

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on 5th August 2015 at 7pm in the St. Giles Room. (Draft)

Present: Councillors Jonathan Dembrey (JD) (Chairman), Janet Wood (JW) (Vice Chairman), Mike Griffiths (MG), Melanie Paraskeva (MP), Jim Dewey (RJD), Charles Goldingham (CG).

In attendance: Ashy McKay (AM) (Clerk), County Councillor Steve Lydon (SL), David Sykes (DS) (Footpath Officer).

1. Apologies. Belinda Holley (BH).
2. Public Representation. 1. Carol Telling wished to address the council regarding an impending planning application she intended to make for a garage at her house in South St. An application had been refused in 2013 but this is a modified proposal with reduced height and pitch of the roof. Neither neighbour has objected to the proposal. JD thanked CT.
3. Declarations of Interest. AM reported that SDC have asked for copies of Councillors declarations of interest in spite of forms having been sent in after the 2014 elections. Forms were circulated and duly filled in for AM to copy and send to SDC.
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2015 were agreed as correct and signed by the chairman subject to the following correction: item 7 Peter Street.
5. Matters Arising. JW reported back on the meeting with Neil Carmichael MP. 3 issues were covered: Affordable Housing, School Bus Charges and Filming at meetings. He was interested in the issue of school bus charges as he is chairman of the Education Select committee. SL reported that the immediate crisis has been averted as Jackie's Coaches have restored the Tripper ticket and there is another provider on the route. SL agreed to ask GCC if parents can make a block appeal. SL agreed to send AM details of a bus review being undertaken by GCC. AM reported that she had received copies of letters sent by NC to Ministers on each of the 3 issues but no replies as yet.
6. District and County Councillor reports. SL had circulated his written report prior to the meeting. Reported that GCC has lost 45% of its budget over 4 years. Next year they will consider raising the rates. 2016 will see all out elections as a result of boundary changes. Also considering applying to government for devolution powers and bringing together health and care services. SDC have agreed the target of 11,400 new homes for the 30 years of the next Local Plan which should be in place in the next few months. The new highways manager is Andrew Middlecote who appears to be working well although there are still lots of problems with Amey, and there is no external inspection or planned maintenance scheme. RJD reported that road surface repairs are underway in Green Close. SDC needs 450 affordable houses a year, however new government proposals to give the right to buy to affordable housing tenants will lead to a loss of stock. Also tenants downsizing could lead to them paying higher rents for smaller dwellings owing to rent rises on new lets. NC had suggested that AONBs could be treated like National Parks to make them exempt from the new RtB provisions.
7. Footpaths, Playground and bins. (i) Footpaths Report. DS reported that there are only minor issues but there are problems with Amey over getting footpaths issues dealt with. JW mentioned that the heavy gate behind the Raglan Road telephone exchange is still broken although it has been reported; (ii) Bin at the top bus shelter, AM reported that she had contacted the PCC and they will discuss the proposals at their July meeting and report back; (iii) Playground Repairs. AM reported that following a site visit with JD, JW and AM with

Charlie Kee, a further 6 tiles have been ordered as more were required to cover the concrete. CK will install when they have been delivered. AM reported that a cheque had been issued to pay up front for the tiles, direct from the manufacturer which was cheaper; (iv) Westhill Common. AM reported she had received a letter from John Penley who had been informed that GCC could add Westhill Common to the Register of Commons at a cost of £1,000. As this would not give the PC ownership of the land it was agreed not to pursue. AM reported that she has obtained a quote of £51.75 for a plaque to install on site that will enable UPC to claim ownership after 20 years. It was agreed to proceed.

8. Parish website and newsletter. JD agreed to take this item early while David Sykes was at the meeting and wanted to be present to discuss electronic delivery of the website. AM reported she was still waiting for a response from the PCC. JW reported that the editors are still working on getting a PDF version that can go on the website. It was agreed to convene a quick meeting with JD and AM with Revd. Diana and Bex to resolve outstanding issues such as JD being able to access a draft that can be edited.
9. Planning. (i) Decisions. S.15/1325/HHOLD 10, Whitecourt. Demolition and replacement of timber decking, permission; S15/1457/DISCON. 13, The Green. Not allowed; (ii) S.15/1500/HHOLD 4, Bencombe Cottages. Proposals to replace conservatory with extension covering same footprint. No objections; (iii) S.15/1706/HHOLD Racks Barn. Single garage. No objections; (iv) S.15/1587/FUL Bencombe Barns, application just received, to be circulated and extension requested; (v) S.15/1818/TCA 22, The Street; S.15/1721/1721/TCA Trees, no objections.
10. Highway matters, Transport and Flooding. (i) Meeting with Andrew Middlecote. RJD and AM met with the new highways manager from GCC Andrew Middlecote, and showed him some of the problem areas in the village, including the road outside Marsh Farm, Green Close and and Hydegate fingerpost; (ii) 20 is plenty. RJD reported that he had met with a councillor from Ruscombe and Whiteshill PC to discuss 20mph limits which they have. It was reported that the costs of road traffic orders and hardware would be upwards of £10,000. UPC would have to fundraise if this is pursued. RJD suggested asking Ruscombe for their old 20 is plenty signs. It was agreed that AM ask the clerk if they are available. JW suggested that a sign could go at the bottom of Crawley Hill and again at the top bus shelter. Agreed that RJD put a piece in the Village News asking people what they think about 20 mph speed limits.
11. Village Hall Notice Board. AM reported that the notice board outside the Village Hall has broken and needs to be replaced. Out of the various options it was agreed to buy and install an aluminium framed board with space for 6 A4 notices, preferably with a blue painted frame to match the new signage on the Village Hall.
12. Managing Ragwort. An email had been received from Juliet Browne noting that there is prolific ragwort growth this year. AM had circulated advice from Terry Fenton the Woodlands and Grasslands Manager for the Woodlands Committee. TF reports that ragwort is only toxic to cattle if dried and used in hay which the Woodlands Committee does not do when it cuts. In the past he has used citronella to treat the weed. The Natural England guidance is that landowners are responsible for managing ragwort but it is not a legal obligation. It was agreed that AM forward the email from TF to JB.
13. Transparency Code. AM reported that there is a new requirement for small PCs to publish draft minutes within a month of the meeting. It was agreed that this be done in future. AM to circulate draft to councillors first for corrections and then post draft on website.

Allotments Progress Report. AM reported that TM now has the work well underway but has submitted an invoice for £545 for extra work not in the original quote, including water pipes and pathway, and plant hire, as it was within budget it was agreed.

14. Community Design Statement. MG reported that comments on the draft from Conrad Moore of SDC had been circulated to councillors, his feedback on the draft was generally positive. A further working party meeting is scheduled for 22/08/15 to resolve some outstanding issues. MG is confident that the draft can go to final consultation in October.
15. Finance Report. AM reported that VAT income of £1,200 for the last 2 years has been paid in to the bank. There are 4 cheques to be authorised: Wicksteed Leisure £521 playground tiles; Island Leisure £301 additional playground tiles; A McKay £181 reimbursement for printer ink, stationary and annual meeting hospitality; T P Mitchell extra costs for allotments £545; M Paraskeva, reimbursement for locks to allotment water taps £22.94 Agreed.
16. Reports from PC Representatives.

Uley Playing Fields Committee. JD reported that the dog show had taken place but was not as well attended as hoped owing to rival attractions on the day, however it made about £650. It was agreed that next year it might be better to hold it at a different time of year to avoid clashes;

17. Correspondence.

SDC – Electoral Review of Stroud Final Recommendations.

GPFA – Playground and Playing Field Assessment.

GRCC – Proposed Right to Buy.

Jane Little – e-mail re. The Street and Cross banks.

John Rymer – e-mail re. Overhanging branches, Shadwell.

Neil Carmichael MP – Fairer Funding for Schools.

SDC – Register of Members Interests.

GCC – Local Transport Plan Consultation Response.

Sam Clarke – Possible land for sale.

Dursley Policing Team – Newsletter.

GRCC – Funding Advice.

18. Parish Newsletter and Website. (i) 20 is plenty; (ii) Risk of cat poisoning.

The meeting was closed at 10.05pm.