

**Minutes of Ufford Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 ~ 7.00pm**  
**The Community Hall, The Avenue, Ufford**

Present

Cllr. Kathryn Jones (*Chair*)  
 Cllr. Nigel Smith

Cllr. Nick Crocker  
 Cllr. John Skinner

Cllr. Jane Hawthorne

Judi Hallett (Clerk)  
 Three members of the public

Cnty. Cllr. Alexander Nicholl

Dist. Cllr. James Bidwell

**1. To receive Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. David Pearce (family commitment), Cllr. Guy Foscett (work commitment), Cllr. Keith Bennett (holiday), Cllr. Tracey Coxall (unwell) and Cllr. Pat Edworthy (previous engagement). These were noted.

**2. To receive any Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items and any applications for dispensation:**

No declarations of interest were declared.

**3. Public Session:**

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

- Potential Footpath closure – Several people are concerned about this. It is not just about Ufford, it will affect many other locations as well. Are Network Rail (NR) taking the opportunity to close the crossings on the back of the EDF Consultation? *Comment: An EDF rep is coming to next meeting to hopefully answer questions and listen to concerns.*

b) Reports or comment from SCDC and SCC Councillors:

- **Cnty. Cllr. Alexander Nicoll** – Cllr. Nicholl gave advice to the PC regarding the Sizewell C Stage 3 Consultation and in particular the proposals to close the footpath between Ufford and Bromeswell. This advice included information from SCC Rights of Way Team with reference to the 'All Level Crossing Risk Model' (not currently undertaken by EDF), the need for a great volume of letters to be sent in, the need for clear evidence of usage and perhaps any routes that may be acceptable alternatives. Members of the public informed the meeting that the Ramblers Association were also involved and supportive. It was acknowledged that EDF would like a majority road option, with some rail. The issues will not just be caused by heavy Lorries, many vehicles will form part of the supply chain. This will be a 10 year project and Suffolk must be properly compensated. *Q. Why are EDF intent on crossing closures? Is there a specific problem?* A review has been going on for many years; there aren't lots of trains but there is also a lack of data. Long trains will cause issues as the line is mainly single track, with few passing places, but trains may run at night. Speed of trains would be increased to 40mph. Long trains will cause issues at Melton crossing potentially causing more and more people to cut through Ufford. It is very disappointing that the sea route is not being used, road option is the cheaper option, rail would cost £80m more.

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*Chairman's initials.....*

- **Dist. Cllr. James Bidwell** – Cllr. Bidwell reported on the following items: Broadband – further money available and for weak spots; Dog exclusion zones to be increased; CIL Funding; Enabling Communities Grants - available but must be claimed by 28<sup>th</sup> February (£1,000 could be available); SCDC reselecting candidates and re-drawing ward boundaries; *Q. further development along Woods Lane (in the adjoining paddock) has been rumoured, do you know any more?* Sorry I have heard nothing. *Q. further development at Pettistree/Wickham will mean lots of extra traffic coming through Ufford.* Yes, you will need to comment on any application that is submitted *Q. CIL fund is going through a 'revision' of the process and may not be available for months, is that correct?* Yes, that is what I have heard. Councillors thanked Cllr. Bidwell for his offer of an additional £1,000 for the Boules Terrain and the Clerk was asked to complete the necessary forms
- **Dist. Cllr. Jane Day** – No report had been submitted

**Action: Clerk**

**4. To discuss and agree responses to the following Planning Applications:**

- a) DC/19/0114/FUL - Installation of 4kW Solar PV Ground Mount system Total of 14 panels to be installed next to existing vegetable patch, totaling length of 7 meters - Hawkeswade, Loudham Lane, Ufford. Councillors made the following comments:
  - Comments had previously been gathered by e-mail and the original application had been discussed at the December meeting
  - The second application had contained only a little additional information regarding the location being within the Conservation Area
  - Due to timing of submission, comments had been gathered via e-mail and the consensus was that the Council still had no objections to the proposed development.
  - **Conclusion: No objection was formally ratified** - Clerk had already sent in comments
- b) DC/19/0554/AME - 7 adjustments to application DC/18/4893/FUL at Willow Granary, Willow Barn, East Lane, Ufford – Councillors made the following comments:
  - Extension quite large and towards Hawkeswade, application did not cause concern before
  - Pleasing to see the retention of the External staircase had been referred to in SCDC's permission letter
  - Amendments minor and nothing of any significance
  - **Conclusion: No objection** - Clerk to send comments straight to SCDC.
- c) APP/J3530/W/18/3219035 - Planning Appeal for Briarwood, School Lane, Ufford – To discuss making a further submission to the Planning Inspectorate:
  - The Chair gave an explanation of the history of the case for the benefit of Councillors and members of the public.
  - Several objections had been received by SCDC and the application had been refused by way of delegated powers to the planning officer; mainly due to Policy SSP39 in that the property lies within an area protected from development.
  - Councillors agreed a further letter to the Inspector was necessary. A draft Letter and been circulated and this was agreed.
  - The key points referred to in the PC's letter were: No need to justify policies, confusion within the plans as to size and number of bedrooms
  - The Clerk was asked to expand the letter to include a clearer map of Long Reach as the plans used by the applicant showed 2 properties on the plot
  - **Conclusion: The Clerk was asked to amend the letter and sent in**

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*Chairman's initials.....*

- d) Wickham Market Draft Neighbourhood Plan – This document had been circulated to all Councillors and Councillors commended the WM team on a very comprehensive text. There was concern that additional houses would create extra traffic through Ufford High Street although it was accepted that being a Key Service Centre made WM an idea location for further development. There was praise that the document tackled the parking and traffic issues in the village and a suggestion that a slip road on to the A12 at Pettistree would see a massive reduction in traffic through Ufford. The Clerk was asked to place the details in a PUNCHLine article and to draft a response for authorisation at the March meeting.

Action: Clerk

**5. To acknowledge previous months list of SCDC Planning decisions and to discuss any other planning matters to include:**

The details of the Planning decisions made during January 2019, which affect properties in Ufford, had been previously circulated (full list available from Clerk). The following additional comments were made on planning matters:

- a) To discuss Final Draft Local Plan and if further response is required with reference to its '*legal compliance and soundness*' – It was acknowledged that the Parish Council had been consulted all the way along the drafting process, and in a timely manner. The Clerk was asked to comment accordingly.

Action: Clerk

**6. To agree Minutes of meetings dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019:**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 was proposed as a true record by Cllr. Crocker, seconded by Cllr. Smith and all Councillors were in agreement that they be signed.

Action: Clerk

**7. Clerk's Update on Previous Minutes and Actions:** The Clerk declared the following statements:

- a) An update on the Travelling Theatre Christmas Show – the Clerk reported that a travelling Theatre Company had offered to perform in Ufford. The details had been passed to both hall committees.
- b) Update on Street Light Electricity and Maintenance contracts – SCC Highways were still working on estimates for this work but it will be available in the next 2 weeks.

Action: Clerk

**8. Community Resource Locker – To receive an update from the Clerk and Cllr. Crocker:**

The Clerk advised that a suitable shed had been identified and that the Gardening Club were presently discussing if they would also like to be able to store items within it. If they did a larger building would be needed.

Action: Clerk and Cllr. Crocker

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Chairman's initials.....

**9. Sizewell**

- a) To agree letter to EDF with reference to the proposed path closure – A draft letter had been distributed and commented on by a number of people. It was believed that no landowners had been approached by EDF regarding this proposed closure and possible alternative routes, none of which were considered suitable in any case. The Clerk was asked to send the letter on this particular matter and copy in SCC, SCDC, District and County Councillors, EDF and the Ramblers Association.
- b) To discuss letter covering the remaining points in the Stage 3 Consultation – Councillors discussed making a wider comment on the Stage 3 Consultation. It was felt comments could be made on the following aspects:
- Disappointment that the ‘Sea’ route seems to have been discounted
  - The construction will have a severe impact on the whole of the AONB
  - ‘Road’ scheme for moving materials is obviously favourite due to it being the cheapest option but the impact will be enormous. The ancillary vehicles will cause many issues for surrounding villages;
  - Many Councillors struggled with the concept as a whole – the coastline is eroding, over 20% of the energy is lost in transferring it to the end user due to the plant being in the wrong location, the area is ‘under siege’ with wind power lines coming in; Suffolk has done it bit in the past and the cumulative effect of endless building was enormous.
  - This will almost certainly put people off tourism in the area.
  - It is very close to Minsmere and residents and visitors will be looking down on to it from Southwold.

The Clerk was asked to draft a letter for approval at the March meeting.

Action: Clerk

**10. Ufford New Cemetery – To receive an update from the Clerk:**

The Clerk reported that Notcutts Limited had been contacted and had agreed to discuss the outline proposals at their next Board meeting, to take place towards the end of February. Other sites had now been discounted.

Action: Clerk

**11. Highways:**

- a) To discuss placement of a Dog Bin in Nicholls Close and comments received from residents – The clerk stated that, of the 8 residents contacted regarding the proposed siting of a new dog bin in Nicholls Close, 4 had contacted her to say they thought there was no requirement for a bin there and/or they did not wish to see a bin in that location. It was decided not to pursue this installation.

Action: Clerk

**12. Recreation Ground and Parklands Woods:**

- a) To receive update on Boules Terrain funding from Cllr. Day – The Clerk reported that she had still not heard from Cllr. Day (see item 15 below). The Clerk was asked to request £1,000 from Cllr. Bidwell and to thank him for this additional funding.
- b) Additional Item - To receive an update on the Woods – Cllr. Hawthorne’s report had been circulated.

**Action: Clerk****13. Finance Matters:**

- a) To review and authorise Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019:

The monthly accounts had been sent to all Councillors. Cllr. Hawthorne agreed to check the bank statements.

- b) To consider request from St Mary’s PCC for grant of £100 towards the repair of the Hearing Loop in the Parish Hall:

After a short discussion it was agreed that this additional grant should be paid, in April 2019. This was proposed by Cllr. Hawthorne, seconded by Cllr. Jones and all Councillors were in agreement.

- c) To authorise the following Invoices for Payment:

i. J Hallett (Salary + Office & mileage expenses)	£671.51
ii. SCC Pension Fund (Clerk’s pension)	£208.79
iii. A Slattery (Telephone Box painting)	£87.50
iv. Ipswich Borough Council (Play Park Inspections)	£498.24
v. G Button (Installation of 5 Grit Bins and moving of 2)	£240.00
vi. SALC (Election Training for Clerk)	£10.00
vii. Parker Planning (Advice on CN Appeal)	£622.68
viii. Ufford Punch (Annual Subscription)	£17.50
ix. Ufford Parish Council (transfer of funds from P/Park Account)	£3,000.00

The above payments were proposed by Cllr. Hawthorne, seconded by Cllr. Smith and all Councillors were in agreement that they be paid. The cheques were signed by Cllrs Hawthorne and Skinner.

- d) To note Payments made since last meeting:

i. SHE (Asphalt )Ltd (Community Hall Car Park Resurfacing)	£33,252.00
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- e) To note Payments received since last meeting:

i. CIL Grant	£3,000.00
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**Action: Clerk**

**14. To receive reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Council and to discuss:**

- None
- a) SALC Area Meetings - dates 25 March; 3 June; 2 Sept; 25 Nov - to seek volunteers to attend – volunteers: Cllr. Jones volunteered to attend the March meeting and it was agreed to place this item on the agenda when the new Council was in place.
- b) Woodbridge & District ASB Meeting - 10:30am on 21 Feb @ Woodbridge Police Station – to seek a volunteer and details of any problems to report – Nobody volunteered for the February meeting. Attendance at these quarterly meetings to be discussed on May Agenda.

*Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public were excluded from the following agenda item due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted*

**15. To discuss grants from SCDC’s Enabling Communities Budget**

After discussion it was agreed to submit a formal complaint to the Chief Executive of SCDC on the way Cllr. Jane Day has conducted herself as a District Councillor over the past 4 years. The Clerk was asked to cite the lack of communication, poor attendance at meetings and additional work required by both Parish and District Council staff.

Action: Clerk

**16. To receive agenda items for the next meeting and agree date of the Next Meeting:**

- Working with neighbouring Councils on Highways matters

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019** at The Community Hall, The Avenue, Ufford.

The Clerk reminded Council that the March meeting would start at 6.30pm as the first 45 minutes would be a meeting with EDF Energy regarding the Sizewell C Stage 3 Consultation.

The Clerk was asked to book the hall for tea and cake after the litter pick on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Action: Clerk

The meeting was closed at 8.49pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair: Cllr. Kathryn M Jones

*Judi Hallett*  
Clerk to Ufford Parish Council

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