

**Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council
Monday 9th January 2023 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, Cllr Nigel Puddicombe

In Attendance: Mrs J Evans (Clerk)

District Councillor: Cllr Nathan Boyd

County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance

Members of the Public: 2 members of the public

Minute	ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action
01/23	None.	
	ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
02/23	None.	
	ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 th DECEMBER 2022	
03/23	The minutes of the Parish Council monthly meeting held on Monday 12 th December 2022 were approved. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, Seconded Cllr Pilchowski. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed.	
	ITEM 4 – REMAINING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
04/23	<p>a) Quotes for tree work. The ITT for work to the poplar had been sent out. Responses were due by 25th January. One company had declined to bid. One other company had been invited to tender. It was agreed that BGG should also be invited to tender. <i>Afternote: as All Seasons had also declined to quote, Maton Paddock Care was also invited.</i></p> <p>b) Repairs and enhancements to the Church clock. An article had been placed in The Courier. Cllr Banks reported that the meeting with the PCC not yet taken place. Cllr Jenkins noted that some PCCs had a maintenance contract for their clocks and appeared to received grants for the maintenance from their Parish Councils contrary to the guidance given by OALC. The grants policy was to be reviewed with regard to supporting village assets.</p> <p>c) Tree in Hill View. The Clerk had written to the Vale Parks Department regarding a replacement tree. Awaiting a reply.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk/MO</p>
	ITEM 5 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT	
05/23	<p>Cllr Constance had sent an update from OCC CEO which had been circulated. At the meeting she reported that a new permanent CEO had been appointed. Other matters:</p> <p>a) 20MPH scheme – Cllr Constance noted the general approval for the scheme from the village consultation. Uffington would be included in the scheme, and she hoped that implementation would be in 2023. She confirmed that the Parish Council would not be required to contribute to the cost. <i>Afternote: This decision had been communicated to OCC and it was confirmed that Uffington was included in the Phase 1 survey sites.</i></p> <p>b) Waylands scheme – Cllr Constance discussed the use of CPF toward the cost of OCC legal fees. Cllr Oldnall suggested using the fund to pay for the work that had already been completed and Cllr Jenkins agreed to send her the details.</p> <p>c) Sewage issues – Cllr Constance reported that the issue in Uffington was minor compared to the 5028 sewage discharges into Oxfordshire rivers in 2021. A motion had been raised proposing that OCC take up the issue, but the County Council does not have the power to do this. More transparency of the issue was required, and she suggested that the Parish Council write to OCC outlining the issues experienced. Cllr Constance to send the relevant contact details. A resident provided an update on the issues with the gate on the access road to the pumping station. He reported that Thames Water had accepted that the gate needed to be widened. Thames Water were to meet with the landowner on 16th January. He pointed out that there had recently been around 10 hours of discharge per day, especially during the periods of heavy rain. He suggested that Thames Water should come to a village meeting and explain the situation. He offered to facilitate this. Cllr Constance requested a report that she</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>YC</p>

	<p>could take to OCC. She noted that the matter of sewage discharges has reached the government and they were suggesting an increase in the civil penalty. Cllr Jenkins asked whether Thames Water should be asked if the water in the brook was safe. Cllr Constance thought this was a good idea, but felt that we would get a better response from an independent person. <i>Afternote: It had subsequently been agreed that, ideally, the meeting with Thames Water should take place as an extension to a future Parish Council meeting not as a separate meeting for villagers.</i></p> <p>d) Warm Rooms grant. Cllr Constance was still sorting out funding for the warm rooms scheme. It was noted that the village hall now had received sufficient funds to cover the scheme and it was felt that the coffee morning sessions would probably stop soon. Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.</p>	
ITEM 6 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT		
06/23	<p>Cllr Boyd reported that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Vale was only just restarting after Christmas. b) The upcoming local elections might be moving to 18th Mat. A bill was being put forward in Northern Ireland, but if passed it would also apply to the rest of the UK. c) The BIFFA waste bin survey was ongoing. Bins were being removed by BIFFA without parishes being informed. d) Dragon Hill – he was to speak to the case officers again about the latest application to cancel one of the conditions and vary another (see Minute 09/23). e) Britchcombe Farm – he was to speak to enforcement officers about the static caravan that had appeared on the site. <p>Cllr Oldnall offered thanks to Jessica Beare, who always replied very quickly, whatever matter she was contacted about. Cllr Boyd to pass the thanks on to her.</p> <p>Cllr Boyd was thanked for attending.</p>	
ITEM 7 – OPEN FORUM		
07/23	<p>Mr Rumble asked whether the PC was aware that 11 apparently healthy trees had been cut down at the school field. Cllr Oldnall replied that we were not aware, but it was not a Parish Council matter. He suggested liaising with Sam Beynon. <i>Afternote: felled trees were as advised in the tree survey and were dead or dying from ash-dieback.</i> Mr Rumble also raised the issue of a metal tube (vent pipe) at Woolstone Corner. It was very rusty and he asked if it was safe, Cllr Oldnall agreed to take a photo of the pipe and send it to Thames Water.</p> <p>The members of the public were thanked for attending.</p>	MO
ITEM 8 – ONGOING PROJECTS		
08/23	<p>a) Access to the Paddock (formerly Vehicle Bridge to the Allotments). Cllr Jenkins reported that a draft licence had been prepared by OCC which had stated that an easement would not be granted in any circumstances. The landowner wanted to discuss this with his solicitor. It was expected that the solicitor would press for an easement.</p>	
ITEM 9 – PLANNING MATTERS		
09/23	<p>New Applications to be considered</p> <p>a) P22/V2978/S73 – Dragon Hill. Variation of condition 2 and removal of condition 7 of approved plans P22/V1141/FUL. Response due by 24th January. The proposal would result in four entrances along the road in the space of 100 yds. Cllr Oberman questioned why the shared access could not be maintained. Cllr Constance felt that this was a highways matter. Cllr Boyd noted that OCC Highways had not yet responded. The Parish Council unanimously felt that the application should not be permitted. Cllr Boyd summarised: there were two arguments 1) safety due to the number of entrances in such a short space and 2) the application going back on their previous statements which had stressed the advantages of the single new entrance. He agreed to express concern over this to planning officers. It was agreed to object on the above comments. Cllr Oldnall to draft a response.</p>	MO
10/23	<p>To consider any new applications received since the publication of the agenda</p> <p>None</p>	
11/23	<p>Update on outstanding planning applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) P22/V2317/LDP – Packer's Forge, High Street. Provision of a caravan for additional residential accommodation. Permitted development enquiry. No consultation. b) P22/V2252/HH – Slate House, Upper Common. Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. Awaiting determination. c) P22/V0345/FUL – Sowerhill Farm. Installation of outdoor arena with lights. Change of 	

	use from agricultural to equestrian. Awaiting determination.	
12/23	Britchcombe Farm A large mobile home had been installed some time ago in the trees. This had been raised with the enforcement team at the Vale. (See 06/23e above)	
ITEM 10 – FINANCE		
13/23	<p>a) To approve January payments – The payments totalling £574.54 were approved. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED. Cllr Oldnall to authorise.</p> <p>b) 2023/24 budget allocations – The proposed budget had been circulated. The issues raised by the auditor had been addressed and the risks and mitigations added to the risk register. Clerk to review the register to ensure all aspects were adequately covered. Estimated election charges were discussed. It was agreed not to change the budget as the Election EMR and current and 2023/24 budgets would cover the expected costs of a contested election. Cllr Jenkins questioned the negative balance figure and it was noted this was only £30 (approx 0.1% of the overall budget). Cllr Oldnall explained the rationale behind the allocations. The budget allocations were approved. Proposed Cllr Puddicombe, Seconded Cllr Jenkins. RESOLVED.</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>Clerk</p>
ITEM 11 – THE COURIER		
14/23	The winter edition was to be finalised in the next week.	
ITEM 12 – JUBILEE FIELD		
15/23	<p>a) Monthly play area inspection. There were no issues. Quotes had been received for painting the equipment and the contractor had been instructed but action had been delayed by Covid and the weather.</p> <p>b) Applications to use the field. None. Cllr Oberman asked whether new play equipment was required. It was suggested that the matter be considered later in the year. Clerk to send information about the space net in Shrivenham.</p>	<p>FO</p> <p>Clerk</p>
ITEM 13 – OSR UPDATE		
16/23	<p>OSR Update</p> <p>a) Proposal for new heating system. Cllr Puddicombe reported that a second quote was still awaited. A grant of £1500 had been approved from South East Museums.</p> <p>b) A meeting with Andrew Townsend had been scheduled for 16th January to discuss some changes proposed by the Curator. Cllr Puddicombe was to attend along with Mrs Pilcher and the Curator. He was to bring any proposals to the February meeting, ideally with any UMT recommendations/approval.</p> <p>c) A museum survey on the effects of Covid on individuals and village life had been circulated to the village.</p>	
ITEM 14 – ANNUAL / QUARTERLY REVIEWS		
17/23	a) Emergency Plan. This was carried forward to next month.	MO
ITEM 15 – UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)		
18/23	<p>Defibrillators. Cllr Pilchowski reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The company that sold the defibrillators had been taken over. The 8 year contract that was taken out at the purchase was due to run out shortly. He had just taken delivery of new batteries for each unit under the terms of the original contract. The next two sets of pads will be free, but we will need to pay for supplies from 2027. Electrical testing of the cabinets would be required in 2025. Funds will need to be built up to cover maintenance of the defibrillators and this should be included in the 2024/25 budget onwards. • A fault had occurred with one of the units during the recent very cold snap. This was resolved once the unit had been warmed up. • Woolstone had been looking for volunteers to look after their unit. Cllr Pilchowski to provide details on how to manage the unit. They were also looking at getting training from the ambulance service. Cllr Pilchowski suggested that the Parish Council might consider taking advantage of this. • Cllr Jenkins asked whether Woolstone and Baulking should contribute to the cost of supplies. Cllr Pilchowski reported that a decision had not yet been made about this. He raised this issue of the poor state of the telephone kiosk in Baulking. • Cllr Pilchowski to write to the relevant Parish Meetings informing them of the situation regarding supplies and maintenance. Cllr Banks felt that awareness of the benefits of the defibrillators should be pointed out to them. 	DP

	<p>Village Stream and pond. Cllr Jenkins reported that the stream was coping with all the water from the recent rainfall. Malcolm Hinton would be coming to dredge the pond later this month. The input channels and the stream had been cleared.</p> <p>Stiles on Footpath 4. Cllr Jenkins had circulated a document on the project which was both a justification and the information required for an ITT for the work. Cllr Pilchowski suggested that the presentation should be a business case at this stage rather than an ITT. Cllr Jenkins agreed to review this. <i>Afternote: the document had been separated into 2 with one serving as the business case to OCC and the other to be the details required in the ITT.</i> The next step was to send it to OCC and Network Rail via OCC. Dave Cavanagh had expressed concern that the three gates the landowner had purchased might not be acceptable to OCC. Cllr Oberman pointed out that this was primarily a landowner matter.</p> <p>VAS Issues. Given the age of the equipment and likely cost of repair, it was suggested that a new unit was purchased from Westcotec rather than trying to get this one repaired as Westcotec offered a long guarantee period. Clerk to get an estimate for this.</p> <p>Review of work to poplars. This was deferred to the next meeting once the responses to the ITT had been received (due 25 Jan).</p>	
ITEM 16 - ALLOTMENTS		
19/23	Cllr Puddicombe reported that a new tenant had taken a plot in the back row. The tenant who had previously complained about the state of the initially proposed plot had been moved to a different, acceptable, one.	
ITEM 17 – GENERAL		
20/23	<p>a) Community Speedwatch. Sessions were to be held on 10th and 12th January. A new volunteer had come forward. Cllr Jenkins was to investigate new signage to be mounted on the 30mph sign posts at the village entrances.</p> <p>b) Arrangement for the 2023 elections. Cllr Oldnall had written an article on this for the Courier and had included the nomination dates. The Clerk offered to take nomination forms into the Vale if required. Cllr Oldnall suggested that further advertising should go out nearer the time.</p> <p>c) Proposal for new ashes plots in the Burial Ground. Cllrs Banks and Oberman had identified an area for 6 ashes plots. Cllr Banks circulated a map and further details showing the proposed plots. Discussion followed and Cllr Oldnall suggested allocating a further set of 6 plots in case they fill up quickly. It was suggested that these should be sited under plot 92. Cllrs Oldnall and Jenkins to review the area. Cllr Banks presented the proposed costs for the ashes plots. These were agreed. Proposed Cllr Banks. Seconded Cllr Oberman. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Banks about revisions to the policy document and graveyard plan.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>Clerk/MO</p> <p>MO/SJ</p> <p>Clerk/GB</p>
ITEM 18 – CONSULTATIONS		
21/23	Clerk to circulate information on the consultations for the proposed reservoir near Abingdon.	Clerk
ITEM 19 – CORRESPONDENCE		
22/23	None.	
ITEM 209 – MATTERS FOR THE FEBRUARY AGENDA		
23/23	<p>a) Document reviews in preparation for year end</p> <p>b) Dates for April and May meetings</p> <p>c) Arrangement for the Coronation</p> <p>d) Date and arrangements for the Thames Water presentation</p>	
ITEM 20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
24/23	Monday 13 th February 2023 at 6.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 21.21