

# Ufton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Meeting commenced 20:02 hrs

1. **Record of Members Present**

Cllrs Baldwin, Crowther, Leeman, Tayler, Byrne, Cllr Mrs Kemp and Mrs J Chapman (Clerk)  
District Councillor Adam, County Councillor Stevens

2. **Apologies for Absence**

None

3. **Acceptance of Apologies**

None needed

4. **Declaration of Interest**

Councillors are reminded that they **MUST** act solely in the public interests and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person to act or gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate. - None declared.

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in Finance item 10.2, payment for Jimdo website.

5. **Dispensations - None declared**

6. **Open Forum – (15minutes)**

A resident asked about the trees around the cart pond, he has concerns regarding their safety. It was agreed the Parish Council will seek prices to have the stability of the trees checked and pollarding if required.

CC / SDC Representatives Reports

**County Cllr Stevens**

**General Comments**

WCC has a new Chief executive and 5 new directors and an organisation reshuffle of responsibilities at all levels.

**Finances**

The Council is already planning next years (2020/21) Budget and although the councils finances (including reserves) are healthy, pressures in the pipeline especially Adults and children, exist. Without further dedicated funding these will suck funds from other services. The rise in crime, especially in rural areas, continues to cause concern. More police cover is promised but how this is funded is still up for discussion. Council tax rises are presently capped and other sources of funding are limited. S106 monies continue to be received across the county and major road schemes being progressed the process is slow and design work does not start until receipt of the money.

**HS2**

Early works progress and disruption will continue on the roads between Bascote Heath and Welsh road West as the pipeline and electrical infrastructure is progressed. Works involving major hedge and tree clearing have commenced especially in the vicinity of the proposed works compounds and along the route of the track. The main work is still scheduled for next summer and despite the overall viability being subject to an enquiry expected to report later this autumn, HS2 are still aiming to meet that date.

**Highways**

The routine annual resurfacing programme is well under-way and the final grass verge cut is nearing completion. Coordination of all the utilities works associated with the new housing is causing concern as many developments are over running their planned schedule. HS2 works are adding to the problems. We are fortunate in Feldon to have a hard working and dedicated Highways maintenance engineer. Patch Byrne investigates all complaints honestly and realistically and will reply eventually. He is equally frustrated by the time his colleagues take to respond; but now the Highways department reorganisation is almost complete, and individual responsibilities clarified, this should improve.

**Care for the elderly**

This topic covers a large area of Public spending and ranges from Care at home as opposed to care home provision. Pressures on the health services and Hospital discharge criteria to ensure safe

return from hospital to the community. We are all living longer and generally enjoy good health as we grow old. The county Council still run care homes together with the NHS rehabilitation homes to assist return home after a period of hospitalisation. Private care homes are well used and generally popular but are costly and not always affordable. Locally Galanos House is expanding and 10 more dementia rooms are expected to be completed by the end of this year. They are also expanding their facilities for carers and dementia patients to improve counselling and respite care. 24 hour Warden cover is also being introduced to new premises (eg Tithe Lodge in Southam). All cost money to Local Government and hence the council tax payer. This will be an ongoing financial and human pressure for years to come

#### **Children in care and at school**

Warwickshire is not immune from the national crises of foster children and associated problems of child behaviour in many families. This is exacerbated by the increasing numbers of children with special educational needs. Although education(schools) is no longer the responsibility of the local authority as more and more schools become Academies, free schools and part of a multi academy trust. There are only 3 Warwickshire secondary schools that are not academies; the provision of "good, suitable schools" is. Locally the large number of new housing is putting pressure on this provision and new primary schools are being included in some of these developments. A new secondary School will be necessary soon and its location is under discussion – Wellesbourne or Kineton are possible locations but another secondary school in Southam is not out of the question. Any new school is automatically a free school or Academy.

#### **Climate Change**

WCC in common with other local councils nationally have declared climate change should be treated as an emergency state of affairs and will take action to reduce the counties carbon footprint. The possible cause is an international issue and although leading by example is to be encouraged, the rest of the world must follow. Is there anything Ufton can do to make a difference?

#### **Grants**

From time to time I am advised of organisations that are offering "Community Grants". These mostly require to address a degree of local deprivation and a prerequisite is often to aid ethnic minorities. I pass these onto the parish clerks where relevant to your community. The county council community grant opens again in September for a short period as payment is to be made this year. HS2 and Cemex have funds for community projects

#### **.....and finally**

The next few months will continue to be dominated by progress (or otherwise) with Brexit. Here in Ufton the continued saga of HS2. My time, as well as the plethora of local issues and concerns, is also taken up by my role as chair of the WCC Pension fund investment including pooling. The armed forces covenant and veterans affairs in particular a new centre, funded by Balfout Beatty, soon to be opened in Nuneaton by Lord Dannett and the effect of both phases of HS2 on Warwickshire. A busy autumn and winter ahead for us all and I am not taking bets on a general election and all change!!

#### **District Cllr Adam**

Advised business is slow at the district council at present. The Site Allocation Plan has shown there will be no allocations in Ufton. SDC have declared a climate emergency, a strategy group has been set up. There has been no answer as to why HS2 undertake their own enforcement action. Cllr Adam continues to pursue this matter

### **7. Minutes of Last Parish Council**

7.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 were agreed as being a true and complete record.

### **8. Matters Arising**

8.1 The streetlights have been completed. The village has been advised via the September Ufton Newsletter.

8.2 Parish Boundary – the Clerk advised the meeting did not provide any new information.

8.3 Highway Issues – The sign at the bottom of White Hart Lane has collapsed.

#### **ACTION – Clerk to advise WCC Highways**

Street clutter - Cllr Tayler advised the three Ufton Fields signs are owned by SDC, Cllr Adam will progress this further. The bollard behind the chevron on the island has been fixed. The bent Give Way sign at the end of Ufton Fields will be mended. The no right turn from the exit off the roundabout will be removed. The locality officer will remove the Callyblue Fields housing development sign.

Maintenance of Churchyard. Cllr Crowther advised he has written to the Coventry Diocese regarding the maintenance of the churchyard. He has received a reply from the Diocesan Lawyer which broadly states the Parish Council can fund the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Clerk advised when she attended a recent legal update/training session, the NALC solicitor clearly stated Parish Councils and Local Authorities can not pay for the maintenance of churches and churchyards. The Clerk must follow the advice of the NALC solicitor and advise the Parish Council they can not legitimately pay for the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Councillors will discuss this matter again when the matter arises.

## 9. Planning

9.1 The following planning applications have been received.

Planning Application	Address	Request	Ufton PC response
19/02134/FUL	Ufton Hill Farm, Ufton, Leamington Spa, CV33 9PL	Erection of two storey dwelling for a farm manager and single storey farm offices and garage	No objection, request a condition house is for agricultural workers only
19/02241/VARY	Wood Farm, Ridgeway Lane, Ufton	Vary condition two (access improvements) of application 18/03791/COUQ to allow a new access route	Supports the application as it overcomes any objection the Highways may have as it is an existing access.

9.2 The following planning decisions has been received

Planning Application	Address	Decision
19/01585	1 Field Close, Ufton	GRANTED
19/01201	Ufton Hill Farm, Ufton	GRANTED

9.3 Other planning information - None

## 10. Finance

10.1 **Monthly Budget report for the period 01.04.18 – 31.08.19**

It was proposed by Cllr Tayler, seconded by Cllr Leeman and **RESOLVED** Cllr Crowther sign the copy of the cashbook as being correct.

10.2 **To authorise the following payments:**

### Payments made since last meeting

Name	£
Mrs J Chapman reimbursement for July Ufton Newsletter and postage	39.06

### Payments due:

Name	£
Clerks Salary – August 2019	
Clerks Salary – September 2019	
Mrs J Chapman reimbursement for August Ufton News	36.80
H.M.R.C 06.07.19 – 05.10.19	130.60
Jimdo Subscription 27.09.19 – 26.09.20 Website yearly fee. Cheque made payable to Mr J Tayler	84.00
Stratford District Council - administration of the uncontested Parish Council Election 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019	100.00
E-ON electricity use-age 01.04.198 – 30.06.19	183.55
E-ON Invoice for replacement LED lights and columns	3700.80
DM Payroll Services Ltd – Administration of payroll services 2019/2020 First half year	40.50

It was proposed by Cllr Crowther, seconded by Cllr Leeman and **RESOLVED** the payments be made.

**11. UBUS Service**

There are no registered users of the UBus Service in Ufton. The Parish Council agreed to support the UBus Service and are willing to advertise it within the Ufton Newsletter. The Parish Council will review the situation in the future if there are users of the service.

**12. SDC Consultation Proposed Submission Site Allocations Plan Regulation 19, 20 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012**

The Clerk will advise SDC Ufton Parish Council have no comments on the consultation.

**13. Warwickshire County Council Consultation on draft Warwickshire Rail Strategy 2019-2034**

The Clerk will advise WCC Ufton Parish Council have no comments on the consultation.

**14. Warwickshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Parish Council determined they do not want a presentation from Warwickshire County Council, Clerk to see if WCC can undertake the presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**15. Neighbourhood Watch Awareness Scheme**

Cllr Byrne would like to see information shared in/around the village regarding crime. The Clerk will include a request in the next Ufton News, residents do not need to give personal details, just a general overview, the intention being to increase awareness within the village.

The Clerk will also include details of "Supported Village Scheme" to see if there is any interest.

The Clerk advised she has received a response from Police Inspector Wiggin, which she circulated prior to the meeting. In short the Police Inspector advised the village to set up a Speed Watch Group and ask for speeding to be considered as one of the priorities to be considered by the Police at the next Community Forum. The Clerk was asked to include the Police's answer in the next Ufton News so all villagers are aware.

**16. Wellbeing within the village.**

The Councillors agreed it would be worthwhile to learn about becoming Dementia Friendly. Cllr Crowther will gather information regarding this.

**17. Consultations**

All consultations are to go on the Agenda.

**18. Items for next Agenda HS2**

**19. Date of Next Meeting** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Signed

Date

Chairman