p> <p>d) Applications to use the field. Scarrots Fair would be using the field in late August/early September. There had been a request for a car boot sale on 21st August. It was agreed to permit this as a one-off event.</p> <p>e) Autumn Field tidy. The verges would be cut by BGG in late September or early October. Mr Godsell and Cllr Jenkins would do a light trim around the Field boundaries to remove weeds. It was agreed that the autumn roadside litter pick would be held on 22nd/23^d October, and the Field Tidy would be on 5th November. Clerk to book the equipment for the litter pick.</p>	<p>c/f</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>Clerk</p>
ITEM 12 – OSR UPDATE		
178/22	<p>OSR Update</p> <p>a) Repairs. Cllr Puddicombe had sent a written report which had been circulated. In it he reported that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the malfunctioning end window had been repaired and re-installed. The invoice had been paid. ii. The bottom two steps on the outside path had to be repaired at a cost of £138. iii. The plaque for the outgoing Curator had been installed. iv. Andrew Townsend had carried out the annual building inspection. There was nothing serious to report. There were a few signs of minor movement to the outside front wall, due to the very dry weather. To be monitored. There was a loose area within the coping stones on top of the rear side wall which should be repaired when there was next any roofing work as scaffolding would be required. There were no new problems internally. The cracking in the roof plaster was likely to be caused by the slight movement. The cracks were to be filled when the next internal painting is carried out. The building was considered to be in good condition for its age, 	
ITEM 13 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS		
179/22	<p>a) Adoption of the new code of conduct. Cllr Banks explained the purpose of the code and all councillors were requested to read it before the next meeting with a view to adopting it if there were no objections. It was noted that several areas of the code were already covered by existing Council policies. To be carried forward to September.</p>	c/f
ITEM 14 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)		
180/22	<p>a) Village Stream. The stream was still running despite the dry weather.</p> <p>b) State of Stiles on Footpath 4. The broken steps had been mended by Network Rail. Cllr Jenkins to chase OCC regarding the replacement of the broken stiles with kissing gates.</p> <p>c) VAS Issues. The supplier had requested that the unit be sent back to them, Cllr Oldnall to establish whether it could easily be taken down. Cllr Oberman offered to take it to the suppliers. Cllr Oldnall reported that someone had tried to break off the SID at Woolstone Road.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>MO/FO</p>
ITEM 15 - ALLOTMENTS		
181/22	<p>a) Allotment rents. The rents had been reviewed and it was proposed that there was no increase this year. Proposed Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</p> <p>b) Water. Cllr Oldnall felt that it would not be practical to install a mains water source at the allotments due to the cost and difficulties with cost recovery.</p> <p>c) Grass cutting. Cllr Jenkins had asked the person who cut the grass at the museum if they would be prepared to take on the mowing between the plots. Afternote: It had been confirmed that the person did not want to take on this work.</p>	
ITEM 16 – GENERAL		
182/22	<p>a) World Heritage Site. Cllr Jenkins reported that applications were due to DCMS by 15th July. The Parish Council's effort was not supported by the National Trust. It was unclear whether Uffington Heritage Watch had submitted an alternative application.</p>	CLOSED

	<p>b) Community Governance Review. A response to the consultation had been submitted. Changes were to be considered by the Vale on 12th September and would take effect from the next election.</p> <p>c) Community Speedwatch. Cllr Jenkins continued to ask for volunteers for the scheme. He agreed to look into registering with the Police.</p>	SJ
ITEM 17 – CONSULTATIONS		
183/22	None.	
ITEM 18 – CORRESPONDENCE		
184/22	<p>a) Dead Tree at Hill View. The landowner had been identified as the Vale. They had agreed to remove the dead tree and replace it in the Autumn.</p> <p>b) Community Tree planting. There had been a call from the Vale for communities to plant trees in record numbers. It was felt that there were enough trees in Uffington and the focus should be on their maintenance. It was agreed not to participate in the scheme. Cllr Oberman reported that the gardening club wanted to plant one more tree on the Jubilee Field. Permission was granted. Cllr Oberman to liaise with them on the location.</p> <p>c) Salt requirements for next winter. The bin was still full and so no salt was required.</p> <p>d) Village Trail posts. Covered in minute reference 166/22 above.</p> <p>e) Westmill Solar grant scheme. It was suggested that a public EV charging point might be a good project. Despite the tight deadline (26 September), Cllr Pilchowski volunteered to investigate the feasibility of such a project.</p>	FO
ITEM 19 – MATTERS FOR THE SEPTEMBER AGENDA		
185/22	a) Civility and Respect Pledge	
ITEM 20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
186/22	Monday 12 th September 2022 at 6.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 21.04