

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 7pm in Uley Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Jonathan Dembrey (JD) (Chairman), Belinda Holley (BH), Juliet Browne (JB), Melanie Paraskeva (MP), Mike Griffiths (MG).

In Attendance: Ashy McKay (AM) (Clerk).

Apologies. Councillors Janet Wood (JW) (Vice Chairman), Jim Dewey (RJD), Steve Lydon (SL); David Sykes (DS) (Footpaths Officer); Ted Collet (TC) (Village Hall).

1. Public Representation. Mr and Mrs Potts, Jim Collier Rod White.
2. Declaration of Interests. None.
3. The minutes of the meeting of 7th September 2016 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters Arising. Item 5. TC reported that he was looking into the possibility of extending the existing heating system in the Hall into the backstage area in place of a secondary heating system. Item 9 (iv) Leaning tree on Lampern Hill. JB raised this issue as she thinks the tree is in danger of falling. AM reported that she had got back to GCC to ask them to make an assessment.
5. District and County Councillor Reports. Both Councillors had circulated reports prior to the meeting and were not present in person.
6. Casual Vacancy. AM reported that a casual vacancy on the Parish Council had arisen as a result of the resignation of Jim Dewey and that notice has been duly posted on the village Notice Boards and SDC informed.
7. Buzzard Hunting Licences. AM explained that the context for this item was the Parish Council's role on the Cam, Dursley and Uley Joint Woodlands Committee that has a contract with Natural England to operate a conservation management regime on its estate geared towards arresting and reversing the decline of native flora and fauna. Rod White addressed the meeting drawing attention to a recent newspaper article in which a local gamekeeper is quoted as claiming that he loses 500 out of 10,000 pheasants raised for shooting to buzzard predation. RW questioned the evidence for this claim, stating that attrition to the pheasant population can be attributed to a number of factors including methods of husbandry, road kill and other predators. The issue is a sensitive one since it involved finding the right balance between the conservation of natural flora and fauna, commercial interests and tourism. Buzzard numbers have increased under protection and add much to the attractions of the landscape as well as controlling rabbits and other pests. Pheasants on the other hand are not native species and their growing biomass (7 times more than all other bird species in the UK) threatens the livelihood of native species through competition for food and habitat. RW thought it unlikely that many young pheasants are lost to buzzards as they do not hunt on field margins or woods where birds are behind fencing. He estimated there to be about half a dozen pairs in the valley and they have about half a kilometre between nests. JD reported that JW had enquired of Natural England if any buzzard hunting licences for up to 10 birds had been applied for. Natural England had refused to provide the information claiming it was covered by the Data Protection legislation. This advice maybe incorrect as it may not apply to information that does not disclose personal details. JB said she had spoken to Tim Boxall who said that he had not and would not apply for such a licence. It was agreed

refer to the Woodlands Committee to ask Natural England for the relevant information on the grounds that it is in the public interest, and to put the item on the agenda again if any licence applications come to light.

9. Footpaths, Playground and Bins. (i) DS had no issues to report. BH said that the footpath from Whitecourt to the back of the Post Office was badly overgrown. It was agreed to ask Robin Coates to cut it back; (ii) Playground. MG reported that RC has taped off the bark area and sprayed the weeds prior to replenishing the bark as requested. He has agreed to replace the fence post by the gate. The overhanging tree in a garden in Raglan Way backing onto the playground has been removed; (iii) Bins. It was noted that the bin at the Village Hall bus shelter is still being filled with dead flowers from the Burial Ground causing rubbish to spill over onto the ground. It was agreed to raise this issue with the PPC again for a response to the proposals for a solution that have already been made to them by the Parish Council. It was also noted that the bins from The Gables have been left outside the walls again. It was agreed AM would contact the housekeeper to ask for them to be taken back into the front driveway.
10. Planning. (i) there were no decisions to report; AM reported that several applications had been notified since the agenda was posted. As they had been circulated to members it was agreed to consider them; (ii) S.16/2113/FUL, Knoll House, The Knoll. Mr Collier the applicant was present. He explained that this application was to split the existing house into two units by adding a 2-storey extension on one side and reconfiguring the internal layout. Access to parking at the rear of the property would be through the car port beneath the first storey extension that would be a living room. Concerns were expressed about the overdevelopment of the site, as the current development is out of proportion to surrounding dwellings and under the proposals would occupy practically the whole site leaving little remaining for parking and amenity space. The site is a very prominent one with sight lines from across Millennium Green. It was thought that the proposed windows to the upstairs lounge are out of keeping and not in proportion to the rest of the house. The proposed parking arrangements were clearly a concern and would not be feasible if the car port was converted to a garage, and concerns were raised about the proximity of the new wall to the extension to the boundary with the neighbouring property at 10 South St., It was agreed to object to the application on the grounds that it did not meet the requirements in the SDC Local Plan 2015 DP HC6 4.48, 4.49 and DP HC8 4.56 and also the Community Design Statement UO15; (iii) S.16/1954/HHOLD 37B, The Street. Proposed new access. It was agreed to lodge a comment that the PC have concerns about the safety of this proposal owing to proximity to the junction with Raglan Way which has quite a steep gradient and quite dangerous in the winter; (iv) s.16/1795/TCA 59, The Street, felling a silver birch, agreed; (v) S.16/1908/DISCON, 52, The Street. Noted; (vi) S.16/2099/TCA 3, Ash Gdns., removing crab apple. No objections. (vii) S.16/2104/TCA No objections; S.16/20175/TCA. The Walled Garden. Reducing cherry tree. No objections. Removing conifer. Members asked for clarification on the identity and location of the conifer. AM agreed to find further information and circulate to members for a view.
11. Highway Matters, Transport and Flooding. (i) New traffic lights at the junction of Sandpits/Tiltdown/Dursley Rd. There is a forthcoming meeting to discuss this

scheme which had been proposed as part of a planning gain arising from the Littlecombe development in Dursley and would be financed by the developer, not the Highways authority; (ii) The layby in front of the Village Shop has been reported to GCC Highways and is awaiting assessment. The lengthsman team is due in the village next week and will be undertaking some pavement weeding and cutting back; (iii) The footpath between Court Gardens and The Street has been assessed by GCC and not considered dangerous or in need of repair.

12. Bus Service Revisions. AM reported that there have been revisions to the bus service with the 65 service replacing the 35.
13. Finance Report. (i) October Report. Not many transactions to report this month. It was agreed to authorise the following cheques: A. McKay £434; HMRC £108; M Griffiths £141.63 reimbursement for CDS printing costs; Uley Valley Contractors £480.22 strimming footpaths, playground and sheep dip. It was also agreed to pay the invoice from Parish Council Websites, £600 for setting up the new parish council website. (offset against a special grant for the purpose); (ii) AM reported that the Annual Accounts had been approved and the audit process for 2015/16 completed. The auditors drew attention to the Council Tax Support Grant that had been wrongly entered as part of the precept income rather than as other income and that this had been corrected. This did not have any bearing on the overall outcome. The annual return has been posted on the village notice boards as required.
14. Reports from PC Representatives. Uley Allotments Association. MP reported that the AGM is at the end of the month. RJD will be standing down as Treasurer. All bills have been paid and some money left over. The taps will need to be replaced to conform to new regulations. She reported that all the allotment holders are very happy with their plots and it was going very well; Community Design Statement. MG reported that SDC had agreed to adopt the CDS as supplementary planning guidance at a meeting of the SDC Environment Committee on 15th September so it is now in force. MG reported that all the related material will now need to be archived; Uley Playing Fields. JD reported that the AGM had taken place. AM had agreed to take on managing the lettings from Tom Williams from 1st November, and that the cost of hire had been revised to reflect the need to meet income targets.
15. Parish Website and Newsletter. (i) New Parish website. MG reported that following the impending discontinuation of the SDC Community website, a new website was being constructed by Parish Council Websites and that this would be available from 1st November to give a month overlap before the switch from SDC. It was agreed to publish the Register of Interests form on a page separate from the contacts sheet. It was agreed to put a notice in the Village News.

16. Correspondence.

Community Investment grant scheme 2017-20 – Stroud District Council.

Recycling Roadshows – SDC.

Police Panel Meeting 27th September – Dursley Police.

Agenda 5th October – Chartered Parishes Group Meeting

Dursley Treehouse – Mary Shearer.

Draft Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire 2016 – GCC.

17. Urgent Matters. JD reported that some concerns have been raised about lorries going up Fiery Lane and churning up the grass on The Green as they turn, and on one occasion getting stuck. One person had suggested putting up signs to discourage HGVs from using the road from the village. Members did not want to put up any additional signs.

The meeting was closed at 9.50 pm.