

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on 3rd June 2015 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Jonathan Dembrey (JD) (Chairman), Mike Griffiths (MG), Jim Dewey (RJD), Belinda Holley (BH), Melanie Paraskeva (MP), Charles Goldingham (CG).

In attendance: Ashy McKay (AM) (Clerk), David Sykes (DS) (Footpaths Officer).

- Apologies. Councillor Janet Wood (JW).
- Public Representation. Joy Capelin.
- Declarations of Interest. 0.
- Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th May 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters Arising. None.
- District and County Councillor Reports. None.
- Planning.

The Chairman brought forward item 8 (ii) S.15/1151/HHOLD 10B Whitecourt, as a neighbour Joy Capelin was present and wished to address the meeting. JC objected to the proposal to install decking on the front of the house. It will project 5 meters and have an undercroft of 20 ft, neighbours are concerned that use of the decking will impinge on the privacy of neighbouring properties. Also concerned about potential loss of parking space; because of the steep access road and cars parked on Whitecourt, exit from the property is already hazardous and risks becoming more so. She objects to the proposed use of render rather than materials in keeping with the original construction of reconstituted stone. It was agreed to object to the proposed use of render but councillors could not see any grounds under the Local Plan on which to make further objections. It was also agreed to bring to Stroud District Council's attention the lack of a planning notice on Whitecourt.

- Footpaths, Playground and Bins.
 - (i) Footpaths Report. DS said there is nothing to report.
- Parish Website and Newsletter.

The Chairman agreed to bring this item forward on the agenda to discuss a proposal from David Sykes (DS). DS proposed setting up an electronic distribution system for the Village News, in addition to the existing home deliveries. This would involve inviting those interested to send their email addresses and then receiving a copy of the published version from DS. The relevant data security requirements will be met and addresses kept confidential. Currently AM receives a draft to a Dropbox account in Publisher but this cannot be forwarded and converting to PDF creates double pages making the file too large to post on the Village website. It was agreed to check with the editors, PCC and distributors that they have no objections to the proposal and then progress. It was agreed that AM set up a meeting for herself and JD with the editors to talk through the proposals. Once this had happened DS will place a note in the VN inviting people to sign up.

- Playground and Bins.
 - (ii) Playground Report.

MG and MP inspected the playground with the ROSPA Report which had not identified any significant risks, but recommended that the rubber matting under the swings should be replaced and extended to cover the concrete area. Also, the bark needs replenishing and weeding. It was agreed to ask Robin Coates to renew the bark. It was agreed to ask Charlie Key to replace the mats together with Peter Street who has provided some costs. It was agreed to check the difference between the black and green mats before proceeding.

- (iii) An email has been received from Ray Barnfield complaining about the overflowing rubbish bin at the top bus shelter. This has been a recurring problem with visitors to the Burial Ground depositing dead flowers in the bin filling it up so there is no space for general rubbish. The PC has previously put a note into the Village News about this. It was agreed that AM write to the PCC asking if they have a compost heap where visitors could deposit debris.
 - (iv) RJD reported that Robin Coates has installed the new grit bin on The Green.
- Planning.
 - (i) Decisions. S.15/0750/HHOLD & S.15/0751/LBC Dauncey's Mill, permission.
 - (ii) see above;
 - (ii) (iii) S.15/1233/TCA. This had come in late so no one had the opportunity to review it. It was agreed that if anyone has objections to email AM by the end of 4th June;
 - (iii) (iv) AM reported that two new applications had come in but that no one had the opportunity to review them and agreed to ask for extensions to ask for extensions for S.15/1262/10 Woodstock Terrace and S.15/1250/HHOLD Dove Cottage, Crawley Lane.

It was agreed to write to SDC objecting to the advice from the planning officer reviewing the Marsh Farm application to reduce the height of the lighting. It was agreed to write to the Cabinet Member for Planning at SDC seeking clarification on the policies that are being used to take decisions on applications since recent decisions appear to be contrary to both the existing and the emerging Local Plans.

- Highway Matters.

RJD raised the poor condition of the surface in Green Close. AM agreed to refer to Councillor Lydon and set up a meeting with the new Highways manager. He also raised a report from a parishioner of a near traffic accident at the bottom of Crawley Hill where cars going up the hill pull out to pass parked cars and into the path of oncoming traffic driving down the hill and around the bend. They asked if a chicane could be installed to permit single direction traffic at that point. AM noted that similar incidents are often reported but that the police are not prepared to support any changes to the highway.

- Allotments Progress Report.

AM reported that the contractor has started on site but not much progress has been made as he is working on other contracts and having difficulty getting labour.

- Community Design Statement.

MG reported there is a workshop on Saturday morning to review the guidance and recommendations. He asked all councillors to look at the draft circulated and send comments. The next stage is to get comments from Conrad Moore at SDC following feedback from Owlpen. There had been a discussion about including a list of significant features and buildings, it was agreed not to include private properties. Thanks was given to MG for all his hard work.

- Finance Report.

- (i) AM reported that the internal audit had been completed with no issues raised and the Annual Return was presented for signature. This was duly agreed and JD signed the document which includes the annual governance statement. AM will submit to Grant Thornton for the external audit;
- (ii) Finance Report. BH queried the precept figure for the Millennium Green. AM will check. The following cheques were approved for signature: A McKay £1367.96 quarterly salary and reimbursements for internet security and printing ink; DA Hill £2,255 Bus Shelter repairs; PCC £450 for Burial Grounds precept; Village Hall £800 precept; IA Selkirk £85 internal audit.

13. Reports from PC Representatives.

MP noted that she is the school representative and that needs to be added to the annual list.

School. MP reported that Zoe Mandeville has been appointed as the new Head Teacher.

14. Correspondence.

Grant Thornton – Limited Assurance Newsletter.

NALC's Direct Information Service.

GAPTC – Bulletin.

Helping Hands Dementia Champion.

Active Together and Children's Activity Fund Activity Grants 2015.

Gloucestershire Constabulary – Vehicle safety outside schools.

Gloucestershire Speed Reduction Wheelie Bin Stickers.

The Chartered Parishes Group Meeting Agenda and Minutes.

Private View invitation – Museum in the Park.

Richard Vernon – email Verge and grass cutting.

National rural crime survey.

Stroud CAB

Neighbourhood Watch Message – Dursley Police.

Gill Cathles email

General Contact information for Community Emergency Plans.

It was agreed that AM would circulate the Community Emergency Plan contacts list to members.

It was agreed to respond to Richard Vernon welcoming his proposal to lead a working party to further cut back grass verges.

16. Urgent Matters.

JD reported that a meeting has been set up with Neil Carmichael MP specifically to discuss proposals to sell affordable housing and also the transparency regulation permitting filming of meeting proceedings.

The meeting was closed at 9.35pm.