

Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council, Monday 14th December 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: 14 members of the public attended

135/15	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Catherine Aldridge (Deputy Clerk).	Action
136/15	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS None.	
137/15	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2015 Cllr Banks proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 th November 2015. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED.	
138/15	REMAINING BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Cllr Jenkins welcomed Cllr Oldnall to his first meeting. It was noted that there is still one casual vacancy following the resignation of John Helsby. Station Road Development – Affordable housing: there is an outstanding action to establish when the affordable housing will become available. Cllr Jenkins reported that Sovereign are unable to give a date at the moment. Ongoing.	SJ
139/15	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Constance reported that Oxfordshire County Council needs to make significant savings over the coming years. As a result the 67 Bus service may be withdrawn next year. There is hope that some sort of service will remain, due to renegotiation with the bus companies. Stanford tip has had a reprieve until 2017. The final decision on the long term future of the facility has not yet been made. Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.	
140/15	DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Sharp reported that Stage 2 of the Examination in Public of the Vale District Council's Local Plan Part 1 will start on 2 nd February. Cllr Jenkins reported that the proposed Gladman development had gone to appeal, with responses due to the Planning Inspectorate by 13 th January. Cllr Sharp stated that the Vale DC was prepared for this. Uffington Parish Council held a meeting to discuss the appeal; a letter is to be drafted for approval at the January meeting. Cllr Sharp was thanked for attending.	SJ
141/15	POLICE REPORT It was reported that PCSO Maralyn Pack will be at the school on 18 th December.	
142/15	OPEN FORUM Station Road development – public open spaces: Cllr Jenkins explained that the Parish Council had the opportunity to take on the management of the public open spaces on the development. It was noted that as well as the tree belt and grassed area, roads and footpaths would also need to be maintained. Money would be placed into a trust fund for use only on the estate. Mr Rumble pointed out that the open space at Craven Common related to the grassed area only, not the roads and footpaths. However, there were no conditions and no funds for its maintenance. It was noted that the Parish Council does not have responsibility for any other estates in the village. It was further noted that the Parish Council may not have the buying power that a management company might have. Oxfordshire Together: Cllr Jenkins explained that because of the savings that OCC need to make over the next 4 years they are looking at new ways of working and they	

	<p>are hoping that local communities will get involved. The principal issue under discussion at present is highway services. Grass cutting will only be done by OCC on essential visibility splays and areas of danger. If residents in Uffington care about the appearance and maintenance of the village, the Parish Council will need to take on some of the work. He noted that the current draft budget does not include funds for this. There is an issue around insurance, since anyone working on the public highway will require public liability insurance. Cllr Constance reported that OCC were discussing this issue with their insurers to see whether parish councils would be covered. Cllr Jenkins noted that contractors would also have their own insurance. It was thought that OCC would be the insurer of last resort, but the Parish Council should ensure that it was properly insured for any work undertaken. Cllr Constance expressed concern that this might not be the case for volunteers.</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins outlined that the work would have to cover the entire parish, not just the village area. He put forward the suggestion of a lengthman, which could be an advantage to the whole village. The suggestion was well received.</p> <p>Mr Rumble stated that he was happy for the precept to be increased to cover the costs of this work.</p> <p>It was noted that the grips need to be maintained. Cllr Banks confirmed that this would remain the responsibility of OCC.</p> <p>Other matters: Mr Rumble reported that the surface of Lower Common is very poor and needs resurfacing. Cllr Constance agreed to try and get it into the programme of works. Cllr Jenkins suggested that Mr Rumble report it on Fix My Street. (http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/) The dangers of the poor surface should be highlighted.</p>	YC/ Mr Rumble
	ONGOING PROJECTS	
143/15	Parish Council Assets and Land Registry: Cllr Banks reported that the project is ongoing; he would be meeting with Cllr Jenkins to discuss the matter	GB/SJ
144/15	Housing Development off Station Road: It was reported that complaints had been received about the mess on the roads. Cllr Jenkins had also received a complaint about the road sweeper. Cllr Jenkins to follow up with the site manager.	SJ
145/15	Community Led Plan The Community Led Plan has been delivered to all households in Uffington, Balulking and Woolstone villages. Spare copies to be sent out to other villages. It was felt that this might encourage adjacent parishes to work together. Afternote: Copies have been posted to neighbouring parishes. The welcome pack has been circulated to all councillors for comment. Cllr Oberman has comments which she will send to Cllr Jenkins.	Clerk FO
146/15	Neighbourhood Plan The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is scheduled for 16 th December. Cllr Oldnall has developed a website for the Neighbourhood Plan. This will enable people to enter their comments online. The launch is planned for 21 st January. This will present the vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.	
147/15	Village Website The new website is out for review by Parish Councillors. Cllr Oldnall is working on separating the village and museum sites. The plan is to go live early in the New Year. Input from the public will be required to ensure the data is accurate.	
148/15	Emergency Plan Cllr Jenkins reported that work was in progress.	Ongoing: SJ
149/15	Repairs to the museum A quote has been received for non-urgent repairs. Further quotes are to be obtained in the New Year. After that grant funding will be sought.	KP

	PLANNING MATTERS	
150/15	<p>New Applications to be considered: P15/V2598/HH – Erection of boundary wall and fence at Stonehaven. The current field boundary is an ancient hedge. The proposal is to remove the hedge and replace it with a stone wall. All councillors stated that they would prefer the hedge to be repaired and retained. The meeting agreed to object to the application. Cllr Jenkins to circulate a draft response for review and upload. Afternote: The Parish Council’s comments were agreed and forwarded to the Planning Officer at the Vale District Council; the application was subsequently withdrawn.</p>	SJ
151/15	<p>New Applications addressed by circulation: None.</p>	
152/15	<p>Planning application for the allotments: Cllr Jenkins reported that the application for the discharge of conditions 1 and 4 on application P12/V2081/FUL had been accepted and that these conditions had now been discharged.</p>	
153/15	<p>Station Road Development – Public Open Space The meeting agreed not to take on the public open space. Clerk to advise Redcliffe Homes. Afternote: Gerrian Baker at Redcliffe Homes has been notified of the Parish Council’s decision.</p>	Clerk
154/15	<p>Station Road Site - S106 Contributions It was reported that the project had been handed over to Cllr Jenkins and the Clerk. Work is ongoing.</p>	Clerk/SJ
	FINANCE	
155/15	<p>To approve November payments and sign cheques: A full list of payments is attached to these minutes. Cllr Pilcher proposed approving the payments amounting to £2599.84. Cllr Oberman seconded. RESOLVED. The cheques were signed.</p>	
156/15	<p>Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2015/16 The Clerk reported that Trish Ingram is available to carry out the Internal Audit for 2015/16. Costs were presented. The meeting resolved to appoint Mrs Ingram. Clerk to send letter of appointment.</p>	Clerk
157/15	<p>2016/17 Budget and Precept The proposal is for a balanced budget with an increase on band D properties of £2.55 per annum. This does not include any costs for the Oxfordshire Together initiative. To be finalised at the January meeting.</p>	C/F
158/15	<p>Donation toward the School lights A project to reactivate the school warning lights was discussed. The total cost is £2,200. The project has received a private donation of £1,000 and is seeking support from the Parish Council. Cllr Jenkins proposed supporting the project. The meeting agreed to donate £200. Cllr Constance suggested getting another quote as it may be possible to reduce the cost of the project. Afternote: This suggestion has been passed to the School.</p>	Clerk
	ANNUAL/QUARTERLY REVIEWS	
159/15	There were no reviews to be carried out this month.	
160/15	<p>UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES) It was reported that the next field tidy will be on 12th March. Cllr Jenkins to include this in the next edition of the Courier. Cllr Oberman asked about mowing of the open space beside (including the footpath) the allotments. Allowance has been made for this in next year’s budget.</p>	SJ

	GENERAL	
161/15	Monthly Play Area inspections: Cllr Oberman presented the inspection report. Everything is OK.	
162/15	Oxfordshire Together: The meeting agreed that the Parish Council was interested in taking on grass cutting and possibly a part-time employee. An estimate will need to be included in the budget and precept for next year.	Clerk/SJ
163/15	Courier Printing: Cllr Jenkins presented a quote of £164 for the next edition which was approved. It was noted that future editions could be a little cheaper. A quote of £130 had been received from Minuteman. Cllr Oberman suggested getting a quote from Davenports in Faringdon. The meeting agreed.	FO
164/15	Governance: Cllr Jenkins and the Clerk are working on these documents.	Clerk/SJ
165/15	Parking in Patrick's Orchard: A letter to residents in Patrick's Orchard was delivered by hand to all houses. The situation has improved. An issue has been raised regarding access to a footpath. Sovereign to be consulted for advice.	SJ
166/15	Plaque for Museum Curator: Mrs Jo Coad to be informed that payment has been approved for the plaque. Afternote: Mrs Coad has been informed.	SJ
167/15	Loss of Subsidised Bus Service: It was reported that the village minibus does not currently wish to take on any more commitments. It was agreed to wait and see what the situation is when the subsidies are cut next year. People were urged to sign the petition to save the 67 bus.	
168/15	Celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday in 2016: A letter has been received from the Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire encouraging parishes to hold a celebration over the weekend of 11 th /12 th June 2016. It was noted that there is an action in the CLP to hold a joint street party for the three villages. Cllr Oberman suggested using the village hall and Jubilee Field. If the weather is wet the hall could be used as backup. It was suggested that the church and the Parish Council should work together on this. Cllr Pilcher suggested putting up a poster asking for volunteers to help with the organisation of the event. A note also to be placed in the Courier. Cllr Oberman to make a provisional booking for the village hall for both days.	KP (poster)/SJ (Courier)/FO (Village Hall booking)
169/15	Casual Vacancy: It was noted that there is still a Casual Vacancy on the council following John Helsby's resignation. Interested parties were asked to contact Cllr Jenkins or the Clerk.	
	CONSULTATIONS	
170/15	No consultations to be considered.	
	CORRESPONDENCE/AOB	
171/15	Thames Water sewer repairs on the allotments: Cllr Jenkins informed the meeting that Thames Water would be carrying out the repairs to the sewer in January. Clerk to email Cllr Jenkins the telephone number of the allotment holder affected by the work.	Clerk
172/15	Burial Ground details: The web page states that the burial ground is St Mary's church. This is incorrect and the web page needs to be changed. It was noted that the burial ground does not have a postal address.	SJ/MO
173/15	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Monday 11 th January 2016 at 7.30pm, at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.	

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm