

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 10th April 2025

Meeting held at the Village Hall, Upper Heyford

Present: Chair: Paul Weaver, Councillors: Chris O'Malley, Mark Hiles

Apologies: Councillors: Bryony Johnson, George Stephenson, Derek Burrows, Clerk: Sarah Morgan-Harris

Code of Conduct: The Chair reminded Councillors of the code of conduct requirements under the Localism Act of 2011.

1. Consideration of Dispensations: None

Approval of Minutes: Council approved the minutes of the March meeting.

2. Standing Agenda Items: None
3. Public Liability Review: Lime Trees, High Street require some maintenance work, quotations are needed as well as a check with Highways authorities regarding a cost contribution.
4. Public Forum: Marc Thielke, see a. below
5. Matters Arising:

- a. Allens Lane—Marc Thielke discussed the culvert cleaning on Allens Lane and is looking for grants on drainage improvement. Marc will revert back on findings.
- b. Damage to pylon, The Green—It has been confirmed that this is scheduled for repair, but a date hasn't been confirmed as yet, ongoing
- c. Parking Signage, The Green—New sign wording and sizing agreed, wood to demark the spaces is to be sought. Clr Burrows is awaiting a price from the vendor.
- d. Traffic Calming/\$106 money—Grace Conway-Murray was going to chase a response on behalf of UHPC, no update has been received to date.
- e. Heat Upper Heyford—HUH met with SIB for potential funding in March, there has been no further update.
- f. Somerton Rd Trees—The project has been successfully completed.
- g. Cemetery fountain water—The tank is still continuing to flow and signs have been placed with regards to the water not being suitable for drinking.
- h. Green Scythe Contract—The PC agreed to the £97 increase per cut for the remainder of the contract period. Clerk to confirm with Nigel.
- i. Speeding in the Village—Continue to monitor. There is no immediate action, the PC agreed to place this on the deferred item list.
- j. Reading Room Maintenance—No update on repairs.
- k. MCNP Development Site—Upper Heyford are now a Category B village (eligible for village development) within the proposed local plan. Reg 14 consultation has now begun and the UH site is in the consultation document.
- l. Blandford Fly—No update—Clerk to respond asking for further information on costs.
- m. Clerk Vacancy—A new Clerk has been appointed with a start date tbc.
- n. Mill Lane noticeboard—Quotations received and the PC have agreed to order. PC to contact the donation partner to confirm the details.
- o. Local Plan Response—The PC have submitted a response. There is no further update. At our March meeting Grace Conway-Murray agreed to chase on our behalf. There has been no further update on the reclassification reasoning for UH. Clerk to chase.
- p. Spring Clean 2025—The event went well. There were less volunteers this year but there was also notably less litter than previous years. The PC would like to thank all involved.
- q. Mill Lane Solar Panels—Clerk to respond to concerned neighbour. After much investigation there is no blanket answer to whether planning permission is required or not. CDC planning office have been contacted and the advice is to check with the planning department as it is unclear whether it is covered by permitted development. There are fees associated with advice on applications. It was noted that there are many residences with solar panels installed, both road facing and rear facing across the village with little or no planning permission in place. Therefore a precedence is in place that planning may not be required. Further discussion with installers indicate

- that this is considered acceptable under permitted development laws in cases where the panels are on a pitched roof, facing away from roadways. PC to include an update in the Valley News to help residents considering installations.
- r. Lime Trees, High Street—A quotation has been received the PC have confirmed that more quotes are needed.
 - s. Oxfordshire Rail Freight Interchange—No further updates to report.
 - t. VE Day Celebration—Cllr Johnson updated the PC on flag costs and a potential beacon but there is no further update or development.
 - u. Village Hall Charities Commission—Paul Weaver, Sarah Burrows, Simon Van Zwannenberg and Graham Wilson are now the trustees of the Village Hall charity. The accounts are now up to date with the charities commission. It was agreed to defer further decisions on the next steps for the Village Hall to the next meeting.
 - v. Nipitkin Cottage—Update needed from Cllr Johnson regarding correspondence to the resident regarding the land ownership.

6. Correspondence:

See planning below regarding Mill Lane, Solar panels.

7. New Business:

8. Current Financial Position:

Payments made to DraughthBusters and Blue Monkey trees in March, no further update as Clerk not present.

9. Planning:

Mill Lane, solar panels

10. Deferred Item Review:

Ardley Rail Freight Terminal
Village Parking
Puy De Fou
Fibre broadband
Football Pitch Hire/FA Funding – to be restarted at next meeting.
Village/Community Orchard
Strategic Rail Freight Terminal
25 Bus route

11. Any Other Business/Discussion Items

None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 20:30

Meeting dates: 15th May, 12th June, 22nd May (AGM & APM), 10th July, 11th September, 9th October, 20th November.

Signed:
Paul Weaver
Chair

