

Ufton Parish Council

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2020

Meeting commenced 20:00 hrs via Zoom

1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Baldwin, seconded by Cllr Crowther and
RESOLVED Cllr Tayler be Chairman of Ufton Parish Council

Cllr Tayler signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Cllr Tayler made the following comments upon being elected as Chairman.
Cllr Tayler thanked Cllrs Baldwin and Crowther for their contributions to the village. I am pleased we will retain their energy and experience as Parish Cllrs.

My fear in accepting the position of Chairman: a poison chalice? But upon reflection: in recent years Ufton was the first small village to win QPC, negotiated better terms for HS2 at the House of Commons, improved street lighting (etc): as Parish Cllrs we do good things and if we steady the ship we can continue to do so.

Recent meetings have been 'interesting' (and great consumers of time and emotion). Now we need to press the 'restart' button and move on. I offer 3 thoughts to help us to do this:

1. **Behaviour.** We are all different, and disagreement will happen, that is fine. We make decisions by committee and sometimes those decisions will not be unanimous. But some recent discussions have been personal and acrimonious. So, Cllrs **must** start behaving civilly: i.e., listening; respecting various opinions; no raised voices or insults etc. If necessary, I will enforce standing orders about disorderly conduct. Accept things are not always 'black and white' and that compromise where possible is a strength, not a weakness.
2. Smarten up / streamline some of our **processes** where they benefit the village.
3. **Recruit** new Parish Cllrs (news later in agenda).

I believe we must do these simple things to move forward. We should put the past where it belongs, focus as a team, on what I know we are good at, and really want to do, all of us working for the benefit of our community.

20:08 hrs Cllr Byrne joined the meeting.

2. Record of Members Present

Cllrs Tayler, Leeman, Crowther, Baldwin, Bryne and Mrs J Chapman (Clerk)
County Cllr Crump, District Cllr Adam

3. Apologies for Absence

None

4. Acceptance of Apologies

None

5. 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.

Cllr Baldwin – Village Hall

Cllr Crowther – Village Hall and Ufton Parochial Church Council

6. Dispensations - None declared

7. Open Forum – (15minutes)

Cllr Leeman stated a number of people have commented to him, that our representatives for the District Council and the County Council are doing a wonderful job of keeping us informed about what’s going on with HS2, state of the roads, and everything else in connection with the present circumstances. People are very happy with the way they are being kept informed.

Cllr Tayler advised a few residents had approached him regarding the cutting of the grass in the cemetery, this will be covered later in the Agenda.

WCC / SDC Representatives Reports

20.13 County Cllr Crump joined the meeting

District Cllr Adam has contacted HS2 directly regarding the felling of trees. It transpires some trees have been marked incorrectly for felling and HS2 are aware of this error. They will undertake some work to these trees to tidy them up. SDC Site Allocation Plan – Ufton does not have any areas of land marked for development. Cllr Adam encourages everyone to respond. Long Itchington and Stockton have both had two sites identified for housing. Cycle Way, Fosse Way to Marton, a planning application has gone in. SDC has launched a Judicial Review against the Government, for placing South Warwickshire in Tier 3 when the rates of Covid19 in the area are exceptionally low. SDC is administering grant from the Government and it is available to those who did not qualify in the first round. Mental Health is becoming a big issue, there is help available in the Charitable Sector.

County Cllr Crump – Welsh Road West repairs have been done. The repairs are better than they were before, but they are still not good. Some verges have been done but from the canal bridge to the Fosse the verges are in a bad state and are full of water. A new Ufton resident has contacted Cllr Crump regarding speeding on the main road through the village. Warwickshire Police are due to relaunch Community Speed watch and there is a link on their website.

20:33 Cllr Crump left the meeting

8. Minutes of Last Parish Council

8.1 Cllr Crowther stated he was unhappy with the minutes but in view of the Chairman’s comments following him being elected to the post of Chair, Cllr Crowther stated he will not make any comments and will move forward. Cllr Taylor thanked Cllr Crowther and stated he held him in great respect for his decision.

It was proposed by Cllr Tayler, seconded by Cllr Leeman and **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2020 be accepted as a true and complete record.

Cllr’s Crowther and Baldwin abstained from voting.

8. Planning

8.1 The following planning applications has been received during the period 29th October 2020 to 26th November 2020.

Planning App	Address	Work	Comments
20/02890/FUL	14 St Michaels Close, Ufton, CV33 9PA	Construction of rear extension	No comments
20/02797/FUL	5 St Michaels Close, Ufton, CV33 9PA	Single storey extension to rear and replacement roof of the existing single storey extension	No comments

8.2 No planning decisions have been received during the period 29th October 2020 – 26th November 2020.

8.3 Other planning information – None

9.0 Matters Arising from previous meeting held on 3rd November 2020 which are not on the Agenda

9.1 The following advice has been received from Phil Grafton, Monitoring Officer at Stratford District Council relating to "urgent business" and "District and County Council Officers attending/participating in Parish Council meetings.

Urgent business-the law for town and parish councils is silent on this issue, which means in practice that the options for *truly* urgent items are (1) arrange a further meeting of council (2) if possible, refer to a committee that has the relevant powers (3) delegate the decision to clerk to be made after consultation with councillors, perhaps with a requirement to make the decision in accordance with the consensus view. As you know, the Chairman has no decision-making powers between meetings.

It was proposed by Cllr Baldwin, seconded by Cllr Leeman and **RESOLVED** if an urgent matter arises between Parish Council meetings, the Parish Council will hold an urgent meeting, including all Cllrs and the Clerk.

County and District councillors - the invitation to attend meetings and any other privileges offered e.g., speaking, remaining for confidential items etc. are just that; they are *not* legal rights, but have grown up as custom of practice-probably for good reasons, as there is a symbiotic need for exchange of information, views, ideas and so forth between the 3 local government tiers and this is a sensible way of achieving that.

20:47 Cllr Adam left the meeting

11. Finance
11.1 Budget report

It was proposed by Cllr Leeman, seconded by Cllr Tayler and **RESOLVED** the budget be reported at the first meeting following the quarter
Quarter 1 Apr – June - reported July
Quarter 2 July – Sept - reported October
Quarter 3 Oct – Dec - reported January
Quarter 4 Jan – Mar - reported April
The Clerk will provide the following monthly – Bank balance, Expenditure due, Income received, bank balance remaining.

11.2 To authorise the following payments:

Name	£
Clerks Salary – November 2020	
Mrs J Chapman reimbursement for Ufton News Printing for December 2020	36.80
Mrs J Chapman reimbursement of Zoom costs £14.39 per month split between 3 Parish Councils (Oct)	4.79
DM Payroll Services Ltd – second half of year payment	60.00

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

12. Ufton Village Hall

Cllr Crowther advised work is progressing relating to the land to the side of the village hall being transferred to the Village Hall. The flyer requesting volunteers had been successful, generating interest from 2 parishioners to join the Parish Council, 3 for the Parochial Church Council and 8 for the Village Hall Committee.

13. HS2

The Clerk was asked to contact HS2 and Warwickshire County Council regarding the collection of road signs which are to the side of the bus shelter and ask for them to be removed. Cllr Crowther advised he has received the report which was undertaken by HS2 on St Michael and All Angels Church. Cllr Crowther has submitted this report to Claire Strachan at the Diocese. Cllr Baldwin when asked if he will continue to represent the Parish Council at HS2 meetings he stated he would prefer not to.

14. Parish Boundary

Cllr Crowther's research had revealed a fresh lead from 1998 which he was actively pursuing.

15. Ufton Newsletter

It was proposed by Cllr Tayler, seconded by Cllr Leeman and **RESOLVED** to decline the offer to join with Harbury and Ladbroke News, the situation will be reviewed in 12 months' time.

16. Dog Fouling

Cllr Byrne asked for this matter to be deferred to the next meeting.

17. Update on Cllr Co-option

Two residents. Mr M Looney and Mrs S Beards have expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Tayler, seconded by Cllr Leeman and **RESOLVED** the Clerk commence proceedings to co-opt the parishioners and invite them to attend at the next meeting.

18. Ufton Parochial Church Council Grass Cutting request

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council, NALC's current legal advice is not to make any contribution to the upkeep of cemeteries.

It was proposed by Cllr Tayler, seconded by Cllr Byrne and **RESOLVED** the Parish Council will continue to fund the grass cutting of the Church Cemetery until legislation or the Court says otherwise.

The discussion included a reminder that the Precept, including any reference to providing for grass cutting in the church cemetery would be discussed at the January and February meetings of the Parish Council. These meetings are open to residents and there is opportunity to raise issues at that time. The Clerk will include a brief note in the January 2021 Ufton News to remind residents of this.

19. Donations to Charity.

The Parish Councillors noted it is lawful to make payments under Section 137 to Charities, however,

It was proposed by Cllr Baldwin, seconded by Cllr Crowther and **RESOLVED** Ufton Parish Council will not make donations to any charity whatsoever except for donating an amount to the Royal British Legion for a Remembrance Wreath. Any wreath will be laid on behalf of the Parish Council and the residents of Ufton.

One Cllr voted against this proposal.

20. Items for next Agenda

Precept – including a discussion about the cost of cutting the grass in the cemetery.

19. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 5th January 2021

Meeting ended 21:32 hrs

Signed

Date