

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 6.30pm  
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

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

In Attendance: Mrs J Evans (Clerk)

District Councillor:

County Councillor:

Members of the Public: 8 members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
214/22	County Cllr Constance and District Cllr Boyd.	
	<b>ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
215/22	Cllr Puddicombe, Banks, Oberman and Jenkins for agenda item 10c.	
	<b>ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022</b>	
216/22	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October were approved. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Banks. RESOLVED. The minutes of the Parish Council closed meeting held on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October were approved. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Banks. RESOLVED The minutes were signed.	
	<b>ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
217/22	<p>a) <b>20 MPH Survey</b> – Cllr Oldnall had circulated graphs illustrating the outcome of the survey. There had been over 170 replies and 75% of them were in favour of the scheme in either the whole or part of the village. Cllr Oldnall reported that OCC were behind with the rollout and it was unlikely to be completed until June or July next year when the survey results will be revisited.</p> <p>b) <b>190/22 (163/22 - 139/22 - 70/22) – Quotes for tree work.</b> The ITTs had been sent out with a closure date of 25 November. Arbocare had said they will respond. <i>Afternote: EJM Tree services have quoted.</i></p>	CLOSED
	<b>ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>	
218/22	No Report.	
	<b>ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>	
219/22	No Report.	
	<b>ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM</b>	
220/22	<p>a) <b>Wilts and Berks Canal Trust.</b> Ian Mitchell (West Vale) and Peter Scatchard (Chairman, Vale Strategy Team) from the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust introduced themselves. The West Vale branch runs from Acorn Bridge to the Station Road Bridge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They had acquired a lease on Uffington Gorse; completion was due by 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023.</li> <li>• They were fundraising to pay for the lease and had raised 80% so far.</li> <li>• They did not intend to make any changes to the woodland apart from the introduction of good woodland management as advised by the Woodland Trust</li> <li>• It was noted that there was a TPO on the trees on top of the spoil heap which might necessitate planning permission being required.</li> <li>• They were developing a three phase plan. Phase 1 - What could be done with their own volunteers. Phase 2 - What could be done within the woodland. Suggestions included making a small parking area, habit interpretation signs and clearing the towpath. Phase 3 - Dredge the canal which was a longer term aim and would require significant ecological studies.</li> <li>• There would still be public access to the restored area.</li> <li>• They plan to have work parties for volunteers to do as much work as possible. Cllr Jenkins offered to advertise the need for volunteers and Mr Mitchell agreed to provide some words for this.</li> <li>• The Parish Council was asked if they could help them either with maintenance or funding. Cllr Oldnall to advise Mt Mitchell on the use of the grant application form.</li> </ul>	<p>SJ/ Mr Mitchell</p> <p>MO/ Mr Mitchell</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Jenkins asked about hedge maintenance. The WBCT would need to do this and it was noted that the hedges required attention now.</li> <li>• Cllr Oldnall asked for an outline of the vision for the canal. Mr Mitchell reported that they were not allowed to erect any permanent buildings. Water in the canal was desirable but there were no water resources nearby so they don't know yet whether this would be possible. Cllr Oldnall suggested liaising with museum for the historical aspects of canal.</li> <li>• Mr Scatchard was keen to build better relations with local authorities. They had a fair degree of support from Swindon and Wiltshire via the Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire canal partnership which brings together all the major councils along the line. They were also trying get funding to join up canal from Wootton Bassett to the centre of Swindon. The Abingdon reservoir, if built, would use the canal as a relief route to draw down water from the Thames.</li> <li>• Mr Coxhead asked why the canal had been levelled from The Wharf toward Longcot. Mr Mitchell explained that the land was part of the Craven estate and was sold off. It was not protected at the time, hence the levelling. Cllr Oldnall suggested having another talk to involve more villagers at a future date. <i>Afternote: The Canal Trust had confirmed that they plan to cut back the trees on the Baulking/Station Road corner in early December.</i></li> </ul> <p>b) <b>Proposal for a bicycle repair facility.</b> Dan &amp; Oakley Gant provided a briefing on the project which was Oakley's idea and was put forward for his community impact badge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was felt that there was a need for this facility as lots of cyclists come through the village. It would be useful for them and would be welcoming. Mr Rumble noted that there were two cycle clubs who hired the hall. He asked one of them for a view on the proposal; they felt that the keen cyclist might not use it as they carried their own tools.</li> <li>• It would help to encourage local residents to take up cycling which would improve the health and fitness of the population. It would also encourage people to learn about cycle maintenance and it would make a strong statement about a cycle friendly community. With regard to the number of users, Uffington's population was around 1000. In UK about 11% of people ride a bike, so the suggestion was that around 100 people might use it and possibly more in the summer. Visiting cycle events might also find it useful.</li> <li>• The facility would also be used as part of the Scout cycle maintenance training.</li> <li>• The proposed location was within the car park area as this was a central point.</li> <li>• Electricity was not required and it could be self-installed. The preferred item was not the cheapest but it was one of the more robust. The cost was £1735 ex VAT which included delivery. The only maintenance was the replacement of occasional tools.</li> <li>• They intended to request financial support from the Parish Council and had asked for grant from WHS and were also looking at self-fundraising.</li> <li>• Mr Coxhead felt that vandalism might be an issue. However, Mr Rumble did not think there would be an issue installing it on the car park. Cllr Oldnall agreed to contact Mr Gant about the next steps.</li> </ul> <p>c) <b>Thames Water meeting.</b> Mr Coxhead asked about outcome of Thames Water meeting. Cllr Oberman explained that Thames Water were trying to identify the landowner with whom proposals for improving access to the sewage treatment works could be discussed. Ideally there would be a layby opposite, but Thames Water had said that this was a highways issue. Cllr Oldnall reported that a reply had been received that afternoon. Thames Water had accepted Highways rejection of a layby and planned to follow up the verge repairs. They were also trying to contact the landowner in order to widen the gate as a longer term solution. <i>Afternote: Thames Water appeared to have had the wrong contact details for the landowner and were now attempting to contact him using revised details previously provided by a resident.</i></p> <p>d) <b>Car Park.</b> Mr Rumble reported that the car park surface had been repaired. The entrance had been reviewed by the contractor as there was a large pothole on the right hand side. It needed to be repaired properly and was likely to be a major piece of work. Cllr Oldnall agreed to do a FixMyStreet report but noted that it would need to be investigated further before any decision was made as to the best course of action. Cllr Oberman suggested putting a sarsen stone there to</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>MO</p>
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	<p>stop people driving over the verge.</p> <p>e) <b>Warm Spaces grant.</b> Mrs Forster asked if there was any progress on the warm spaces grant. No progress had been reported by Cllr Constance.</p> <p>The members of the public were thanked for attending.</p>	
<b>ITEM 8 – ONGOING PROJECTS</b>		
221/22	<p><b>Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments).</b> Cllr Jenkins had circulated a report. He gave a brief overview of the project for the benefit of the members of the public. He reported that the new surveyor at OCC Estates was unwilling to provide a permanent easement. A Teams call had been set up to discuss the situation. Cllr Constance was assisting in the matter. Cllr Jenkins outlined all the alternatives that had been considered but rejected by OCC Legal. Cllr Pilchowski suggested that the one option not considered was to return the land to the landowner. Mr Coxhead offered another alternative solution involving a different access route and which Cllr Jenkins felt was worth investigating. <i>Afternote: The landowner concerned is not prepared to take this any further.</i></p>	SJ
<b>ITEM 9 – PLANNING MATTERS</b>		
222/22	<p><b>New Applications to be considered</b></p> <p>None</p>	
223/22	<p><b>To consider any new applications received since the publication of the agenda</b></p> <p>None</p>	
224/22	<p><b>Update on outstanding planning applications:</b></p> <p>a) <b>P22/V2279/HH. The Old Police House</b> – Proposed extension to garage to create a workshop, and to install an ensuite with two roof lights to the second floor of the dwelling. Granted.</p> <p>b) <b>P22/V1141/FUL – Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road.</b> Proposed erection of 2 x 4 bed detached dwellings (self-build). Additional plan received on 24<sup>th</sup> August. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>c) <b>P22/V2252/HH – Slate House, Upper Common.</b> Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. Awaiting determination.</p> <p>d) <b>P22/V1684/HH – Hendra, Broad Street.</b> Proposed garage carport with associated store, proposed porch and conversion of integral garage to habitable accommodation. Awaiting determination. <i>Afternote: Approved.</i></p> <p>e) <b>P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm.</b> Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination.</p>	
225/22	<p><b>Britchcombe Farm</b></p> <p>Nothing to report. Raoul Fraser had not responded to another request to attend. It was agreed that we would not write to invite him again.</p>	
226/22	<p><b>Dragon Hill.</b> There was no feedback from Cllr Boyd.</p>	
<b>ITEM 10 – FINANCE</b>		
227/22	<p>a) <b>To approve November payments:</b> Payments totalling £1728.93 were approved. This included a donation of £100 for the Remembrance wreath. Proposed: Cllr Pilchowski, seconded: Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise the payments online.</p> <p>b) <b>Receipt of CIL.</b> It was noted that the latest tranche of CIL funds had been received.</p> <p>c) <b>Grant applications:</b></p> <p>1) <b>Uffington Museum Trust.</b></p> <p>i. Request for £125 grant for support of the 2023 exhibition. This was approved. Proposed Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</p> <p>ii. Grant toward the cost of new heaters. It was felt that this would be beneficial for both the building and the collection. Cllr Oldnall asked whether it was really a grant or whether it should come from elsewhere. The costs had not yet been finalised. Cllr Pilchowski felt that it did need to be supported, but it was not a grant. Mrs Pilcher noted that the new heating system would be more economical. She did have a revised quote of £4500 incl VAT. Cllr Oldnall requested a second quote. Cllr Puddicombe pointed out that it was not a PC responsibility under the terms of the lease. Cllr Oldnall had no problem supporting the project in principle but asked Mrs Pilcher to work up further details of costs and other sources of funds. Cllr Puddicombe felt that this was a good project for the OSR funds. He felt that getting the heating right would reduce the risk of future building problems.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>NP/Mrs Pilcher</p>

	<p>2) <b>Community Garden.</b> A grant was requested for the replacement of the gate between the garden and the pub. £200 was awarded. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</p> <p>3) <b>Toddler Group.</b> The request for CPF funds (£220) for the toddler group had not yet been decided but had Cllr Constance's support.</p> <p>4) <b>Christmas Tree.</b> £180 had been received from the CPF toward the Christmas tree. However, this did not cover the total cost. It was agreed to award a further £100 as agreed last year. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Puddicombe. RESOLVED.</p> <p>5) <b>Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice.</b> They had supported a number of people in the village. £100 was awarded. Proposed Cllr Oberman, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED.</p> <p>6) <b>Royal British Legion</b> for wreath. £100 was awarded. See minute reference 227/22 above.</p> <p>7) <b>Church Clock.</b> Cllr Jenkins had received a request from the Parochial Church Council for a grant towards the repair of the Church clock. The costs were high. Some donations had already been received. Discussion followed on whether the Parish Council could support such a project. Clerk to circulate information about this. The Parish Council agreed to support in principle subject to clarification of the rules. Cllr Jenkins to circulate the application. <i>Afternote: Completed.</i></p> <p>d) <b>Budget Virements.</b> The Clerk and Cllr Oldnall had reviewed expenditure and suggested a few movements in the budget to match more accurately planned in-year expenditure. These were agreed. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED.</p> <p>e) <b>First Draft of 2023/24 Budget.</b> It was agreed not to raise the precept next year. However it was noted that the auditor had warned about increasing costs and had suggested increasing budget allocations if justified. Cllr Jenkins stated that he had always been in favour of increasing the precept each year but this year was a special case given the state of the economy. Cllr Oldnall noted that the main project for next year would be FP4. Cllr Pilchowski noted that he was waiting for the anticipated costs for defibrillator maintenance; this may need to be included in the budget. He suggested that residents were informed that we were not putting up the precept but were using reserves instead. Cllrs Oldnall and Puddicombe to carry out a final review of the budget with the Clerk and present it for approval in December.</p>	<p>Clerk/SJ</p> <p>DP</p> <p>NP/MO/Clerk</p>
<b>ITEM 11 - THE JUBILEE FIELD TRUST</b>		
228/22	<p>a) <b>Monthly play area inspection.</b> There were no outstanding issues. It was getting a bit muddy by the pond and some chippings had been put down but more would be required to improve the whole path.</p> <p>b) <b>Review of RoSPA report.</b> All the repairs identified had been carried out.</p> <p>c) <b>Applications to use the field.</b> None.</p>	<p>FO</p> <p>CLOSED</p>
<b>ITEM 12 – OSR UPDATE</b>		
229/22	<p><b>OSR Update</b> Cllr Puddicombe had nothing to report. Cllr Oldnall reported that</p> <p>a) He had received a request from the Friends for a new door lock. Cllr Oldnall noted that requests didn't normally come from this route. Cllr Puddicombe to look into this and confirm the requirement.</p> <p>b) The Curator had asked if a survey could be circulated with The Courier and this had been provisionally agreed. As it was an A4 document in an envelope Cllr Oldnall had asked the Friends whether they could fold it and put it in The Courier but had not yet received a response.</p> <p>c) He had received a request from the Curator for £360 for a new collection box which had been declined as this was a UMT matter.</p> <p>d) Cllr Oldnall requested that all future funding requests should be approved by the UMT and passed via Cllr Puddicombe to the Parish Council.</p>	<p>NP</p> <p>NP</p>
<b>ITEM 13 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS</b>		
230/22	None.	
<b>ITEM 14 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</b>		
231/22	a) <b>Village Stream.</b> Stream clearance was in progress. As winter was approaching Cllr Jenkins was requested to put a reminder in the next Village News email.	SJ

	<p>a) <b>State of Stiles on Footpath 4.</b> There were a number of issues to sort out, including ownership and the precise route of the FP before starting to discuss costs and grants. Cllr Jenkins intended to produce an updated document to explore these issues with the landowners concerned.</p> <p>b) <b>VAS Issues.</b> There had been no progress.</p> <p>c) <b>Review of work to poplars.</b> Carried forward.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>c/f</p>
<b>ITEM 15 - ALLOTMENTS</b>		
232/22	No issues were raised. Five rents were outstanding. Clerk to chase.	Clerk
<b>ITEM 16 – GENERAL</b>		
233/22	<p>a) <b>Community Speedwatch.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that a Speed Gun and one sign had been purchased. It was hoped all volunteers would shortly have been trained after which sessions would start.</p> <p>b) <b>Courier Survey Results.</b> Cllr Oldnall was pleased with the number of responses received. Half responded online and half on paper. The split for a paper vs electronic magazine was also approximately half and half. Cllr Oldnall felt that there would always be a need to print some magazines. Distribution of paper copies to only selected households would need to be sorted out and would make delivery more difficult. Cllr Oldnall proposed keeping the next edition as a 100% paper magazine including delivery to all households and trialling the electronic and paper versions with the Spring edition. Cllr Banks suggested noting the number of printed copies and online readers in the next edition to reassure advertisers.</p> <p>c) <b>Courier Editor.</b> Cllr Oldnall reported that Mr Packford had retired as editor after 35 years. An advert had gone out seeking a replacement, but no replies had been received. Mr Packford had agreed to edit the next edition if necessary. A discussion followed on whether the new editor should be paid and how much. It was felt that this would depend on how long it took to put together an edition. Cllr Oldnall to investigate and advertise the post again. <i>Afternote: A routine edition takes about 4 hrs to edit and compile. A potential volunteer had come forward and who would undertake the editorship for a trial period.</i></p> <p>d) <b>Community Governance Review outcome.</b> There will be places for seven councillors from the next election.</p> <p>e) <b>UBW Minibus AGM.</b> Cllrs Jenkins and Oberman were to attend the AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>f) <b>Suggestion for a talk on recycling.</b> Cllr Oldnall suggested holding this at the Annual Assembly. Clerk to inform the Vale (but not make a definite booking at this stage).</p> <p>g) <b>Oil Affinity Scheme.</b> Cllr Jenkins reported that there had been a suggestion of a collection for Mr Armishaw for his many years work on this scheme. Cllr Oldnall agreed to investigate contacting users of the scheme in a GDPR compliant manner.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>MO</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>MO</p>
<b>ITEM 17 – CONSULTATIONS</b>		
234/22	None.	
<b>ITEM 18 – CORRESPONDENCE</b>		
235/22	<p>a) <b>Uffington Gorse and the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust.</b> Covered in Minute reference 220/22 above.</p> <p>b) <b>Village sign.</b> A vote of thanks was recorded to Mr Armishaw for repairing the village sign.</p> <p>c) <b>Ukrainian refugees.</b> A 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukrainian family would be arriving in the village shortly.</p>	
<b>ITEM 19 – MATTERS FOR THE DECEMBER AGENDA</b>		
236/22	a) Arrangements for the 2023 elections.	
<b>ITEM 20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>		
237/22	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 21.07