

Minutes of Additional Ufford Parish Council Meeting

Held on 22nd March 2022 ~ 6.00pm

St Mary's Parish Hall, Church Lane, Ufford

Present

Cllr. Kathryn Jones (Chair)

Cllr. Pat Edworthy

Cllr. Steve Mayhew

Cllr. Keith Bennett

Cllr. David Findley

Cllr. Nigel Smith

Cllr. Nick Crocker

Cllr. Jane Hawthorne

Judi Hallett (Clerk)

1 Member of the Public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:

a) To Receive Apologies:

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Vincent Smith (At Work).

b) To Accept Apologies:

Cllr. Jones proposed that the apologies of Cllr V Smith were accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Hawthorne and all were in agreement.

2. To receive any:

a) Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Items

None

b) Declarations of Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Items

None

c) Applications for Dispensation on Agenda Items

None

d) Declarations of Gifts or Hospitality received over the value of £25.00

None

e) Notification of Lobbying with reference to any Planning Application to be discussed

None.

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3. Public Session:

a) Reports or comment from any member of the public (notes only):

- EV Charging Points – The member of the Community Hall Committee outlined a proposal that he and the Clerk had drafted and he was thanked for his time in doing this. He agreed to answer any questions the Councillors had during their debate, if he could.

b) Reports or comment from ESC and SCC Councillors:

- **Dist. Cllr. Carol Poulter** – None.
- **Cnty. Cllr. Alexander Nicoll** – None.

4. Recreation Ground:

a) To discuss installation of EV Charging Points at Ufford Recreation Ground – A draft proposal had been sent to all Councillors from the Clerk and the Treasurer of the Community Hall Committee. That being:

- Although the project is managed by the Hall Committee (and they have carried out 90% of the work so far), it is labelled as a joint venture between UPC and the Hall Committee
- We only request 2 EV Charging Points (i.e. One Pole allowing two Vehicles to charge, i.e. taking up only two car parking spaces) – this will reduce the number of spaces that will be taken away from an already small number of spaces and will reduce the commitment for standing charges
- We trial the project for 12 months, with both organisations (UPC and Hall Committee) keeping in close contact and reporting any issues to each other
- We initially promote the availability on the main App (to ensure non-locals are aware of the points) but keep open the option to withdraw it, if we find people are queuing up to use it and causing an issue at the Hall or there are any other issues
- We promote the points in the PUNCH and on PUNCHLine
- The situation is assessed after the first year and UPC commit to ‘going halves’ on any shortfall experienced by the Hall Committee (If no one were to use the points at all the cost to the Hall would be £360 over the year, so UPC would be committing to £180 at the absolute most. Of course zero use is highly unlikely).

Councillors debated the draft proposal and the following comments were made:

- [It was established that different cars take different charges and at different rates. Older cars took, on average, less charge and had smaller capacity batteries and newer cars had larger capacity batteries]
- To break even it looks like you will be looking at around 60 charges per month, but this depended on length of charge

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- This is more of a 'service' we are providing, it is likely to be loss making for a few years, until it beds in.
- We are doing this for the bigger picture, we will all be using Electric cars soon and some people cannot easily charge at home
- I had not imagined there would be advertising and it concerns me that there may be issues with additional traffic on the Avenue, unwanted litter, anti-social behaviour, dogs, loss of parking spaces, etc.
- The car park is most crowded during football matches, where loss of 2 spaces could have impact; however there will be an increasing proportion of electric vehicles in that group too.
- If it was a longer contract I would be sceptical but the maximum either party can lose is £180.00

The following questions were asked:

- *How will the cable reach the points from the Community Hall?* A site survey has been conducted and the cable will leave the hall at the rear (where the electricity board is), travel along the back and side of the building in conduit and then there will be a small amount of underground ducting to the points. The tarmac will not be dug up.
- *Is the cost of 2 points, half that of 4 points and can you reclaim the VAT?* Yes, approx.. £30 per month for 2 points and No, Charities cannot reclaim VAT.
- *Why only 1 Charger Pillar (i.e. 2 charging points), why not have 2 Pillars if the offer is there?* The running costs will be double and we will be taking up 4 spaces where there are very few in the first place.
- *Where is the money coming from? If we don't want to continue with the project do we have to pay it back?* The funds are from Suffolk County Council and we only have to commit to one year. After a year we can turn them off.
- *What type of chargers are they?* They are known as 'Fast Chargers'
- *Is there 3-phase at the Hall?* Not sure, I just know that the electrics have been checked and are suitable to host this additional load.
- *Do we have to advertise?* If we don't then we probably won't break even. If all the fears come to fruition then we just stop the advertising and end the contract.
- *Does the Hall's Electricity contract permit them to sell electricity at more than they are charged?* There are no clauses in the contract that say we cannot do this and it is recommended that we charge 10p over the purchase price. We can amend the charges with 4 days' notice.
- *How do people pay?* They download an App and then pay through that.

In conclusion, Cllr. Mayhew proposed the installation of one pillar (two charging points) as per the draft proposal. This was seconded by Cllr. Bennett and all were in agreement. The Clerk agreed to contact SCC and Anglian Car Charging.

Action: Clerk

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5. To receive agenda items for next meeting and agree date of Next Meeting (19th April 2022):

- None

Action: Clerk

The meeting was closed at 6.27pm

Signed:.....

Date:

Chair: Dr. Kathryn M Jones

Judi Hallett
Clerk to Ufford Parish Council

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