

Minutes of the Meeting of Uffington Parish Council, Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Graham Banks, 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: 5 members of the public attended

33/16	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Oberman sent her apologies. She is on holiday.	Action
34/16	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS None.	
35/16	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th JANUARY 2016 Cllr Pilcher proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 th January 2016. Cllr Banks seconded. RESOLVED.	
36/16	REMAINING BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Bus Service/Community Bus: Cllr Jenkins reported that Mike Alderson from Kingston Lisle is representing some local councils in discussions about the bus service. The Oxford Bus Company may be able to take schoolchildren to Wantage but not to Faringdon, which is not an issue as the school buses go to Faringdon. Cllr Constance reported that the 67 service is totally subsidised, but some consolidation of routes might help to make it commercially viable. It is unclear how much S106 funding will be made available for bus services. Cllr Sharp suggested making contact with Dr Wise, Mayor of Faringdon, who is currently doing work on bus services. It was noted that there was a limit to what the community minibus could do as it is run by volunteers and does not run every day.	Clerk
37/16	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Constance reported that the OCC's new budget will shortly go before the council. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy has gone to the Inspector. Planning permission for Stanford Tip will run out in 2019/20; a decision on the future of the tip will need to be made by then. The County's portion of the council tax for 2016/17 will rise by 3.99% - 1.99% will be for the general fund and 2% will be to meet the cost of moving to the living wage. The police portion of the council tax will increase by 2%. Cllr Constance was thanked for attending.	
38/16	DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Sharp reported that Part 1 of the VWHDC Local Plan is in the second stage of examination. The Inspector is particularly looking at their proposals for housing in the AONB and the Green Belt. The Local Plan may need to go out for consultation again due to the Green Belt issues. Approval of the budget is due shortly; no issues are expected. Five district councils are considering combining their administrative services which will save them £10m over the next ten years. The planning application in Drayton which was contrary to Drayton's adopted neighbourhood plan has been refused. The District Council's portion of the council tax will not increase. Cllr Sharp was thanked for attending.	
39/16	POLICE REPORT A police report was not available. Cllr Jenkins reported that a NAG meeting had been held on 1 st February. PC Tom Pryor is the new supervisor at Faringdon. Afternote: The Neighbourhood Policing newsletter for February was circulated on 10 February.	
40/16	OPEN FORUM Cllr Jenkins reported that the fish and chip van is moving to Tuesday evenings and an application has been received from another trader to come in on Saturday evenings.	

	<p>Mr Boaler agreed to liaise with the Village Hall committee on this matter. Clerk to ask the applicants to send a copy of their trading license and to liaise with the Secretary of the Village Hall committee (Pamela Preene).</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins raised the issue of speeding in the village and asked whether there was any support for a community speedwatch initiative. He also asked whether people felt that the speed limit should be reduced. A member of the public felt that speeding was a serious problem especially at peak times. It was felt that 20mph zone would be beneficial. Cllr Banks suggested that the flashing lights at the school could be linked to a 20pmh zone. Cllr Constance noted that OCC will not consider this because the police will not enforce it. Cllr Pilcher suggested a Vehicle Activated Sign on the edges of the village. Cllr Constance stated that they will cost £3-5k each. Clerk to ask OCC Highways what the process is for installing these signs. Mr Boaler noted that the CLP had suggested a one way system, but it was felt that this would make matters worse. Cllr Sharp asked whether any of the major planning applications had included a traffic survey. Cllr Jenkins reported that they had not.</p> <p>A member of the public asked whether there was any obligation on developers to rectify any mess made in the village. Cllr Jenkins replied that he expected problem areas to be made good once development was complete. The specific area of concern has already been lodged with the developer.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
	ONGOING PROJECTS	
41/16	Parish Council Assets and Land Registry: Cllr Jenkins reported that he was reviewing some papers received from Cllr Banks. The project is ongoing.	SJ
42/16	<p>Housing Development off Station Road:</p> <p>It was reported that a show house will be available from 20th February and sales will start in March. A member of the public questioned the drainage situation. Cllr Jenkins reported that he has raised the issue and drainage engineers are looking at the ditches. The Clerk has written to the surveyor who was due to carry out the Thames Water survey. To be escalated to Thames Water directly.</p> <p>Afternote: VWHDC have confirmed to the developer that occupation of houses will not be permitted until all drainage problems (foul and surface water) have been resolved.</p> <p>Cllr Pilcher commented that a process is required to ensure that planning conditions are met. Cllr Jenkins to look into this and to review the other planning conditions for the Station Road development.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>SJ</p>
43/16	<p>Community Led Plan</p> <p>Cllr Matthew Barber has written to Rob Hart. His suggestions need to be followed through.</p> <p>Action 3.2 – Good Neighbour representative/co-ordinator. A public meeting was held but it was poorly attended. An article has been placed in The Courier but it has generated no interest. Cllr Oldnall suggesting sending out a village email and closing the action if there is still no interest. Cllr Banks suggested asking at The Afternoon Club. Cllr Jenkins to follow this up.</p> <p>Action on potholes – Cllr Jenkins asked whether it was sufficient to tell people to use Fix My Street to report potholes as this will ensure that they are worked on. This was agreed. Cllr Constance noted that potholes will not be repaired unless they are more than 3cm deep. It was stated that Fawler Road is in a very bad condition. Cllr Constance reported that it was on the list for resurfacing.</p>	SJ
44/16	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>A successful launch event was held on 21st January, to review the Steering Group’s draft vision and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan, and to discuss the process for the NP. The next steering group meeting is on 11th February. The grant from VWHDC has still not been received, as the latest form was returned on a minor technicality. It was noted that a representative from VWHDC was required to attend the steering group meetings. Cllr Sharp to follow this up.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>RS</p>

	<p>Afternotes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The grant of £10,000 from VWHDC has been received. 2. VWHDC have nominated a Planning Officer to attend the next NP Steering Group meeting on 17 March. 	
45/16	<p>Village Website</p> <p>The new website has settled down. Some good suggestions have been put forward. Cllr Oldnall had previously circulated a list of proposed changes to the website. They were approved by the meeting.</p>	MO
46/16	<p>Emergency Plan</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins has circulated a list of people who will be nominated points of contact in the emergency plan. Cllr Banks expressed concern that the plan would become out of date very quickly. Cllr Pilcher suggested reviewing the Museum emergency plan as it contains a lot of information that might be useful.</p>	Ongoing: SJ
47/16	<p>TBSM – Update and Clarification of ownership/management structure</p> <p>Cllr Pilcher presented a revised and clearer management structure diagram. There is an outstanding question regarding the Committee of Management. It is clear from the 1989 Trust Deed that the Parish Council is the Custodian Trustee. Following a review by a lawyer in the village, it is suggested that this is the Parish Council as a corporate entity, rather than a collection of named individuals who happen to be on the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parish Council owns the building but it is the Committee of Management which is responsible for what goes on inside it.</p>	KP
PLANNING MATTERS		
48/16	<p>New Applications to be considered:</p> <p>P15/V2866/HH – Single Storey extension with part infill to front at Pantiles, Chapel Lane. A site meeting was held and the concerned neighbour has been consulted. He had no comment to make. The meeting agreed to respond with No Objections.</p> <p>P16/V0178/HH and V16/V0179/LB – Erection of a garden shed at Little Thatch, Chapel Lane. The meeting agreed to respond with No Objections.</p> <p>P16/V0217/LB – External repairs to listed building. The meeting agreed to respond with No Objections.</p>	
49/16	<p>New Applications addressed by circulation:</p> <p>None.</p>	
50/16	<p>Gladman Development</p> <p>The Parish Council has received a copy of a unilateral undertaking given by the owners of the site to VWHDC. This will be offered to the Planning Inspector in place of other documents for S106 agreement. OCC have objected to part of it. The Parish Council had no input to the document and cannot affect it. The offering for S106 funding is very basic. A further unilateral undertaking by the owners of the site has been offered to OCC.</p>	
51/16	<p>Station Road Site - S106 Contributions</p> <p>It was reported that work has started on this. The note placed in The Courier brought no ideas. The various sporting groups are looking after their elements of the award. The village hall committee wants to bid for some of the money and is working on their list. Work is ongoing.</p>	Clerk/SJ
FINANCE		
52/16	<p>To approve February payments and sign cheques:</p> <p>A full list of payments is attached to these minutes. Cllrs Pilcher and Oberman proposed and seconded. RESOLVED.</p> <p>The cheques were signed.</p> <p>It was noted that a further invoice will come in from DPDS Consulting, regarding their assistance in the drafting of the Parish Council rebuttal statement for the appeal by Gladman Developments.</p>	

	After note: the DPDS invoice was received on 23 February.	
53/16	<p>Oxfordshire Together</p> <p>A briefing meeting was held in Childrey on 2nd February. The promised maps are due imminently. The total grant funding available to the village is £1168 and includes both urban and rural grass cutting. Cllrs Jenkins and Oldnall will discuss how to take the matter forward. It was noted that grip maintenance is likely to be delegated as well and there will be funding available for this.</p> <p>The insurance situation has been clarified: the work will be covered by OCC policies provided it is done according the OCC guidelines. Cllr Pilcher asked whether UPC would be likely to use an employee or a sub-contractor. Cllr Jenkins suggested a sub-contractor. The meeting agreed that it was happy to proceed subject to receiving the maps from OCC.</p>	SJ/MO
54/16	<p>Grant Awards 2015/16</p> <p>The awards were agreed as follows:</p> <p>South and Vale Carers Centre who have supported 2 carers and their families within the parish - £25</p> <p>The Independent Advice Centre who have helped parishioners 85 times over the last year - £25</p> <p>Oxfordshire Association for the Blind who have helped 4 people in the parish - £25</p> <p>The Village Hall - £400</p> <p>The Community Minibus - £150</p> <p>The Museum - £125</p>	
	ANNUAL/QUARTERLY REVIEWS	
55/16	There were no reviews to be carried out this month.	
56/16	<p>UPKEEP (INC. WATERCOURSES)</p> <p>It was noted that the ditches seem to be coping well given the recent heavy rain. Cllr Jenkins reported that the Jubilee Field clean-up was scheduled for the weekend of 12/13 March. However there is a nationwide initiative called Clean for the Queen which is being run on the weekend of 5/6 March. It was suggested that it would be sensible to bring the field tidy forward by a week in order to participate. It was felt that there would be a better chance of success if there was only one event. The meeting agreed to bring the Jubilee Field clean up forward to 5/6 March. Clerk to register for the Clean for the Queen event. Cllr Pilcher to contact Beavers and Scouts to see if they will join in. Clerk to contact the Vale for the loan of litter picking equipment. It was noted that the event needs to be advertised widely.</p>	Clerk/KP
	GENERAL	
57/16	<p>Monthly Play Area inspections: Cllr Banks reported that all the equipment is sturdy. A depression in the grass has been filled with turf and sand.</p>	FO/GB
58/16	<p>Governance: Policies were circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting. The following were approved and adopted:</p> <p>Code of Conduct, Complaints procedure, Health and Safety Policy, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations. Clerk to post these on the website.</p> <p>Cllr Pilcher to email comments on the Risk Assessment.</p> <p>The Village Projects policy to be recirculated following update.</p> <p>Grants policy and Data Protection policy to be circulated following update.</p>	Clerk SJ
59/16	<p>General Power of Competence</p> <p>It was reported that the Parish Council met the criteria to enable it to adopt the General Power of Competence: at least two-thirds of councillors are elected and the clerk is qualified. Cllr Pilcher proposed adopting the power. Cllr Jenkins seconded.</p> <p>RESOLVED.</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins to re-circulate the document containing details of the power. The clerk to review OALC documentation for information on car sharing schemes. Cllr Pilcher suggested putting details on the website.</p>	SJ/Clerk

60/16	Community Speedwatch The meeting discussed an invitation from East Challow Parish Council to join forces to purchase a community speedwatch kit. It was decided not to take part at the moment.	CLOSED
61/16	Celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday in 2016: The village hall has been booked for 12 th June. The church are working on their aspects of the day. Cllr Jenkins to contact Pamela Preene for a village hall representative. Cllr Oberman will take this forward on her return. It was noted that the school fete will be on Saturday 11 th June.	FO/SJ
62/16	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	
63/16	No consultations to be considered.	
	CORRESPONDENCE/AOB	
64/16	Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments: The meeting agreed not to opt out of the Smaller Authorities audit appointment. No further action required.	
65/16	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Monday 14 th March 2016 at 7.30pm, at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall. Cllrs Pilcher and Oldnall gave their apologies for the March meeting.	

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm