

ULLESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Ullesthorpe Parish Council held in Ullesthorpe Village Hall on Monday 1st November 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present Councillors: Simon Smith, Hugh Robertson Smith, Marion Coombes and Nick Mooney.

In attendance: Katherine Clarke (Parish Clerk), District and County Cllr Rosita Page and two members of the public.

21-138 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Geoff Turley.

21-139 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.

21-140 To note any questions or comments from the public (15 minutes)

- A parishioner raised concerns regarding the railway cutting proposal that is currently being consulted on, they advised that they feel it is disrespectful that proposals had not been circulated to people that might be affected. Cllr Smith advised that various proposals have been circulated to make the site an amenity for the village, the proposal is not set in stone and will be consulted on until 31.12.21. Cllr Mooney and Cllr Coombes felt that the comments on social media were disrespectful. Cllr Coombes advised that UPC are working on future communication methods via social media.
- A parishioner expressed concerns that they felt UPC need to better engage with the parish. Cllr Mooney advised that UPC is trying to improve the communication and engagement methods. CS accused PC of being dictators. Cllr Coombes advised that UPC want constructive ideas and need feedback from the public. Cllr Smith asked for all comments to be submitted in writing.
- A parishioner asked how the playing field is separate from UPC. Cllr Smith advised that the playing field was set up many years ago via a trust with an inspiration to find a recreation area within Ullesthorpe. The Trust ended up with the Ashby Road site. UPC have supported grant applications, grass cutting and insurance. UPC believe the playing fields association are trying to improve play equipment etc. at the site. Cllr Robertson Smith noted that Cllr Turley was not present to comment and he is the current UPC representative on the playing fields association.

One parishioner left the meeting at this point.

- A parishioner raised concerns that developers are not meeting obligations as the hedging has not been reinstated on the access road to The Leys development site. UPC advised that the developer is under no obligation to replace the hedge as they applied for an access gate to be erected which has been approved by Harborough District Council.

The second parishioner left the meeting at this point.

21-141 To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2021

Cllr Mooney proposed approving the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2021 as accurate, Cllr Coombes seconded the proposal. The minutes will be signed electronically.

21-142 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.

21-143 Financial Matters**a. To note the Bank Reconciliation to 01.11.21**

The last bank statement received, dated 05.10.21, has been reconciled to the cash book. The reconciled balance on the account is £31,320.16.

b. Accounts for payment

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Robertson Smith seconded payment of the following accounts:

CHQ NO	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
001468	CPRE	Annual subscription	£36.00
001469	RBL	Wreath and donation	£50.00
001470	K Clarke	Parish Clerk salary and expenses	£356.17

c. To discuss precept setting for 2022/23

The Clerk advised that the budget needs to be reviewed prior to setting the precept for 2022/23. If any of the Councillors have any budget requirements to be considered, they should advise the Clerk.

21-144 To discuss village gateway pricing and the Highway Members Fund

- Cllr Coombes, Cllr Mooney and Cllr Smith would not be in favour of replacing the signs with like for like but would support replacing the signs with enhanced gateways signed within the means available. Cllr Robertson Smith does not report support replacing the signs with enhanced gateways and would like his unhappiness noted, he believes Leicestershire County Council should be responsible and replace them.
- Cllr Smith suggested that if the project is agreed, the priority should be to replace the signs on Claybrooke and Lutterworth Road, followed by Frolesworth Road and Ashby Road when funding permits.
- Cllr Smith proposed that we obtain full costings for the sign in the 'Sign of the Times' brochure priced at £864.00. Cllr Mooney seconded the proposal, Cllr Coombes agreed. Cllr Robertson Smith is not in favour of obtaining the proposal.
- The Clerk will email Cllr Page requesting a contribution to the project from the Members Highways Fund.

21-145 To decide whether to proceed with a UPC Facebook page and adopt a social media policy

Cllr Coombes has prepared a draft FB page which has been circulated to UPC. The page will function as a noticeboard. To begin with the page will have commenting disabled, this may be reviewed in future to permit moderated comments. Cllr Mooney proposed proceeding with a UPC Facebook page, Cllr Smith seconded the proposal. The Clerk has circulated a draft Social Media Policy for UPC to adopt. Cllr Smith proposed adopting the Social Media Policy, Cllr Mooney seconded the proposal.

21-146 To discuss matters arising at the railway cutting

- Cllr Smith noted the minutes of the October meeting and agreed that a third quote should be obtained. Cllr Smith advised that the purpose of the tree works is purely for the removal of several dead or diseased trees that are bordering neighbouring properties. Cllr Smith will liaise with the Clerk to organise quotes.
- The consultation on proposals for the railway cutting is still live and runs until 31.12.21.
- Cllr Smith and Cllr Robertson Smith will walk the railway cutting on 03.11.21 to check for any fallen branches etc.

21-147 To discuss any matters arising regarding village maintenance and environmental matters

Cllr Robertson Smith, village sign is badly weathered and according to the maker can't be refurbished, they have suggested that it could be painted. Cllr Robertson Smith believes that Claybrooke Parva undertook some similar work on a sign they own, and he has requested further information. The maker of the sign also advised that the frame of the village board with the ceramic insert is also weathering although this can be revived.

21-148 To discuss matters arising at the Joint Burial Board

Cllr Robertson Smith reported the following:

- He has queried precept for 2021/22 with the Clerk of the Burial Board.
- Representatives of the Burial Board met on site with a concerned parishioner. The parishioner doesn't want the arboretum to extend down the east side of the cemetery extension and is concerned about overhanging trees. The Burial Board has asked the parishioners to obtain a quote from their contractor for the works which will be considered by the Burial Board.
- 230 hedge plants and 25 to 30 trees are arriving at the cemetery in November, volunteers will be required to assist with planting.
- The current Clerk, Maurice Howell is retiring in April 2022, Tracey Garton has been recruited to take over the position. Jan Butcher, the representative from Claybrooke Magna has raised the issue of a retirement gift. Cllr Smith proposed that UPC put £50.00 towards a retirement gift for the retiring Clerk, Cllr Mooney seconded the proposal.

21-149 To consider plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022

Cllr Mooney advised that the second planning meeting took place on 31.10.21 and that lots of ideas have been suggested. A third meeting will take place on 21.11.21 at 2pm in the village hall.

21-150 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

No matters raised.

21-151 A.O.B. – FOR NOTIFICATION ONLY

- Cllr Robertson Smith has undertaken the last grass cut of the year and noted that the mower needs servicing. Cllr Smith will investigate this.
- Cllr Robertson Smith asked the Clerk if there had been a response from Leicestershire County Council regarding the speed reduction consultation. The Clerk will chase for a response.
- Cllr Page advised that UPC should consider asking UPFA for an update regarding their current situation.
- Cllr Page advised that UPC should consider if they wish to continue with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Cllr Coombes advised that some parishioners are meeting to discuss Christmas lights in the village. Cllr Coombes will attend the meeting and report back to UPC.
- Cllr Mooney noted that the outstanding obligations of the Big Lottery Grant need to be met as soon as possible.

21-152 Date of next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of UPC will be held on 6th December 2021 at 7.30pm at Ullesthorpe Village Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.32pm.

Approved as accurate on 06.12.21.