

Uffington Parish Council

Monday 12th October 2020

MINUTES

1. **Chairman's Welcome** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest;** There were none declared at this point.
3. **Present** Councillor L Padmore-Chairman Councillor P Daimond and Councillor T Strawbridge. Also present L Pardoe clerk to the Council and one member of the public. Apologies were received from Councillor R Davies who was unwell and Councillor A Blake who had a work commitment. Shropshire Councillor L Picton who sent a written report for the members, also sent her apologies as the recommendation from Shropshire Council and National Association of Local Councils is still for all councils meet virtually.
There being three members of the Council present the meeting was Quorate and able to proceed.
4. **Public Session.** The gentleman who had attended the September meeting again spoke to the Council on his disappointment that Shropshire Council were continuing with the original white lining through the village of Uffington. He felt that they should at least have met with him to discuss his ideas on traffic calming. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had written to Shropshire Council and requested a site meeting with the appropriate officers from Shropshire Council to look at the possibility of just having white lines down the sides instead of a single white line in the centre of the carriageway. They had received a response from Shropshire Council stating that the white lines were already in the programme of works and that it was too late to change this at this late date. The member of the public was also upset that he had not received any responses from Shropshire Council to his follow up e-mails. The Chairman instructed the clerk to write to the officers at Shropshire Council to reiterate what was said at the last meeting and copy all members of the Parish Council and the gentleman into the e-mail. The clerk would also copy in Shropshire Councillor L Picton.
The member of the public also suggested some more improvements to the roads in Uffington
 - The Newport Road has a 40mph limit and he requested that we ask for some 40mph roundels on the road after the turn into Uffington to remind people of the 40mph speed limit.
 - Would it be possible to have a sign outside the Farm on the entrance to Uffington from the Newport Road saying "Uffington welcomes careful drivers"
5. **Defibrillator Report:** Councillor A Blake had spoken to the Chairman and said that the defibrillator was ready for use. The clerk explained that she had received a telephone call from Heartstart requesting that we check the dates on the batteries as he believed it was coming to the end of its shelf life. The Chairman said that she would speak to Councillor A Blake and ask him to check this.
6. **Council to agree minutes of meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020.** It was agreed that these were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Councillor L Padmore seconded by Councillor P Daimond and agreed by all members present.
7. **Clerk to report on matters from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.** The clerk had nothing to report.
8. **To receive written Report from Shropshire Councillor L Picton.** see below

COVID-19 UPDATE

As cases of Covid-19 continue to rise across Shropshire and the UK, Shropshire Council has launched a campaign to reinforce the previous messages about keeping ourselves and others safe and to prevent further spread of the virus.

The Council's Community Reassurance Teams are working hard to help those who need it and for local advice and support during the pandemic (especially if you are self-isolating), call Shropshire Council's COVID-19 Helpline on 0345 678 9028 (lines open on the weekend on Saturday from 9am-4pm and Sunday 9am-12pm) or visit the website at www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

The STEP-UP messages are simple
How you can 'Step Up' to help Shropshire:

- **Work from home if you can**
- **Limit contact with other people**
- **Keep your distance from people not in your household bubble (2 metres apart where possible)**
- **Stick to a maximum group of 6 people when meeting socially – indoors or outdoors**
- **Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**
- **If you are unable to wash hands and they are visibly clean, use hand sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol content**
- **Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms**
- **Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will meet people you do not normally meet.**

- **Anyone who has any symptoms should book a test and not leave home for at least 10 days. Those living in households should self-isolate for 14 days if they or any members of the household receive a positive test.**

PARK & RIDE

By the time our meeting takes place the report regarding the remodelling of Park & Ride will have gone before Cabinet. To the best of my knowledge this is the first time that the change to the current Oxon site has been formally mentioned although it has been mooted for some time.

The report on the 5th October seeks approval to begin the remodelling, preparation and assessment works so, as yet, no formal decisions have been made.

This work will include a review of the existing Park and Ride sites and the identification of possible alternative locations that would provide passengers with new, modern, interchange facilities.

Service frequency, the fare structure, use of electric buses and the cost of any changes will also be considered, along with opportunities to integrate the wider public transport network into the Park and Ride service.

Formal discussions will be held with partners and stakeholders, and work carried out to understand how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted the transport industry – and how passenger and stakeholder requirements may have changed as a result.

Subject to the outcome of a formal consultation it is hoped that the phased introduction of the Shrewsbury Connect transport model would start in 2021, along with a modernisation of the existing sites and the introduction of electronic buses into the operation.

I urge you to have a look at this report in readiness for the consultations that will take place later this year and early next year.

ELECTRIC CHARGING INITIATIVE

I am delighted to say that Shropshire Council is part of a consortium that has secured major funding from the Department of Energy, Business and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for an innovative new project although I am unsure how much impact it will have on rural areas such as ours. However, always useful if you do have an electric vehicle to have an increased number of charging options.

Agile Streets will see the installation of smart charging points for electric vehicles right across the Shropshire Council area.

Agile Streets will focus on providing on-street charging in residential areas across the Shropshire Council area for local EV drivers who do not have driveways. The council is working hard to identify the most suitable locations in the county and installations will be funded by this grant.

Smart charging will help improve the customer experience by allowing Shropshire drivers to charge their cars using renewable energy during off-peak hours when prices are typically lower.

This project will build on the infrastructure already put in place by Shropshire Council, which includes the installation of two new EV charging points in March 2020. Since installation, these charging points have saved over 2.5 tonnes of carbon – the equivalent of 6,203 driven by an average vehicle – and charged 187 vehicles.

The council is committed to installing further charging points across the county in addition to this scheme.

CULTURAL STRATEGY CONSULTATION

“Unprecedented. Not a word that’s usually banded around much but 2020, after all, was an ‘unprecedented’ year. In February 2020, Shropshire was hit with the worst flooding in 20 years, with residents and businesses evacuated from Shrewsbury and Ironbridge following two severe danger-to-life flood warnings. Then came the Coronavirus lockdown. From 23rd March 2020, all non-essential organisations were closed, including cultural venues, leisure, hospitality and retail.

After that, the world changed for all of us.

This Cultural Strategy for Shropshire therefore comes at a challenging time. Culture has been, more than ever, accessed online and through the TV and outdoor spaces have become a lifeline for many. There are also unprecedented opportunities. With the lockdown, we have had the time to reflect on what happens next, as individuals and cultural providers. We have set out unprecedented aspirations for the development of culture in Shropshire - for residents and visitors to the county. This follows extensive consultation with a broad range of people involved in culture across Shropshire and beyond and has been developed in partnership with organisations from across the sector”.

The text above is taken directly from my opening comments within the new Cultural Strategy. A huge amount of work has gone into bringing this document to fruition and speaking as the Cabinet Member responsible for Culture for I am

really pleased with the document that we and our partners have created. Without a Cultural Strategy funding from the major bodies such as the Arts Council, Sport England, the Heritage Lottery Fund are very difficult to access. In fact, without a current strategy some funders simply refuse applications. However, this document isn't just a document to get funding, it's a celebration of Shropshire's rich cultural heritage and statement of intent for Shropshire Council and its many partners. It will go before Cabinet on the 5th October and will then go out for public consultation. I would be very grateful if you as a Parish Council and/or as individuals would take the time to have a look at the strategy and feedback your thoughts. I should add that it's a bit different to the "normal" council report

LOCAL MATTERS

The proposal for the gypsy and traveller site at Battlefield was due to go out for public consultation earlier in the year but was postponed due to Covid-19. This consultation is now live and closes on 30th November. You can find the information and the consultation by following this link <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/proposed-temporary-five-year-gypsy-and-traveller-transit-site/> I appreciate that this site is not within Uffington Parish but as it is in the adjoining parish residents may wish to understand more about Shropshire Council's legal responsibilities around this matter.

I have reported the areas of the resurfacing on Church Lane that I think requires attention.

Lezley Picton
Shropshire Councillor for the Tern Division
8th October 2020

9. **Council to re adopt the following Policy Documents** .These were given to all members at the September meeting. It was agreed to re adopt all the following documents "en-bloc". Proposed by Councillor T Strawbridge seconded by Councillor P Daimond and agreed by all members present.

- a. **Risk Assessment Document**
- b. **Financial Risk Assessment Document**
- c. **FOI Publication Scheme**
- d. **GDPR Subject Access Policy**
- e. **Equality Policy Statement**
- f. **Retention of documents Policy**
- g. **Complaints Policy**
- h. **Councillor/ Clerk Relation –Protocol**
- i. **Assets Register**

10. Planning:

- Reference: 20/03775/Ful validated 21/09/2020
Address: Braemar, Uffington, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.SY4 4SR
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and render existing elevations.
After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to this planning application.
Proposed by Councillor L Padmore seconded by Councillor T Strawbridge and agreed by all members present.

11. Highway Matters

- Clerk to report back from the Highways request for a site meeting, the clerk had received an e-mail saying the white lining was programmed in to the scheme of works and could not be changed at this point.
- Councillors to report any Highways matters Councillor P Daimond reported that the sign by the barns has been dislodged. Clerk to report this to J Ingoldby.

12. Finance

- i. Council to agree and pay accounts as presented by the clerk: It was agreed to pay the accounts as presented by the clerk. Proposed by Councillor P Daimond seconded by Councillor T Strawbridge and agreed by all members present. Councillor P Daimond questioned why the clerk used first class stamps to send out the papers for the meeting. The clerk advised members that what she was sending was not an invitation but a summons to the meeting and as such she needed to know that the papers would definitely get there on time so that the meeting would be lawfully called. It would have to be cancelled if members had not received their papers in time. The Chairman instructed the clerk to use second class stamps when the current stock of first class stamps were used up. Members said they would see how it went using second class stamps

Cheque Number	Payee	Brief Description	Amount
000767	HMRC	PAYE	25.80
S/O	Staff	Salary	296.71
000768	Staff	WFHA & Expenses	76.16
		Total	398.67

- ii. Council to accept Bank Reconciliation as presented by the clerk. It was agreed to accept the Bank reconciliation as presented by the clerk. Proposed by Councillor P Daimond seconded by Councillor T Strawbridge and agreed by all members present.
- iii. Council to agree the annual pay award agreed by Government back dated to April 2020.This was agreed Proposed by Councillor P Daimond seconded by Councillor T Strawbridge and agreed by all members present.

Any members of the public to leave at this point whilst the clerk's salary is discussed.

- iv. Council to consider increasing the clerk's salary spine point to SCP24. There has been no increase on the spine point for the last two years. Councillor Strawbridge suggested that as there were only three members of the Council present that it would be better to defer the discussion for the November meeting where hopefully all members would be present.

13. Parish Matters

- Councillors P Daimond reported that the Church footpath would be done in the next two weeks. The Chairman instructed the clerk to put on the November agenda to give a donation to the PCC for half of the bill which would amount to £1,250. The clerk said that she was not sure that the Parish Council could give that much to the PCC as Parish Councils are not allowed to give money to the Church as the Diocese has an obligation to maintain its buildings.
Councillor Daimond asked why the clerk had not mentioned this before in previous meetings where this had been discussed, the clerk replied that she was under the impression that the donation would be for £50-£100 not half of the final bill. It is common practise (although not strictly allowed) for parish council to give small sums to the upkeep of the church yard. She would seek advice on this matter from SALC.

14. Date and time of Next meeting. Monday 9th November 2020 starting at 7.30 in Uffington Village Hall.