Minutes of the Ulley Parish Council Meeting held 25 July 2018, Village Hall – 7.30 pm

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

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

Clerk – Andrew Towlerton.

Present – 7 members of the public and Borough Councillor Bob Walsh.

26/18 To receive and approve any apologies for absence - There was none.

27/18 To receive any questions from members of the Public

The Chairman explained the reason why the meeting had started at 7.30 pm rather than its normal start time of 7.00 pm. This was because immediately prior to this meeting council members and the parish clerk had a useful meeting representatives from the HS2 Liaison Team.

Several issues were raised.

Condition of Main Street - An update was requested about this. It was explained that the planned repairs by Rotherham MBC were taking longer than anticipated. It was understood that they would be done by the end of August 2018.

Fly-tipping – This was coming to the fore again, with incidents on Reservoir Road, for example. It was agreed that this was of concern. The Chairman agreed to raise this again with Rotherham MBC. Also, that he would ask Rotherham MBC how many successful prosecutions there had been in the Parish in recent years.

Over-hanging Trees – There was raised as there were several in the Parish. These were a nuisance and action needed to be taken to improve the situation. The Chairman noted that there were limited powers available to the Parish Council and Rotherham MBC to remedy unless there were highway safety issues involved. The Chairman agreed to contact Rotherham
MBC’s Highways Department to initially undertake a survey of trees in the village to establish whether any were a highway safety issue.

Straw on the road – This was of concern. It was unsightly and could be a highway safety issue. The Chairman agreed to speak to Rotherham MBC’s Street Pride Team to see what action could be undertaken.

Speeding and road safety through the village – An update was raised. It was explained that this was being progressed with Rotherham MBC.

Swimming in Reservoir Road – There had been several incidents, including some involving nude swimming. There were some indications that this may have reduced or indeed ceased.

Reference was also made to the creation of a new parish council at Waverley.

28/18 To receive a report on crime and anti-behaviour issues - The latest recorded figures from the Police recorded 2 crimes and 3 incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Parish between 17th May 2018 and 19th July 2018.

29/18 Declarations of interest and dispensations - There were none recorded or sought.

30/18 – To approve, sign and date the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Annual Parish Council meeting and Parish Council Meeting held on 30 May 2018.

It was noted that number 3 of minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 30 May should read that £156.90 was raised not the £147 stated. This was noted.

Resolved: that subject to the above amendment that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council meeting and Parish Council Meeting held on 30 May 2018 be approved.

31/18 - To consider and agree a Volunteer Policy for the Council and associated documents – A draft volunteer policy and associated documents (see attachments 1 - 4) has been prepared for the Council which members need to consider as well as next steps.

The Chairman explained that it would be useful for the Council to have a volunteer policy. This was common and good practice. The following Volunteer policy and associated documents had been prepared based on best practice. These were then discussed. It was agreed that these should be agreed in principle. However, that the policy and relevant associated documents should be discussed with the ‘Workabout Group’ and should these discussions result in any suggested changes that the Policy and documents be reviewed. Also, that the policy and associated documents should be reviewed on an annual basis.

It was reported that the suppliers of the lawnmower had offered to provide free training on its use. It was agreed that this was a good idea. Cllr Richard Steel agreed to lead on this.
Resolved: that the Ulley Parish Council Volunteer Policy 2018/2019 and associated documents be approved.

32/18 To consider and agree an action plan Poynton Avenue Play Area

This was the subject of a wide-ranging discussion. It was agreed that the development of an action plan was a good idea. Further discussions would need to take place on who specifically would take forward the actions and by when. It was noted that the steps to the slides has deteriorated, and in may be more straightforward to remove them. The top of the slide could be gained via the Hill. Reference was made to the need to engage with the parents of the children of the Play Area. Steps were being taken in this regard it was explained.

Resolved: that the Action Plan for the Poynton Avenue Play Area approved.

33/18 To consider and agree next steps in relation to the Ulley Recreation Ground Renewal Lease.

The latest draft was presented. It was explained that a number of changes had been made following discussions between the Parish Council and Rotherham MBC. These were outlined. It was noted that the Parish Hall address should be used.

Reference was made to the on-ground issue of the management and ownership of the footpath that ran past the footpath. While it was noted that this was beyond the scope of the Lease it was important that it was resolved.

Resolved: that subject to the minor amendment to the Parish Council address on the lease it was agreed that the Ulley Recreation Ground Renewal Lease be agreed.

34/18 To consider and agree the Councils revised Code of Conduct

It was noted that it was good practice for a Parish Council to periodically review its Code of Conduct Scheme. The Council’s revised version was then discussed. It was explained that this was based on good practice.

Resolved: that the Council’s revised Code of Conduct Scheme 2018 be approved.

35/18 Planning update – Application RB 2018/1085 for the erection of 1 No. dwellinghouse with integral garage at land at Main Street

This was considered. The general view was that while the Parish Council was not opposed to the Planning application, it did have a number of concerns. These included the loss of mature trees, highway safety, impact on neighbourhood properties and parking considerations.
Resolved: that the Parish Council write to Rotherham MBC outlining its concerns about the planning application RB 2018/1085 for the erection of 1 No. dwellinghouse with integral garage at land at Main Street.

36/18 To receive a verbal and written on financial matters within the Council.

A written a verbal report was provided. It was confirmed that the Council held £7712.39, which comprised £4,113.43 in the Co-operative Bank Current Account and £3,599.05 in the Co-operative Bank Reserve Account.

Resolved: that the following payments be authorised:

£278.37 to N Power for electricity usage at the Hall;
£40.00 to ICO for annual Data Protection Registration;
£55.00 to Yorkshire Local Councils Associations for annual membership;
£165.00 to Spectrum Futures CIC for Internal Audit;
£34.12 to Sitwell Filling Station for petrol for the mower; and
£43.16 to JTF Wholesale LTD for weedkiller.

37/18 To receive an update on Halifax fund bids including any approved by the Halifax Estate and by the Council through delegated powers.

It was confirmed that one had been received from the Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council for a Well Dressing Bid, which had been approved.

38/18 Any other business.

The Clerk reported that was still awaiting the final report from BDO concerning the Public Interest Report. He also urged any councillors that any councillors who had not provided their updated Register of Interest yet to do so as soon as possible.

The Chairman asked if the Clerk has sought alternative quotes for the supply of electricity to the Hall, which he confirmed that he had.

There being no other business the meeting closed.