

ULLESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Ullesthorpe Parish Council held in Ullesthorpe Village Hall on Monday 5 September 2022 at 7.30pm

Present Councillors: Simon Smith, Marion Coombes, and Nick Mooney. Julie Kavanagh was co-opted to the Parish Council as a Parish Councillor under minute reference 22-083.

In attendance: Katherine Clarke (Parish Clerk) and two members of the public.

22-082 To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from District and County Cllr Rosita Page.

22-083 To receive an update on the Casual Vacancies and Co-option of a Councillor

An expression of interest has been received from Julie Kavanagh. Cllr. Smith proposed co-opting Julie to UPC as a Parish Councillor, Cllr. Mooney seconded the proposal. Julie agreed and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. There are still two casual vacancies to be filled.

22-084 To receive Declarations of Members' Interests on items on the agenda

Members are asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda. Members are reminded that the Code of Conduct which took effect from 7 August 2012 provides that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interest at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is prejudicial, they should withdraw from the room and not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter.

No declarations of interest received.

22-085 To sign as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022

Cllr. Smith proposed approving the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022 as accurate, Cllr. Coombes seconded the proposal.

22-86 To note any questions or comments from the public (15 minutes)

Hugh and Clare Robertson Smith attended the meeting to raise the following matters:

- Clare provided a breakdown of income and expenses for the events held on the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Clare advised there is an overall surplus of funds of £42.79.
- Clare handed the Clerk £104.78 cash from the Platinum Jubilee weekend to be paid into the UPC bank account, the Clerk will provide Clare with a receipt.
- The Platinum Jubilee Beacon, sited at Manor Farm was registered with the national programme and a certificate has been received, this will be passed to David Haynes from Manor Farm. Clare has also prepared certificates for the Playing Fields Association and Thompsons United Football Club to thank them for their contributions.
- UPC will write a note of thanks to Manor Farm, the Playing Fields Association and Thompsons United Football Club.
- Cllr. Mooney noted thanks to Clare from UPC for all her hard work in co-ordinating the events.
- Clare advised that the Village Hall Committee are holding a Platinum Jubilee Christmas Craft and Produce Show to be held in the village hall on 10 December 2022. This event could be used to present the certificates and letters of thanks etc. to Manor Farm, the Playing Fields Association and Thompson United Football Club. Cllr. Smith proposed that UPC pay for the room hire for the event, Cllr. Mooney seconded the proposal. Clare thanked UPC.
- Clare advised that the Village Hall Committee have been wondering if there is anything that can be done to help the local community regarding soaring energy costs, such as opening the hall for people to use. Cllr. Smith advised that once the Village Hall Committee have further details on the

proposal, they would be interested to hear the details and see if there is any support that can be provided by UPC.

At this point in the meeting Hugh and Clare Robertson Smith left the meeting.

22-087 Matters arising from District and County Councillor Rosita Page

Cllr. Page has been in regular contact via phone and email throughout the month with the Councillors and the Clerk updating and advising on issues concerning UPC and assisting with any concerns UPC have raised.

22-088 Planning Matters:

- a. No planning applications to consider.
- b. It was noted that the appeal against the planning decision for planning application 20/01783/FUL for Mere Meadows, Mere Lane, Bitteswell took place on 9 August 2022, the outcome of the appeal is not known at this time.

22-089 Financial Matters

a. To note the Bank Reconciliation to 5 September 2022

The last bank statement received, dated 5 August 2022, has been reconciled to the cash book. The reconciled balance on the account is £25,533.08.

b. To approve accounts for payment

Cllr. Mooney proposed, and Cllr. Coombes seconded payment of the following accounts:

CHQ NO	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
001567	Symbiosis	Railway cutting tree survey	£1,326.00
001568	Goodacre Farms	Footpath licence	£1.00
001569	Harborough District Council	Emptying of waste bins	£200.92
001570	K Clarke	Parish Clerk salary and expenses	£353.67

c. Any other financial matters

The Clerk advised that PKF Littlejohn LLP have concluded the audit of the Annual Governance and Accounting Review for 2021/22.

22-090 To receive an update and discuss any matters arising at the railway cutting

- The tree survey report commissioned by UPC has been received from Symbiosis, UPC have a Zoom meeting scheduled with Lesley Adams from Symbiosis on 26 September 2022 to discuss the findings of the report.
- Cllr. Smith has discussed the final design of the wooden bench with Peter Leadbetter.
- Cllr. Smith has requested quotes from Masters & Sons for the installation of the archway, the repair of the steps, a concrete base for the bin, a base for the Platinum Jubilee bench and fencing along Green Gardens.
- Cllr. Smith noted that 50m of fencing needs to be replaced in Green Gardens, this can't be erected until the required tree works are completed.
- Cllr. Smith noted that the ash tree on Green Gardens is causing issues for residents as it is interfering with the telephone lines.
- A parishioner has reported that there are overgrown brambles in the cutting.
- UPC will investigate forming a volunteer group to assist with on-going maintenance.

22-091 To discuss any matters arising regarding village maintenance and environmental matters

- Cllr. Smith advised that there has been no progress with the renovation of the village sign, however, he has met someone else who may consider taking on the project.
- The Environment Group have provided UPC with a report on the wildflower verges, it is now

almost one year since the project started. They have advised that it is difficult to assess the success of the areas, partly due to the weather conditions this summer and partly because they know it takes at least a year for some species to appear. They have found definite areas where there is more yellow rattle than grass and more variety of wildflowers than we've seen before. They have been advised not to add more seeds at this stage but to wait and see what emerges next year. The proposed plan for year two is to cut the grass very short, they will arrange for a farmer to do this in late September. A week later, they will rake the grass and have it removed, they will then wait until next year and see what emerges. UPC is happy for the Environment Group to proceed on this basis.

22-092 To receive an update on the Joint Burial Board

Cllr. Smith has attended a meeting of the Burial Board and reported the following matters to UPC:

- The Burial Board has created a substantial plan for the layout of the burial ground.
- The Burial Board have obtained costings to extend the footpaths.
- The Burial Board have scheduled a site visit mid- September to look at all the maintenance issues.
- New signage has been erected at the burial ground.

22-093 To receive an update on the Playing Field Association

- UPC have been advised that there is a problem with bins being emptied.
- It was noted that there is a large pot of s106 money that the Playing Field Association may be eligible to apply for.
- Cllr. Mooney advised that we need to find out the origins of the building sited at the playing field.
- Cllr Mooney advised that UPC still need to arrange a meeting with the Playing Field Association to try and form some structure.
- Cllr. Coombes noted that it would also be prudent for UPC to identify alternative sites for the play equipment around the village.

22-094 To agree the content and delivery method of a Parish Council newsletter

- Following the request for expressions of interest on the Facebook page for people to deliver the UPC newsletter, two residents have contacted the Clerk, it was agreed to ask if the residents would like to split the delivery round and do half each.
- UPC agreed the content of the next newsletter, the Clerk will prepare a draft for circulation to UPC for approval.

22-095 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

No matters raised.

22-096 A.O.B. – FOR NOTIFICATION ONLY

No matters raised.

22-097 Date of next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of UPC will be held on 3rd October 2022 at 7.30pm at Ullesthorpe Village Hall.

Items of a confidential nature to be debated in the absence of press and public. Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (due to the confidential nature of the business):

22-098 To discuss further correspondence received regarding a complaint that was made on 21 March 2022 and withdrawn on 6 April 2022

UPC have received further correspondence from the complainant advising that the statement published with the May 2022 UPC meeting minutes leaves doubt as to the validity of their complaint

or it being of a frivolous nature. UPC considered and discussed the correspondence and concluded that there is nothing in the actions of UPC that belittle or diminish the severity of the original complaint, UPC agreed unanimously that they are satisfied that the minutes are an accurate record.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.01pm.

Approved as accurate on 03.10.22.