

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council
Monday 12th December 2022 at 6.30pm
At Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall**

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

In Attendance: Mrs J Evans (Clerk)

District Councillor: Cllr Nathan Boyd

County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance

Members of the Public: 3 members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
239/22	Cllr Nigel Puddicombe.	
	ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
240/22	None.	
	ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2022	
241/22	The minutes of the Parish Council closed meeting held on Monday 14 th November were approved. Proposed Cllr Oberman, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. The minutes of the Parish Council monthly meeting held on Monday 14 th November were approved. Proposed Cllr Pilchowski, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED The minutes were signed.	
	ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
242/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Quotes for tree work. 5 bids had been received and circulated. Following discussion it was agreed to appoint Greg West. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Oberman. RESOLVED. Clerk to write appointing Greg West and thanking the others. b) Proposal for a bicycle repair facility. Cllr Oldnall to write to the applicant advising him on how to apply for a grant. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>MO CLOSED</p>
	ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
243/22	<p>Cllr Constance had sent a written report which had been circulated. At the meeting she reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A new CEO was to be appointed on 13th December. b) Much work had been undertaken with respect to traffic changes in Oxford. c) Many local roads have recently been resurfaced and repaired. <p>Cllr Constance asked whether the CPF funds have been received – this was confirmed. There was a question over a grant for the Warm Spaces group. Cllr Oldnall was not aware of a grant request for this. Mr Rumble thought that the application had gone to the OCF but had not yet been paid. Cllr Constance to look into this. Mr Rumble to send further information. <i>Afternote: grant received 13 December 2022 and Cllr Constance informed.</i></p> <p>Cllr Constance asked about progress on the 20mph scheme and Speedwatch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 20MPH scheme – a local consultation was held and there were 170 responses. 83% of the respondents were supportive of the scheme being rolled out to the whole village with others supportive of the scheme in parts of the village. Cllr Oldnall had been informed by OCC that this would not be surveyed until next summer. NO further action was to be taken until OCC had notified survey dates. b) Speedwatch – the CPF grant had been received for the speedgun. The scheme was up and running. There had been one live session so far, at which one vehicle had been reported for exceeding the speed limit. Another session was due on 13th December. Cllr Jenkins thanked Cllr Constance for the grant. <i>After note: Three vehicles were reported for speeding on 13 December.</i> <p>Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.</p>	<p>CLOSED</p>
	ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
244/22	<p>Cllr Boyd had sent a written report which was to be circulated. At the meeting he reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Vale offices would be closed from 23rd December to 3rd January. There would still be 24hr helplines for anyone at immediate risk or at risk of being made homeless. b) Waste collections had suffered due to the cold weather. They would try and catch up later this week. The Vale had published the Christmas collection schedule. c) Any planning applications submitted after 23rd December would not be registered until new year. 	

	<p>d) The Capita benefits phone lines would be closed from 20th December but open from 28 - 30 December, and then reopening in the new year.</p> <p>e) A new leader of the District Council had been elected - Cllr Bethia Thomas.</p> <p>f) The Climate Emergency committee meeting had been postponed until January.</p> <p>g) A reminder that Vale had moved its offices back to Abingdon.</p> <p>h) There was a Climate Action Fund available and the deadline had been extended to 4th January. He urged people to apply as it had a wide scope.</p> <p>i) Planning: P22/V0345/FUL (Sowerhill Farm) was still outstanding and he had chased about it. P22/V1141/FUL (Dragon Hill) had been approved. Residents had contacted him about this and he had spoken to the planning development Manager but it was not called to committee. Cllr Oberman expressed her disappointment that the Neighbourhood Plan had been completely disregarded. Cllr Boyd noted that this had happened elsewhere and he shared the frustration.</p> <p>Cllr Boyd was thanked for attending.</p>	
ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM		
245/22	<p>a) Mr Rumble asked whether there was any news about the pothole at the car park junction. He noted that someone had almost fallen there yesterday. Cllr Oldhall reported that there was no update on a FixMyStreet report he had made. It was suggested that a bollard be placed over the pothole as it would be difficult to see in snow. Cllr Jenkins had a spare cone and agreed to put it in there. <i>Afternote: cone had been placed in position.</i></p> <p>b) Mrs Pilcher raised the issues of the Chubb invoices. These had now been paid. She reported that she was still trying to get a second quote for the new heating in the museum and that she had put in a grant application for £1500 to Museums Association.</p> <p>c) Mr Moss reported on the Church clock. The church clock had broken down in the summer and was no longer striking the hours. Options had been developed for its restoration and automation by the PCC. Cllr Banks had looked after the clock until now and carried out the regular winding. All members of the PCC had agreed that it was worth spending the money on the repairs to the clock and dial mechanisms but, whilst recognising the need for automatic winding, the final decision had not yet been taken by the PCC. This was to be debated in January at which Cllr Banks, with personal knowledge and experience, has been invited to speak to the PCC before a final decision is taken. An initial quote from Smiths of Derby for clock and dial mechanism repairs was for £19.5k + VAT. Automation was an additional £9.2k and restoration of the dial itself a further £8.2k + VAT. He was trying to get another quote from Cumbria Clocks and Timsbury Clocks who were due to visit on 23 December. The PCC had raised over £12k so far. The PCC was hoping to get S106 funds for the automation as this could be considered an enhancement as opposed to a repair. Quotes were required to be submitted to the Diocese for review when received, with an application for a faculty (permission to proceed). Mr Moss was applying to Oxfordshire Historic Churches for a grant. Many villagers had told him that the clock should be repaired as it was a community facility. The Parish Council agreed that the clock was a community asset (although not formally registered as an 'asset of community value'). Cllr Constance asked if it could be repaired now and automated later; it could, but this was likely to be more expensive. Cllr Constance suggested applying to English Heritage and also crowdfunding. Cllr Oldhall questioned timeframes. Mr Moss reported that the diocese had a two month backlog on processing faculty applications so completion probably wouldn't until June/July 2023. All councillors were in favour of providing some support. Cllr Oldhall suggested waiting until all the quotes were in before making any decision. To be reviewed at the next meeting. Cllr Oldhall clarified that the Parish Council could not help with the VAT but would investigate the possibility of using S106 funding</p> <p>The members of the public were thanked for attending.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">SJ</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MO</p>
ITEM 8 – ONGOING PROJECTS		
246/22	<p>Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments). Cllr Jenkins reported that a useful meeting had been held with OCC. Notes had been circulated to the Parish Council. A simple draft heads of terms for a tripartite licence on the path had been received. It had been sent to the landowner who will need to take legal advice. It had also been sent to our solicitor. The Parish Council would become responsible for maintenance of the path once the license was signed.</p>	SJ

ITEM 9 – PLANNING MATTERS		
247/22	New Applications to be considered a) P22/V2317/LDP – Packer’s Forge, High Street. Provision of a caravan for additional residential accommodation. Permitted development enquiry. No consultation – for information only.	
248/22	To consider any new applications received since the publication of the agenda None	
249/22	Update on outstanding planning applications: a) P22/V2353/HH – The New House, Shotover Corner. Proposed demolition & erection of new double garage with loft workshop over, new porch to existing house. Granted. b) P22/V1141/FUL – Dragon Hill, Woolstone Road. Proposed erection of 2 x 4 bed detached dwellings (self-build). Additional plan received on 24 th August. Granted. c) P22/V2252/HH – Slate House, Upper Common. Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. Awaiting determination. d) P22/V1684/HH – Hendra, Broad Street. Proposed garage carport with associated store, proposed porch and conversion of integral garage to habitable accommodation. Granted. e) P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm. Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination.	
250/22	Britchcombe Farm Nothing to report.	
251/22	Dragon Hill. Covered in minute reference 244/22 above.	
ITEM 10 – FINANCE		
252/22	a) To approve December payments – The payments totalling £5758.23 were approved. Proposed Cllr Banks, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise. As a result of a late invoice for the OSR fire extinguisher checks, the Clerk was to ask Cllr Puddicombe whether buying new fire extinguishers each year would be cheaper. b) To consider the 2023/24 budget – Cllr Oldnall noted that the precept needed to be agreed today. It was agreed to keep same as last year; £28k Proposed Cllr Oberman, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. Budget allocations to be confirmed in January. c) Disbursements of Chairman’s allowance. Cllr Oldnall suggested getting a gift for Mr Packford thanking him for his work on The Courier over the years. An amount was agreed. Proposed Cllr Oldnall, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to pursue the matter.	MO Clerk MO
ITEM 11 - THE COURIER		
253/22	Giles Dawson had taken over as editor. He had provisionally taken it on for one year and was preparing the winter edition, which may be a little late due to the handover. Deadline for copy was 17 th December. Clerk to send the adverts to him.	Clerk
ITEM 12 – JUBILEE FIELD		
254/22	a) Monthly play area inspection. There were no issues. b) Applications to use the field. None.	FO
ITEM 13 – OSR UPDATE		
255/22	OSR Update a) Proposal for new heating system. This was covered in minute reference 245/22 above. b) Declarations of interests for Trustees. Cllr Oldnall questioned whether it was really necessary for Parish Councillors who were also UMT trustees to declare potential conflicts of interest at UMT meetings. The Clerk had advised that it was. Cllr Puddicombe had also reported by email that it was. Cllr Oberman felt that the situation should be accepted but Cllr Jenkins stated that whilst any actual conflicts of interest should be declared he personally he felt the current practice questioned the integrity of trustees. No action.	
ITEM 14 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS		
256/22	None.	
ITEM 15 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)		
257/22	a) Craven Common Ditch and Hedge. Cllr Jenkins asked whether there had been any feedback on this. Cllr Oldnall noted that the resident had argued that his hedge did not obstruct sight lines and that he would write to them again. b) Tree in Hill View. It was noted that the replacement tree in Hill View had not yet been planted. Clerk to write to Sovereign Housing Association. a. Village Stream and pond. Cllr Jenkins reported that the stream was OK at the moment but the pond needed dredging. Some bushes may also need to be cut back.	MO Clerk

	<p>Cllr Jenkins to speak to Malcolm Hinton. Cllr Oberman asked if the centre of the pond could be kept clear. Cllr Oldnall asked if Mr Hinton could also look at the ditch that runs along the high street. Cllr Oldnall to look at a grant application to the environment fund (See 244/22h).</p> <p>c) Stiles on Footpath 4. Cllr Jenkins had developed a discussion document, because there were a number of questions about ownership. Cllr Jenkins to speak to the landowners. It was noted that the owners of the stiles at the southern and northern ends had been identified. The stiles leading to the railway footbridge were likely to be a problem as they were owned by Network Rail. TOE had spoken to Arthur McEwan-James who had confirmed that there was no further Network Rail money available, so it would be necessary to apply to TOE for funding and it was hoped that OCC would provide some support. Cllr Oldnall suggested asking Keith Pepler to repair the steps at the same time.</p> <p>d) VAS Issues. Messagemaker had closed the support ticket. Cllr Oldnall to inspect the unit.</p> <p>e) Review of work to poplars. The Parish Council had £11k in reserves for this work. Cllr Oldnall presented 4 options for dealing with the trees. Cllr Jenkins felt that they should all be felled and replanted. Cllr Pilchowski agreed. Cllr Oberman was not in favour of pollarding. She suggested felling the one that needed pollarding the most and leaving the rest. Cllr Banks suggested removing one a year. Cllr Oldnall preferred to leave them alone. Cllr Jenkins felt that Cllr Oberman's idea was a good one and it was agreed that the centre tree should be felled. The overhanging branch from the adjacent tree was also to be removed if possible. Clerk to invite the same people to quote for the work as part of the tender response letters (See 242/22a).</p>	<p>SJ/MO</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>MO</p> <p>Clerk</p>
ITEM 16 - ALLOTMENTS		
258/22	All the rents had now been received. There was one new applicant for a plot. Cllr Jenkins to speak to Mr Godsell about the unusable plots.	SJ
ITEM 17 – GENERAL		
259/22	<p>a) Community Speedwatch. This was covered in minute reference 243/22 above.</p> <p>b) Arrangement for the 2023 elections. The process was explained. A note was to go into the next Courier and later in the weekly newsletter. An online session was available to prospective councillors. Clerk to establish whether this will be repeated or was available as a recorded session. Cllr Oldnall to draft an item for the Courier about applying for the Parish Council.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>Clerk/MO</p>
ITEM 18 – CONSULTATIONS		
260/22	None.	
ITEM 19 – CORRESPONDENCE		
261/22	<p>a) Burial Ground – interment of ashes. There were not currently any ashes plots available. If to be provided they would need to be planned out. It was agreed that there should be ashes only plots. Cllr Banks to draw out a proposal for the plot location(s) to be reviewed at the next meeting. Cllr Oberman offered to help with this.</p> <p>b) Theft of oil. Cllr Jenkins reported that the contents of a tank of oil had been stolen at the end of November. The Police had been informed.</p> <p>c) Jubilee Field spring tidy - It was agreed that this would be held on 25th March.</p>	GB/FO
ITEM 209 – MATTERS FOR THE DECEMBER AGENDA		
262/22	None	
ITEM 20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
263/22	Monday 9 th January 2023 at 6.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 20.58