Minutes of the Ulley Parish Council Meeting held 30 May 2018, Village Hall – 7.00 pm

Chairman – Cllr Peter Hubbard – Chairman of Ulley Parish Council.

Other Councillors in attendance – Richard Steel, Ian Stones and Patricia Smith.

Clerk – Andrew Towlerton.

Present – 4 members of the public and Councillor David Wing.

8/18 To receive and approve any apologies for absence - There was one from Cllr Richard Robson, which was approved.

9/18 To receive any questions from members of the Public

Several issues were raised

Speeding and road safety through the village – this was raised as a concern. The growth in the usage of electric cars was highlighted, and this would only make the situation worse as they were generally quieter than conventional vehicles. It was reported that Rotherham MBC had consistently stated that there was insufficient evidence to justify the introduction of special measures based on recorded incidents. It was asked if this included incidents involving horses as there had been several in the Village. The Chairman stated that if evidence of these horse related incidents could be provided to him, he would compile it with other evidence and take it up with Rotherham MBC.

Parking on Reservoir Road – An update was requested about this. It was explained that the Council was still awaiting a reply from the officer at Rotherham MBC who was looking into the introduction of double yellow lines. Cllr R Steel agreed to chase Rotherham MBC on the.

Condition of Main Street - The Council was still awaiting a response from Rotherham about potential actions, including the introduction of bollards. It was noted that there had been a
recent accident on Main Street. It was agreed again to chase up Rotherham MBC for a response.

Generally condition of roads - The Chairman confirmed that he had raised with Rotherham MBC the condition of many of the roads in the Parish including Main Street. He also confirmed that he had been in contact with the Chairman on Aston Parish Council urging that they do likewise as some of the road issues straddled the boundaries of the two parish council areas.

Solar Farm Proposal - The Chairman was asked to provide an update on the solar farm proposal. He understood that this was effectively on hold mainly due to financial issues and the impact the proposed route of HS2 may have on it.

Other - The poor condition of many of the bridleways and footpaths in the Parish was highlighted.

10/18 To receive a report on crime and anti-behaviour issues - The latest recorded figures from the Police recorded 2 crimes and 5 incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Parish between 1st April and 17th May 2018.

11/18 Declarations of interest and dispensations - There were none recorded or sought.

12/18 – To approve, sign and date the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 31 January 2018 and the extraordinary meeting held on 19 February 2018

Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 31 January 2018 and the extraordinary meeting held on 19 February 2018 be approved.

13/18 To consider and agree any nominations to fill the vacant councillor position by co-option - The Council received one nomination, which was supported by all the members present.

Resolved: that Patricia Smith be duly elected as a parish councillor to Ulley Parish Council.

14/18 To receive information on the following on-going issues and decide further action where necessary HS2 Liaison – To consider a request from the HS2 Liaison Team to meet with the Council

After discussions, it was agreed that the Parish Council should meet with the HS2 Liaison Team. Various dates were then discussed.

15/18 To consider and agree the Councils revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for 2018/2019

It was noted that the Council needs to begin the progress of updating its Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. Copies of the drafts were then circulated and a few minor points
amended or clarified. It was agreed that, subject to these amendments, that the Council’s revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for 2018/2019 be approved.

Resolved: that the Council’s revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for 2018/2019 be approved.

16/18 To consider giving the Clerk the delegated power to deal with any emergency planning applications and Halifax Fund bids that cannot be dealt with through a normal council meeting

Resolved: that the Clerk is delegated power to deal with any emergency planning applications and Halifax Fund bids that cannot be dealt with through a normal Council meeting. Use of such powers to be reported at the next meeting.

17/18 Poynton Avenue Plan Area – To consider the inspection report carried out by Play Inspection Company Ltd in January, 2018

It was reported that a routine/visual inspection had been carried out by Play Inspection Company Ltd on the Poynton Avenue Play Area on behalf of Rotherham MBC. This was of special interest to the Council as the Plan Area was due to be transferred over to the Parish Council shortly. Its overall finding was that the condition of Play Area and associated equipment was reasonable. It did make some suggested repairs and improvements. It was agreed that the walkabout group should undertake a site visit with a view to taking forward some of the proposed improvements.

It was noted that the Parish Council be required to arrange for similar reports when and should it take over the management of the Play Area. The various options were then discussed. That Rotherham MBC be asked to continue with current arrangements was the preferred option. The provision of this had been built into the Council’s budget for 2018/2019, it was confirmed.

18/18 Ulley Recreation Ground Renewal Lease

A progress report was provided. The Council has received a copy of the draft lease. The Chairman and Clerk had made some initial comments on it, and it was hoped that the revised draft would be available for this meeting. It was not. As soon as the Council received a copy of the revised draft, it would circulate it to members, as well as adding it to the agenda of the next meeting of the Council,

19/18 Planning update

It was reported that the Council had not been notified of any new planning applications for comment.

20/18 To consider Council’s Internal Audit report for 2017/2018
It was noted that the Council’s internal report for 2017/2018 had been received. This considered that the Council had a reasonable standard of record keeping, however, that there some areas where further improvements was required, including:

- The separate publication of payments of over £100 on the Council website.
- All payments to be initialled by at least two parish councillors.
- Recording of uncleared cheques and significant variances in the budget.
- How assets are recorded on the Council’s Asset Register.
- Ensuring that the Council’s Risk Assessment is kept up to date.
- The Council’s procedures with regard to petty cash payments.

**Resolved: that the Council’s Internal Audit 2017/2018 be noted and that the suggested actions be implemented.**

**21/18 To approve the Council's External Audit report for 2017/2018**

This was considered. It was reported that this year had seen the introduction of significant changes to External Audit arrangements for local councils that would have major implications for parish council such as Ulley. These were discussed as well as the Council’s draft External Audit report for 2017/2018.

**Resolved: that the**

- Certificate of Exemption 2017/18
- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18

be duly agreed and signed.

**22/18 To receive a verbal and written on financial matters within the Council, including the year end budget position and proposed budget for next year**

i) **Resolved that: the following payments be approved**

- PAYE £24.00.
- Wages £96.00.
- MC Plumbing & Heating for improvements to the village hall £305.00
- N Power £189.90.
- Friends of Ulley Country Park (Mosiac) £100.00

ii) **A general discussion took place on the budget for this year. It was noted that this was difficult given the continued uncertainty with the cost of the special audit.**

iii) **To note the following receipts:**

- Rotherham MBC Precept £3,013.50
This was noted.

iv) To note that the electricity contract for the village is coming up for renewal and consider next steps

It was noted that the Council’s contract was coming up for renewal and it may be prudent if the Council sought quotes for the ongoing provision of this service. The Clerk agreed to do this.

23/18 To note the outcome of the 2018/2019 national pay award negotiations for clerks

It was noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had reached agreement on a 2% cost of living increase for parish clerks with effect from 1 April 2018. As the Clerk was employed under the NJC terms and conditions via the joint National Association of Local Council and Society of Local Council Clerks this would also affect the Council.

Resolved: that the Clerk’s hourly salary increase to £10.301 an hour from 1 April 2018.

24/18 To receive an update on Halifax fund bids approved by the Halifax Estate

The Chairman reported that the bid for improvements to the Hall had been successful. It was also agreed that a further bid of up to £1000 for Ulley in Bloom and improvements to the Play Area should be made.

25/18 Any other business

There being no other business the meeting closed