

Minutes of Ufford Parish Council Meeting

Held on 17th September 2019 ~ 7.00pm

The Parish Hall, Church Lane, Ufford

Present

Cllr. Keith Bennett (Chair)
Cllr. Ashley O'Malley

Cllr. Nick Crocker
Cllr. David Pearce

Cllr. Stephen Mayhew
Cllr. John Skinner

Judi Hallett (Clerk)

Cnty Cllr. Alexander Nicoll

Dist. Cllr. Carol Poulter

Zero members of the public

1. To receive Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. David Findley (away), Cllr. Jane Hawthorne (Family Commitment), Cllr. Kathryn Jones (Family Commitment), Cllr. Guy Foskett (Away with Work) and Cllr. Pat Edworthy (Away). 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 only):

- None

b) Reports or comment from SCDC and SCC Councillors:

- **Dist. Cllr. Carol Poulter** – Cllr. Poulter reported on the following items:
 - ESC Planning Department – She had received a number of complaints about the lack of time allowed for Consultees to respond and officers making decisions too quickly - effectively disallowing further consultation. She is happy to take any complaint forward through the correct channels. She had over the years attended many planning meetings representing Parish Councils on a number of occasions and would be happy to do so in the future. She felt there was not now enough public scrutiny around decisions made as there had been in the past. Applications approved by Planning Officers have gone up dramatically whereas those approved in Committee have reduced dramatically. Effectively moving from one extreme to another.
 - New East Suffolk Council - Bedding down of the two local authorities is going well (But she admitted that Planning was perhaps the only area not doing as well as the others). She apologised for not attending previously but will in future. The ES Council has a core value of providing total transparency and is working hard to achieve this. Given her experience working on other councils she was able to confirm that it is a very well run council and thought that it can only improve further as everything beds in following the merger.
 - *Cllr. Poulter was thanked for the grant for the Boules fencing and resource shed*

Chairman's initials.....

- **Cnty. Cllr. Alexander Nicoll** – Cllr. Nicoll reported on the following items:
 - Jim Bidwell – It was very sad news to hear of the death of Jim Bidwell. He was an honorable Councillor, and a good friend and colleague who had a direct and, where required, a tenacious approach to the issues of the day. The Clerk was asked to send a card to Mrs. Bidwell in sympathy
 - Caravan Site in Yarmouth Road - Disappointed by comments from SCC Highways; thought it would need a complete redesign. He thought the PC should write and complain about the process and copy him in. It may be difficult to get answers but we must try. So many decisions are now taken by planning officers outside committee, it is disproportionate.
 - Sizewell - A very hot topic at present. A 119 page response to the Stage 4 Consultation has been drafted by the joint SCC and ESC Committee. Some parishes will be affected more than others and Richard Smith (ESC) is quoted as having stated there has not been made as yet a “test for positive benefit” for the whole area EDF have had years to develop their case and yet so many questions remain unanswered. Wickham Market PC are very concerned and we have to start to ask fundamental questions such as “Can this part of England accommodate all these great infrastructure projects (including offshore windfarms and their extensive onshore infrastructure)? There needs to be an assessment as to how East Suffolk can cope with this development. 99.9% of goods and materials will be carried by road; some of which will be coming out of Bentwaters and causing more issues in villages such as Campsea Ashe and Tunstall. This will be going on for 8 – 10 years, not just a few months. However it is a nationally important project where ultimately decisions will be taken at the highest level of government.
 - Ipswich Northern Bypass – not in favour of the Ipswich Northern Bypass; not any of the options. At best congestion will only ease temporarily. We need to look at improving the railways to help reduce road congestion.
 - Bus Timetables – I will certainly look at funding for timetables notice boards, if UPC decide to purchase them.

Action: Clerk

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

- a) DC/19/3296/TCA – Work to three trees at Willow Farmhouse, East Lane, Ufford. Councillors made the following comments:
 - Work proposed looks to be necessary - would have helped to have a site map available
 - No objection
 - **Conclusion: No objection** – The Clerk was asked to send comments directly to ESC
- b) DC/19/3319/TCA - Rear garden, 1 x Yew - Reduce & shape by approx. 30% - 1 Church Lane, Ufford. Councillors made the following comments:
 - Tree dominates the garden and is spreading over to neighbouring dwellings
 - **Conclusion: No objection** – The Clerk was asked to send comments directly to ESC.

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 August 2019, which affect properties in Ufford, had been previously circulated (full list available from Clerk).

- a) DC/19/2694/DRC | Discharge of Condition Nos. 3 to 8 of DC/16/1034/FUL – To discuss the process followed by ESC in approving this application and any further steps UPC wish to take – The Clerk detailed the process by which the application had been approved. It was suggested there were two fundamental issues: the process that does not allow a consultee to be consulted for a second time if subsequently revised plans are submitted; and what made the revised plans acceptable as on a number of important issues nothing seems to have changed.

It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter of complaint, addressed to Cllr. Poulter and circulate for Councillor's comments. It was important to ask 'What made the new plans acceptable?' and to state that Parish Council in no way steps back from its original views, particularly of the inherent dangers to road users in the proposals

Action: Clerk

6. To agree Minutes of meetings dated 16th July and 7th August 2019:

The minutes of the Full Council meetings dated 16th July and 7th August 2019 were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Skinner, seconded by Cllr. Pearce and all Councillors were in agreement that they be signed.

Action: Clerk

7. Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation – To discuss commenting on the consultation

Cllr. Nicoll suggested that the Parish Council may like to comment on the following items:

- State that all comments put forward in stage three remain valid (this is important so that the planning inspector realises that there are so many questions that have not been answered - even SCC and ESC officers are still waiting for details).
- Hybrid scheme is misleading, it is completely road lead, and they have not considered the rail lead option. The basic issue is around improvements to the East Suffolk Rail Line, this is an opportunity to improve the line for the future; this may be the only community benefit.
- EDF are blaming Network Rail for their supposed inability to utilise the existing rail links but there is no evidence of this. EDF have chosen the path of least resistance. EDF seem not to be prepared to work with Network Rail. If the rail tracks could be improved then more movements could be accommodated on the rail-network

Cllr. Bennett asked whether the possibility of a marine option had now been completely ruled out. Cllr. Nicoll reported that the JLMG were still hoping that the 'marine' option was still on the table. There will certainly be a beach landing facility for some substantial loads. The dismal news was that there could also be lorry movements throughout the night. However it was felt that if the rail network was improved such shipments could be transported by rail.

The Clerk was asked to draft a letter for review.

Chairman's initials.....

8. Clerk's Update on Previous Minutes and Actions: The Clerk made the following statements:

- a) Community Resource Locker Update – The Clerk reported that the locker was now in place, although the task of erecting it had taken longer than Mr Rust had anticipated due to the large number of component parts.
- b) Discussions with Father Paul re. Ufford New Cemetery – This item was deferred until the October meeting.
- c) Fence and seating around the Boules Terrain – This was now all in place and a picture with Cllr. Poulter was scheduled to be taken on Thursday.
- d) Update from the Footpath Volunteer Working Party – A report from Cllr. Findley had been circulated and there were no further questions.
- e) Additional Item – Clerk's Holiday – The Clerk reminded Councillors that she was on holiday between 28th September and 14th October. The agenda for the October meeting would be drafted as late as possible and Councillor Skinner agreed to take on the role of placing them on the notice boards on the appropriate day.

Action: Clerk

9. Highways and Footpaths

- a) To discuss purchasing 3 external notice boards for the bus timetables – After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should source 2 pieces of hard board for the brick shelters and then staple laminated print outs of the timetables to the boards in each of the Council's Bus Shelters. Cllr. Pearce volunteered to assist with mounting the boards.

Action: Clerk and Cllr. Pearce

10. Recreation Ground and Parklands Woods:

- a) To receive a general update on Parklands Wood – A report from Cllr. Hawthorne had been circulated and there were no further questions (a request for transfer of £250 to the FofPWG was requested and would be authorised in 'Finance'). The Clerk added that Mr Ross had been asked to cut the wild flower meadow with a Flail.
- b) To receive update on financial support for management of the Woodlands – The Clerk reported that the application to the Lottery was still in draft format as quotations were awaited for annual surveys of the woodland. It was agreed that if there was no grant available the Council would need to consider increasing the precept to cover the cost of managing the Woodlands

Action: Clerk and Cllr. Hawthorne

11. Finance Matters:

- a) To receive accounts for July and August 2019 and inspect the Bank Statements:

The Accounts to 30th August had been sent to all and there were no questions. Cllr. Pearce agreed to examine the Bank Statement.

Chairman's initials.....

- b) To discuss purchasing a new Fido 25 Dog Bin to replace bin in Byng Hall Road (Cost £102.44 + VAT):

Opinions differed on the merits of replacing dog bins whilst still useable.

In conclusion it was agreed not to replace any bins this year and to monitor the two bins in Byng Hall Road, which were considered to be in the worst state.

- c) To authorise the following Invoices for Payment:

i.	J Hallett (Salary + Office & mileage expenses)	£559.14
ii.	SCC Pension Fund (Clerk's pension)	£171.11
iii.	HMRC Cumbernauld (Clerk's PAYE)	£97.80
iv.	Came and Company (Insurance)	£939.27
v.	East Suffolk Council (Refund of unspent Grant)	£50.01
vi.	P Rust (Erection of Resource Locker)	£660.00
vii.	Friends of Parklands Woods (Transfer)	£250.00

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

- d) To note Payments made since last meeting:

i.	J Hallett (Salary + Office & mileage expenses)	£775.82
ii.	SCC Pension Fund (Clerk's pension)	£213.89
iii.	Ufford Community Hall (Use for Parish Meeting)	£16.00
iv.	Taylor Investments Ltd (Resource Locker)	£229.99
v.	Swanns Nursery (Boules Fence and Benches)	£2,598.06

- e) To note Payments received since last meeting:

i.	Litter Picking Grant (from SC Norse)	£20.00
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Action: Clerk

12. Documentation – To review and adopt the following documents:

- Asset Register (September 2019) – Sent to Councillors on 23rd July 2019
- Financial Regulations (September 2019) – Sent to Councillors on 30th August 2019
- Standing Orders (September 2019) – Sent to Councillors on 30th August 2019

The above documents were taken as read. Their adoption was proposed by Cllr. Bennett, seconded by Cllr. O'Malley and all Councillors were in agreement. The Clerk was asked to print for signing and publish the new documents on the Web Pages.

Action: Clerk

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

- SALC Meeting – Cllr. Mayhew – It was agreed to defer one section of the report until the October meeting as all Councillors would benefit from hearing it [Clerk to place on the October agenda]. Other areas covered by the meeting included:
 - Poor attendance by Waveney Councils - a few meetings are planned to take place at a location closer to the old Waveney district to see if this attracts more attendees but after that, if there is no improvement, meetings will continue to be at Stratford ST Andrew
 - SALC constitution to be updated, they need to keep PC’s subscribing and need to modernise and tidy up the constitution
 - The AGM will be in July in future years
 - ES Local Plan - councils felt the consultation process was good

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

- Update on Neighbour Plan report from Cllr. Bennett

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 15th October 2019** at The Community Hall, The Avenue, Ufford.

Action: Clerk

The meeting was closed at 8.28pm.

Signed:
Chair: Cllr. Kathryn M Jones

Date:

Judi Hallett
Clerk to Ufford Parish Council