

Minutes of Ufford Parish Council Meeting

Held on 13th August 2024 ~ 6.00pm

The Parish Hall, Church Lane, Ufford

Present

Cllr. David Findley (Chair)

Cllr. Tim Buxbaum

Cllr. Nick Crocker

Cllr. Jane Hawthorne

Cllr. Angela Linforth

Cllr. Nigel Smith

Cllr. Vincent Smith

Cllr. Tig Thomas

Judi Hallett (Clerk)

Two members of the public were present

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies for absence:

a) To Receive Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Pat Edworthy (Away), Cllr. Keith Bennett (Away), and Cllr. Kathryn Jones (Away). Cnty. Cllr. Alexander Nicoll and Dist. Cllr. Sally Noble had also sent their apologies.

b) To Accept Apologies:

The apologies of absence from Cllrs. Edworthy, Bennett and Jones were proposed as accepted by Cllr. V Smith, seconded by Cllr. N Smith and all were in agreement.

2. To receive any:

a) Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Items

- Cllr. N Smith – Item 5. a) – owner of the property in question

b) Declarations of Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Items

- Cllr. Findley – Item 6. a) iv. – as recipient of the refund

c) Applications for Dispensation on Agenda Items

- None

d) Declarations of Gifts or Hospitality received over the value of £50.00

- None

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

- None

3. Public Session:

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

- Land at the top of Church Lane – A resident of Church Lane read a statement regarding the land at the top of Church Lane. In the statement he thanked the Clerk for her assistance in the matter, set out his correspondence with the ESC Planning team (two officers), and stated why he believed no planning regulations had been breached.

The resident was thanked for his time and was asked if the full version of the comment could be forwarded to the Clerk, in order that all Councillors could be made aware of his exact words. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed at Full Council, when a reply to the Parish Council's email of 24th July 2024 had been received.

It was acknowledged by all that the Parish Council had no powers to enforce the planning rules. Cllr. Findley further thanked the Clerk for liaising with all parties.

b) Reports or comment from ESC and SCC Councillors (notes only):

- East Suffolk Council - Cllr. Noble had sent her apologies
- Suffolk County Council – Cllr. Nicoll had sent his apologies

Action: Clerk

4. To sign Minutes of meeting dated 16th July 2024:

The minutes of the Full Council meeting dated 16th July 2024 had been circulated and there were no further amendments. The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. V Smith, seconded by Cllr. N Smith and all Councillors, who were in attendance at the meeting, were in agreement that they be signed.

The Clerk agreed to publish the minutes on the website.

Action: Clerk

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

a) DC/24/2508/FUL - Dormer to rear elevation, canopy roof over front entrance door, internal alterations including new staircase, and cladding to existing front dormer - The Orchards, Old Bredfield Road, Ufford. The following comments were noted:

- *Cllr. N Smith left the meeting*
- Much of this work is internal. The property is very remote with no neighbours for at least quarter of a mile
- The development is minor, I have no objections
- Conclusion: **No objection** – (Prop: Cllr. Findley, Sec. Cllr. V Smith, all in agreement)
- *Cllr. N Smith returned to the meeting*

Chair's initials.....

- b) DC/24/2805/AGO Alteration of an existing road or highway at Decoy Farm, Old Church Road, Melton. The following comments were noted:
- This is outside of Ufford but a very popular footpath route used by Ufford residents. [SCC Highways and PROW Team have been notified]
 - This PROW goes to Water Head Lane in Melton
 - The track is currently in quite a bad state and this work will improve it, we should support local businesses
 - The Plan shows a ‘proposed building’ do we know more about this? [The Clerk confirmed that the Planning Officer had stated that the building was not included in the application]
 - Will this generate more traffic and make this PROW potentially dangerous for pedestrians?
 - The application gives no details of the scale of use, this is my only concern.
 - Conclusion: **Support that the PROW was to be improved but concern for pedestrians using the PROW** – (Prop: Cllr. V. Smith, Sec. Cllr. Hawthorne, Councillors voted 6 For with 2 Abstentions)
- c) *Additional Item* - DC/21/5550/FUL PV farm, Pettistree – Cllr. Findley reported that he had received confirmation from ESC that, following a legal challenge, the decision to permit the proposed Solar Farm at Pettistree had been quashed.

Action: Clerk

6. Finance Matters:

- a) To authorise the following Invoices for Payment:
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| i. J Hallett (Salary and Expenses) | £1,084.54 |
| ii. SCC Pension Fund (Clerk’s Pension) | £307.05 |
| iii. PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit) | £252.00 |
| iv. D Findley (Water Testing Consumables) | £46.50 |
| v. S Churchyard (Maintenance) | £123.00 |

The above payments were proposed by Cllr. V Smith, seconded by Cllr. Crocker with Councillors 7 For with 1 Abstention, that the payments be paid. Cllrs. Hawthorne and Findley (*in the absence of any other signatory*) agreed to authorise the online payments the following day, and viewed the invoices during the meeting.

- f) To note Payments made since last meeting:
- i. None
- g) To note Payments received since last meeting:
- i. None

Action: Clerk

7. To receive agenda items for next meeting and agree date of Next Meeting (17th September 2024):

- EV Charger at the Recreation Ground
- Woodlands Report
- Anti-Social Behaviour in the village

Cllr. N Smith and Cllr. Thomas (via the HUIG Facebook Page) reported that a resident of Redwood Terrace was concerned about trees overhanging her car port. Cllr. Hawthorne agreed to contact Matthew Allen to request assistance with these.

Cllr. V Smith suggested, as work to the Community Hall toilets would possibly be underway during October, the October meeting of UPC was held in the Parish Hall – Clerk to make necessary arrangements.

Action: Clerk

The meeting was closed at 6.35pm

Signed:.....
Cllr. David Findley - Chair

Date:

Judi Hallett
Clerk to Ufford Parish Council