

Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council, Monday 11th January 2016 at 7.30pm at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Graham Banks, Cllr Fenella Oberman, Cllr Mike Oldnall, Cllr Karen Pilcher
Clerk/Finance Officer: Julia Evans

District Councillor: Cllr Robert Sharp

County Councillor: Cllr Yvonne Constance

Members of the Public: 6 members of the public attended

01/16	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None.	Action
02/16	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS None.	
03/16	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2015 Cllr Pilcher proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 th December 2015. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED.	
04/16	REMAINING BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Station Road Development – Affordable housing: Cllr Jenkins reported that 14 affordable homes will be available in July/August 2016. Cllr Jenkins to send a copy of this information to Mr Rumble. Road Surface at Lower Common: It was reported that this issue had been posted on Fix My Street and the problem has now been resolved.	SJ CLOSED
05/16	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Constance reported that spending allocations from central government were worse than expected. OCC now needs to save an additional £20m and the impact will be huge. Cllr Constance urged people to sign the petition about the 67 bus which serves isolated communities, as it may be possible to negotiate with the bus companies; a meeting is to be held with them on 19 th January to discuss the situation. With reference to the community bus, Cllr Jenkins to discuss the transport situation with John Hatcher and Cllr Oberman. Regarding the Oxfordshire Together initiative, Cllr Constance agreed to chase Tim Shickle for the digital maps which were promised. Cllr Constance reported that she is seeking to build support for making a charge for OAP bus passes, and that OCC are asking government for permission to charge to use waste tips. OCC has stated that all waste tips are safe until 2017. Consideration is being given to the hours/days that the tips are open. Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.	SJ YC
06/16	DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Sharp reported that the status of Garden Town awarded to Didcot may help to improve the infrastructure in the area. Harwell has been declared an enterprise zone as well as Milton. Both may attract extra funding for infrastructure. Stage 2 of the local plan examination starts on 2 nd February in Wantage. Cllr Sharp emphasised that a robust defence against the Gladman appeal is being prepared by the Vale District Council. Cllr Sharp was thanked for attending.	
07/16	POLICE REPORT The Faringdon Neighbourhood Policing newsletter for January 2016 had been circulated on 7 January.	
08/16	OPEN FORUM A member of the public enquired whether there were any other proposals for development within the village. It was reported that there was an application for one house at Dragon Hill awaiting determination by the Vale District Council. Agents for the land owner had outlined some ideas to the Parish Council in February 2015 concerning the field on the right of Station Road. It was noted that surveyors had been seen on site.	

	ONGOING PROJECTS	
09/16	Parish Council Assets and Land Registry: Cllr Banks reported that the project is ongoing.	GB
10/16	Housing Development off Station Road: The question of availability of affordable housing was discussed in minute 04/16.	
11/16	Community Led Plan A progress document has been produced which will be circulated and posted on the website.	SJ
12/16	Neighbourhood Plan The launch is scheduled for 21 st January. It is hoped that the WHS Committee meeting on the same evening can be rescheduled to enable participants to attend both meetings.	SJ
13/16	Village Website The new website is now live. The Parish Council welcomes any comments and ideas from residents. Cllr Oldnall was thanked for his work on the website.	Ongoing
14/16	Emergency Plan Cllr Jenkins reported that work was in progress. The meeting discussed a circular from SSE offering grants to communities to provide assistance during emergencies. The next cut-off date for receipt of applications is April. It was agreed that the emergency plan should be completed before a grant application is submitted.	Ongoing: SJ
15/16	Repairs to the museum This is ongoing. Nothing further to report.	KP
	PLANNING MATTERS	
16/16	New Applications to be considered: P15/V2938/LDP – Single storey rear extension at Whitcot, Shotover Corner. The application is for a Lawful Development Certificate and is presented for information only. The meeting had no comment. P15/V2866/HH – Single Storey extension with part infill to front at Pantiles, Chapel Lane. It was felt that the documentation is very poor, possibly incomplete. The application represents a large increase in the size of the property. A member of the public was concerned that some neighbours had not been consulted. Cllr Sharp agreed to investigate this. The Parish Council agreed that a site visit was required. Clerk to request an extension until after the next meeting to facilitate this and to ensure that all neighbours are properly consulted.	RS Clerk
17/16	New Applications addressed by circulation: None.	
18/16	Gladman Development – appeal statement: A letter had been drafted and circulated to councillors in advance of this meeting. The meeting approved the letter which will be sent on 12 January. The Parish Council recorded a vote of thanks to Neil Wells for his work on this. The quote for the expenditure on a consultant to assist in this was approved outside of a meeting by four councillors due to the urgency of the work and the deadline for receipt of comments. It was noted that the actual figure may be higher as additional hours were spent on the work. Cllr Pilcher proposed ratifying expenditure of £656.25. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED.	
19/16	Station Road Site - S106 Contributions Cllr Jenkins and the Clerk to start working on this later this week. An article on S106 contributions has been published in The Courier.	Clerk/SJ
	FINANCE	
20/16	To approve January payments and sign cheques: A full list of payments is attached to these minutes. Cllrs Oldnall and Oberman	

	proposed and seconded. RESOLVED. The cheques were signed. It was suggested that Catherine Aldridge should be formally thanked for her work as deputy clerk. Cllr Jenkins to write a letter.	SJ
21/16	Oxfordshire Together It was reported that OCC have not yet sent the maps that were promised for December. Cllr Oldnall has circulated plans showing the areas under consideration. It was suggested that a provisional sum be included in the precept to cover the work. The meeting agreed in principle. Cllr Oldnall to work with Cllr Jenkins to draw up a specification so that quotes can be obtained. Cllr Pilcher suggested getting a quote from the people who currently cut the sports field.	SJ/MO
22/16	2016/17 Budget and Precept Cllr Oldnall proposed including a sum of £1,500 in the precept to cover Oxfordshire Together, making a total precept of £17,000. Cllr Pilcher seconded. RESOLVED.	Clerk
	ANNUAL/QUARTERLY REVIEWS	
23/16	There were no reviews to be carried out this month.	
24/16	UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES) It was suggested that the gullies and grips were not being cleared. Cllr Banks noted that OCC are still doing this as the water is moving; it is just taking time to drain away. The system is coping quite well given the level of rainfall. It was suggested that a reminder should be sent to riparian owners to ensure their ditches are kept clear. Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Banks to discuss and identify action required.	SJ/GB
	GENERAL	
25/16	Monthly Play Area inspections: Cllr Oberman presented the inspection report. It was suggested that sand be placed on muddy area. Cllrs Oberman and Banks to look into this.	FO/GB
26/16	Governance: It was reported that most documents have been prepared. They will be circulated to councillors for review a few at a time.	Clerk/SJ
27/16	Celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday in 2016: Woolstone has expressed an interest in joining the celebrations and the Uffington PCC are still very interested. Baulking has an idea for something they would like to do and has also asked for parish views. Cllr Oberman confirmed that the village hall has been booked. Funding was discussed. It was suggested that the WHST be asked if they would support the event with a grant. Clerk to look into the VWHDC events grant.	FO/Clerk
28/16	Grant to Village Hall: The meeting discussed the annual grant to the Village Hall. It was noted that the Parish Council had provided project support over the past year. Cllr Pilcher proposed a grant of £400 for 2015/16. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED. Clerk to put Grants on the agenda for the February meeting.	Clerk
29/16	Casual Vacancy: It was noted that there is still a Casual Vacancy on the council following John Helsby's resignation. No one has come forward yet.	
	CONSULTATIONS	
30/16	No consultations to be considered.	
	CORRESPONDENCE/AOB	
31/16	Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments: The meeting agreed not to opt out of the Smaller Authorities audit appointment. No further action required.	
32/16	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Monday 8 th February 2016 at 7.30pm, at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.	

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm