

Ufton Parish Council Meeting

Held via Zoom on Tuesday 15th September 2020

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Before the meeting opened the Chairman sought the views of the members, as to whether any member wished to stand as Chairman or Vice Chairman or whether they wished him and Cllr Crowther to continue. It was agreed that Cllr Baldwin & Cllr Crowther continue as Chairman & Vice Chairman respectively.

The Chairman invited Cllr Leeman to explain how the Zoom meeting would work if the meeting ran out of its allotted time slot of 40 minutes.

- 1. Record of Members Present: -**
Cllrs Baldwin, Tayler, Crowther, Leeman, Byrne, Cllr Crump (covering for Cllr B Stevens) & Cllr L Adam
- 2. Apologies for Absence: -** Cllr Kemp, Mrs J Chapman (Clerk)
- 3. Acceptance of Apologies: - Accepted**
- 4. Declaration of Interests**
Councillors are reminded that they **must** act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer advantage or disadvantage on any person to act or gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend, or close associate.

Cllr Crowther and Cllr Baldwin declared an interest in Item 12 of the Agenda.
- 5. Dispensations**
None
- 6. In Remembrance of Mrs G Ingham & Cllr B Stevens**
The Chairman paid a short tribute to Mrs G Ingham and Cllr B Stevens on behalf of the village for all the hard work they had put into making the village a better place to live. One Minute's Silence was observed as a mark of respect for them both.
- 7. Open Forum - (15 minutes)**
Cllr Tayler felt that the good works of Mr Mark Langstone (e.g. cutting the Grass on the Island and around the Pond Area) deserved recognition and recommended that a donation of £15.00 towards his fuel costs be made by the Parish Council, which was agreed.

WCC / SDC Representatives Report

Cllr A Crump

Cllr Crump echoed the tribute paid to Cllr Stevens and informed the meeting that he had taken over as representative for Feldon Division until the elections in May 2021.

He informed the meeting that the County had prepared a Cross Party "Recovery Plan" to help with hardship. He was also pleased to announce that the Stockton Re-cycling Centre was re-opening on the 20th September 2020 and would be by appointment **ONLY**.

The County was also looking to introduce a policy of “Encouraging Children to walk to school”

A meeting is being held to discuss the possibility of the County becoming a Unitary Authority, however Warwick & Stratford District Councils are also in discussions about forming a Unitary Authority.

Finally, Cllr Stevens “Community Grant” is still available for Community Projects such as the restoration of the Village Pond, which he is happy to support

Cllr L Adam

Cllr Adam echoed the tribute to Cllr Stevens and Mrs Ingham. He expressed his concerns about the working procedures being adopted by HS2 regarding felling trees around the Fosse Way / Welsh Road Area and he was liaising with local activists on the issue and would report back.

Stratford DC had re-structured its Planning Committees so that there would only be one Committee instead of two.

Cllr Adam also confirmed that Warwick & Stratford were in discussions to form one authority.

Cllr Byrne queried whether HS2 had a Tree Felling Licence that encompassed all the work currently being undertaken along the Fosse Way. Cllr Adam agreed to look into the matter.

8. Minutes of Last Parish Council Meeting

- 8.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2020 were proposed by Cllr Leeman, seconded, by Cllr Tayler and approved.

9. Matters Arising

9.1 HS2

The Chairman informed the meeting that the closure of the A425 on 17 / 18th Sept would entail a partial closure of the road whilst contractors worked on the bell mouth at the entrance to Wood Farm / Wedding Barn. It was envisaged that Traffic Lights would be in operation.

Currently the installation of the new Pelican Crossing is held in abeyance because of issues regarding Street Lighting on the A425 between Tithe Barn Cottage and the Island.

Cllr Crowther, informed the meeting that he had requested a copy of HS2’s Church Survey report, and would chase.

9.2 Parish Boundary

Cllr Crowther’s correspondence with Quintessential Brands had not been successful and they had advised that he should take up the issue with the De Vere Group. He had done so and was awaiting a response.

9.3 Highway Issues

Nothing to report

9.4 Cart Pond

Cllr Tayler reminded members that the Severn Trent grant had not been forthcoming, however, work was still in progress to move the scheme forward. Site clearance was not a problem. The next issue would be provision of the pond liner and an application for funding from Cllr Stevens’ Grant.

10. Planning Matters –

10.1 Erection of new Electricity Transformer

Proposed to erect a new Electricity Transformer Noted

10.2 Planning Decision

Application 20/01212/FUL “College End” – Granted Noted

10.3 Other Planning Information

None

11. Finances

11.1 Monthly Budget Report

Cllr Leeman queried why the cost of the electricity was higher in 2020/21 than 2019/20. Cllr Crowther said that it appeared that some £380 of last year’s expenditure had been paid this year, but he would look into the matter and report back.

11.2 Payments Made since Last Meeting: -

HMRC (Apr, May, June 2020)	130.60
E-on (01.04.20 – 30.06.20)	194.36

Noted and confirmed.

To authorise the following payments: -

Clerks Salary July & August	
Reimbursement to Clerk for Ufton News	67.20
Reimbursement to Clerk for Zoom contribution	9.60
Village Hall Rental 2018/19 & 2019/20	483.00
Reimbursement to Cllr Tayler for Village Website	108.00
E-on Street Light Maintenance Apr – Jun 2020	23.29
E-on Street Light Maintenance Jul – Sep 2020	23.29
DM Payroll Services Apr – Sep 2020	60.00

Councillors agreed that **ALL** items be paid

Cllr Byrne informed the meeting that if the Parish Council got the Village Street Lighting up to standard they would be taken over by E-on. Cllr Crump provided clarification - it would be WCC who would take them over, not E-on.

It was agreed the Chairman should email Cllr Crump on this matter who would raise the issue with the County.

11.3 Income Received since Last Meeting

HMRC VAT Refund £2,483.10 Noted

12. Ufton Village Hall

Cllr Crowther had provided councillors with a briefing document before the meeting. The resignation of the Chair shortly before the sad demise of Mrs Ingham had left the committee with just one member. He and Cllr Baldwin had joined in a voluntary capacity with a view to them being confirmed as official representatives of the Church and Parish Council respectively.

Mrs Ingham's last act had been to suggest that the Parish Council should take over the running of the hall. Cllr Crowther had contacted WALC about the issue who advised it was feasible, but solicitors would be required by both parties since the Village Hall was a Registered Charity.

Cllr Tayler summarised the supporting documents he had read on councillors' behalf and thought the initial approach should be to encourage more parishioners to join the VH committee. It was agreed that the Chairman should draft an article for the Village Newsletter.

13. Streetlight by Tithe Barn Cottage

Cllr Crowther proposed, seconded by Cllr Leeman that the maintenance and electricity charges for the replacement street light by Tithe Barn Cottage be taken over by WCC. This was agreed.

14. Equality and Diversity Policy

It was agreed unanimously to adopt the draft policy submitted by the Clerk, subject to the "Birdingbury Parish Council" reference being amended to read "Ufton Parish Council".

15. Ufton Newsletter

Cllr Crowther outlined his concerns. Some parishioners felt there was insufficient "village content", others complained that the Diary section was not always accurate and seemed in need of more vigorous proof-reading. Cllr Tayler offered to liaise with the Clerk so that he could do so in future.

It was agreed to defer the matter to the October meeting when the Clerk could also contribute to the discussion.

16. Dog Fouling

Nothing to report and agreed to keep as an Agenda Item.

17. Frequency of Meetings

It was agreed to continue with Parish Council meetings being held monthly on the 1st Tuesday commencing at 8.00pm, but in line with tradition, none would be held in August.

18. Communications

Agreed to remove from Agenda

19. Items for next Agenda

HS2
Dog Fouling
Village Hall
Village Newsletter

20. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 6th October commencing at 8.00pm via Zoom.