

Minutes of the meeting of Uley Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th August 2019, commencing at 7.00pm at Uley Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Jonathan Dembrey (Chairman)
Melanie Paraskeva (Vice-Chair)
Janet Wood
Jo Dee
Mike Griffiths
Tim Martin

IN ATTENDANCE: Carrie Marshall - Clerk
Jeni Marshall – Locum Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor Jim Dewey
Thoss Shearer
Peter Le Grys
David Sykes (Footpath Officer)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Juliet Browne

1/08/2019 To receive any apologies for absence
Apologies were received as noted above.

2/08/2019 To receive any declarations of Interest
Councillor Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application S.19/1458/LBC.

3/08/2019 To receive any representation from members of the public
Peter Le Grys informed the Council of his plans regarding the Stouts Hill planning application- S.19/1458/LBC. The plans include restoring the property to its previous state as a home as opposed to the current 9 apartments. This work involves removing partitioning walls, removing a wall to create a larger kitchen and installing a staircase.

Thoss Shearer stated he had some comments regarding item 14, planning application 16A South Street.

4/08/2019 To receive Chairman's announcements
Councillor Dembrey announced that the Clerk will be attending a meeting regarding Climate Change at Stroud District Council, led by Simon Pickering. This meeting will be taking place in September and he proposed to hold off discussing the issue until the after this. The Council felt it would be useful if we invited Simon Pickering for a talk at one of our meetings and instructed the Clerk to do so.

The Chairman also proposed we discuss Item 14 after reports from District and County Council.

5/08/2019 To approve the minutes of the previous Council meetings held on 4th June 2019
Councillor Martin corrected an error in Item 14 where a representative had instead been described as a Chairman.

Councillor Wood requested that the year date is always included in the minutes. The minutes will be amended and signed at the September meeting.

6/08/2019

To receive any reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Dewey reported on the following meetings he has attended at Stroud District Council:

Full Council meeting (18 July 2019)

The recommendations of the Community Governance Review were approved, which will involve some changes to parish boundaries and the creation of a new Parish Council for Hunts Grove. The changes will not affect Uley

For some of the recommendations, the final position is dependent on the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Other issues discussed included

- approval of funds to purchase a new low carbon fleet of community service vehicles,
- approving the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Minchinhampton and
- adopting a new procurement strategy - which has an excellent 'social value policy' - meaning that the council can take into account issues such as the benefit to the local economy, community and environment when it buys goods and services.

SDC Strategy & Resources Committee (11th July 2019).

The Action Plan resulting from the recent Local Government Association Peer Challenge Review was discussed in detail and agreed. Recruitment for 3 Strategic Directors and 1 interim IT Director started on the 28th July and there has already been significant interest in these positions. It is hoped that the appointees will be able to start in January.

Approval was granted for the tender documents for the procurement of a development partner for the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port.

The implications of adopting the UNITE Construction Charter in relation to Brimscombe Port were discussed in detail, and finally approved by both the Committee and then the full council on 18 July.

Audit and Standards Committee (25 July 2019)

Discussion at this meeting focused on the outcome of activity during 2018-2019. The statement of accounts was tabled with an evaluative report by the external auditors who approved the accounts without reservation. There was positive comment on the transparent and well-managed financial processes within the council. A few minor recommendations were made for improvement.

The most significant risk highlighted related to the IT framework at SDC – and lack of an effective disaster recovery system and business continuity arrangements for IT. The council is acutely aware of this gap and work is already being undertaken to improve this.

An overview of the internal audit activity during 2018-2019 was also submitted and approved by the committee. This relates to work commissioned by SDC from the independent Audit Risk Assurance (which is funded in a shared agreement between Stroud District Council, Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire County Council). During 2018/19, they undertook an audit of the implementation of GDPR, the management of the transfer in ownership of the Subscription Rooms and found risks managed well with few recommendations for improvement.

Audit Risk Assurance are also responsible for investigating fraud within the council. During 2018/19, their work included investigations of alleged fraud in false claims in Right to Buy applications, sub-letting council properties and misuse of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The number of fraudulent investigations is similar to neighbouring authorities and the committee have asked for some year-on-year comparative data to monitor this.

7/08/2019 To receive the Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that all actions from the July meeting have been completed.

The Clerk has updated the bank account details with Stroud District Council for the precept.

She has been in contact with Stroud District Council's Building Control department. They have written to the owner of 21A The Street to request that they assess the wall within seven days and advise them of what steps they propose to take to ensure the safety of the public using the footpath.

The Clerk informed the Council that she will be sending the organisations that receive grants from the Council a reminder that we hope to receive the grant application forms by mid-September.

Unfortunately, Matt Summers is unable to fix the bench opposite the pub. He believes it needs a new foundation pad. The Clerk has asked Dave Hill Builders to quote for the works.

The Parish Council have had another planning application come through with a response date of the 21st August. A time extension has been granted until after the September meeting. It's a resubmission of S.17/2802/HHOLD- 31 Green Close, Uley.

8/08/2019 To receive any reports regarding footpaths / highways

David Sykes mentioned he has reported a few broken foot stiles. He also noted that a tree had fallen which needs clearing and he is currently in the process of determining the owner. Councillor Martin will look into it through the Woodlands Committee and get back to him with any information.

The Locum Clerk informed the Council that works will be undertaken on Fiery Lane from the 30th September through to the 2nd October.

Councillor Griffiths mentioned that he has used the 'report it' function on Stroud District Councils website to report fly tipping and a hazardous manhole cover. Both of these matters were resolved within days of the report.

The Council addressed the ongoing issue of overgrown hedges. It was noticed that many of them are on private property therefore it was resolved that the Clerk would write to the property owners. The Clerk was also asked to contact Dursley Town Council to request they write to the residents within the Dursley boundary.

Councillor Martin noted that the hand rail opposite the lower bus stop is still broken therefore needs chasing. He also mentioned that some weeds are growing out of the railings opposite the Old Kings Head. It was suggested we ask the Leyhill group to remove these when they attend on the 22nd August.

Councillor Wood readdressed the white lines around the village. The Council were previously informed that the work would be looked at after April. Councillor Wood requested we arrange a meeting with our Highways Manager.

- 9/08/2019 To receive and consider quotes for the bus shelter guttering
The Council received two quotes; one to replace the current guttering with new aluminum guttering and the other to rub down and repaint the existing guttering. The Council discussed the two options and felt they should use the cheaper option (to repaint existing) as they haven't included funding for it in this years precept. Councillor Paraskeva also felt it is better to reuse and not buy new and therefore proposed to move forward with the quote to repaint the existing. This was seconded by Councillor Dee and carried with all in favour.
- 10/08/2019 To receive any playground reports
Councillor Griffiths reported that he has now replaced both the cradle swings. He also had enough anti-bird prongs to replace the ones which have been vandalized. The new ones are held on with cable-ties to try to prevent them being removed. Councillor Griffiths also found a steel pole in the playground which he has moved. He has re-established contact with Anna Summers regarding the update of the playground. The Locum Clerk offered to send over a list of companies including the grants they offer for the Clerk to apply for. This money would be used to pay for new equipment. Finally, Councillor Griffiths mentioned that the current ROSPA inspection is out of date and therefore needs to be booked.
- 11/08/2019 To discuss including the Land at Fop Street Cross Roads as a Village Asset
The Council discussed the option of including the land as a Village Asset. It was proposed that it will be added to the next agenda so further research could be done.
- 12/08/2019 To discuss the Councils use of Facebook
Councillor Dembrey informed the Council that he believed the Council had previously agreed to remove the Village News Facebook account. He added that as we have a lack of control over it, it is difficult to monitor. The Council agreed with all in favour to remove the account.
- 13/08/2019 To consider the Clerk attending a training course regarding planning applications from the perspective of Town and Parish Councils
The Locum Clerk informed the Council that the course cost is £50 and the Council agreed it would be useful for the Clerk to attend. Unfortunately, this course has now been cancelled.
- 14/08/2019 To consider to following Planning Applications:
- S.19/1307/HHOLD- Richmond Cottage, Uley- Conversion of existing garage into annexe.
NO COMMENT

- S.19/1398/HHOLD- 27 South Street, Uley- Single storey rear extension and two storey side extension to replace garage. NO COMMENT
- S.19/1404/HHOLD- 16A South Street, Uley- Side extension and loft conversion with rear dormers and double garage to side.

Thoss Shearer informed the Council of all the conflicts the plans have with the Uley Community Design Statement, and the Stroud Local Plan. He also informed the Council that the heritage statement is misleading, often referencing the homes opposite the property, which are not based in the Conservation Area.

Councillor Wood read a statement on behalf of Councillor Browne which largely echoed Thoss Shearer's comments. The Council resolved to strongly object to this application.

- S.19/1458/LBC- Stouts Hill, Uley: Internal alterations. NO COMMENT
- S.19/1477/LBC- Wresdon Farmhouse, Uley: Repair of the barn roof whose condition is rapidly decreasing. SUPPORT

15/08/2019 To receive any Planning Decisions

- S.19/1366/TCA- 46 The Street, Uley: Plum- reduce height by maximum of three metres and remove overhang that is resting on the road property and blocking side access. APPROVED
- S.19/0496/VAR- Land at 9 The Knoll, Uley: Variation of condition 6. PERMITTED.

16/08/2019 To authorise payments

The following payments were authorised:

- Clerks Salary
- Clerks Expenses

17/08/2019 To consider enrolling the Clerk on a CILCA course

When the Clerk was employed by Uley Parish Council it was on the basis that she would undertake the CILCA course to become a qualified Clerk. The cost of the course is £235.00. It was therefore agreed with all in favour that the Clerk would enroll on the course.

18/08/2019 To receive any reports from PC Representatives

Councillor Paraskeva reported on the PREMA meeting. They are managing financially despite bookings being down at this time of year, and most of their workshops are full. Prema is going to set up a group in order to give young people a voice. PREMA are currently advertising for an Artist in residence

Councillor Martin reported on the Woodlands Committee. The cattle are on the West End of the Bury again. He has spoken with the farmer who has agreed to remove them however he is keen to put them out with their calves. Councillor Martin has managed to delay this for 10 days, therefore the cattle will be on the bury from approximately the 17th August.

Councillor Dembrey reported on the Playing Field Management Committee. They are currently looking at their insurance cover and the extent of it. In future anyone on the field (such as caterers or rented marquee's) will need to provide proof of insurance which should

include public liability. Another case was also raised of a drone not being used appropriately. Councillor Dembrey will suggest to the committee that they could potentially ban the use of drones for events on the field.

19/08/2019 To consider articles for the website and newsletter
The Council agreed to include an article regarding the following:

- Fiery Lane road works
- New Stroud District Council bin collection routine
- Drone legislation update

20/08/2019 To confirm the time and date of the next meeting
The next meeting will take place on September 4th 2019 at 7:00pm

Actions:

4/08/2019	Invite Simon Pickering to talk at a meeting	Clerk
5/08/2019	Amend minutes	Clerk
7/08/2019	Send out grant application form reminders	Clerk
8/08/2019	Write to property owners regarding hedges	Clerk
8/08/2019	Report broken hand rail	Clerk
8/08/2019	Update Leyhill regarding works	Clerk
8/08/2019	Arrange meeting with Highways Manager	Clerk
9/08/2019	Instruct works to Bus Shelters	Clerk
10/08/2019	Send list of companies who provide small grants	Locum Clerk
10/08/2019	Book ROSPA inspection	Clerk
11/08/2019	Add Village Asset discussion to September agenda	Clerk
12/08/2019	Remove Facebook account	Village News Editor
14/08/2019	Send in planning responses	Clerk
16/08/2019	Upload and authorise payments	Clerk + 2 Councillors
17/08/2019	Enroll Clerk on CILCA course	Clerk
19/08/2019	Write article and send to Village news	Clerk/ Councillor Griffiths