Draft Minutes of the Ulley Parish Council Meeting held on 28 November 2018, Village Hall – 7.00 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 – 3 members of the public and Borough Councillor Bob Walsh.

53/18 To receive and approve any apologies for absence - There was none.

54/18 To receive any questions from members of the Public

Several issues were raised.

Footpath on Main Street – It was reported his is still damaged and in a poor condition. A number of residents had raised concerns that it was dangerous to use especially for people with mobility issues. The Chairman explained that this had been raised with Rotherham MBC who considered that it did not meet the criterion for action. It was agreed that the Parish Council should raise this again with Rotherham MBC especially focusing on the risk its poor condition posed especially for people with mobility issues.

Hedges – Reference was made to the poor management of hedges especially those along Poynton Avenue and Poynton Way many of which are overgrown. The Chairman explained that this had been previously raised with both the owners and Rotherham MBC and action had been taken. It was agreed that a close eye should be kept on the situation.

54/18 Declarations of interest and dispensations - There were none recorded or sought.

55/18 – To approve, sign and date the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 September 2018.
Cllr Richard Robson noted that he not been recorded as being in attendance. It was confirmed that his name should have been added to the attendance list. The Clerk agreed to make this amendment and the minutes re-presented for approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

56/18 – To receive information on the following on-going issues and decide further action where necessary -

To receive a report on crime and anti-behaviour issues - The latest recorded figures from the Police recorded 3 crimes (1 incident of burglary, 1 threat to criminal damage and 1 criminal damage) between 19 September 2018 and 20 November 2018.

Overhanging branches in the Recreation Ground – The Clerk confirmed that this issue has been reported to the Streetpride Service at Rotherham MBC and was awaiting a reply.

Ulley Recreation Ground Lease – The Council had received a copy of the final lease incorporating the suggested amendments together with a Landlord and Tenant Declaration. These were duly signed by Chairman and Clerk.

Hanging Baskets on Main Street – It was explained that Rotherham MBC has asked that these be removed as the poles which they are attached to are to be replaced. The Chairman explained that this had been removed.

Addition of Drainage Channel – It was reported that there may have damage to a council asset by a third party; namely the addition of drainage channel over council land leading to a severing of the power cable to our telephone box. It was agreed that the Clerk should raise this with the agency responsible for the digging of the drainage channel.

Volunteer Policy for the Council – A report was provided on progress. A Working Group had been set-up to take this forward. It was anticipated that it would have its first meeting shortly.

57/18 - To consider and agree on actions following the recommendations of the Public Interest Report and Internal Audit (2017/2018) reports

Following the various recommendations made in these reports, an action plan had been produced and circulated that detailed progress in implementing these. This was then considered. It was noted that progress had been good.

58/18 - To consider the Council’s Internal Financial Controls and procedures

The Clerk explained that it was good practice for a Council to undertake this at least on an annual basis. A general discussion took place on the Council’s Internal Financial Controls and procedures. This were considered to be sound. It was agreed to review the Council’s procedures in relation to the Halifax Fund as an agenda for the January meeting.
59/18 - To consider the findings of the latest Poynton Avenue Plan Area Inspection

A copy of the latest play area inspection report carried out in October 2018 for the Poynton Area Plan Park was circulated and considered. It was noted that it had not raised any significant concerns with the condition of the play equipment in the Park, though did highlight a few areas of improvement.

Reference was made to the condition of the see-saw bench. Borough Councillor Bob Walsh was asked if its replacement could form the basis of a Leadership Fund bid, which it was confirmed in principle that it could. The Clerk agreed to prepare a bid to the fund to replace the seating on the see-saw.

60/18 Planning update

The Council has not been notified of any for comment at the meeting. A verbal update was provided on planning application (RB2017/1709) to vary condition 02 (approved plans - raise the roof height of the garage by 2 block courses (450mm) to allow more useable space), which the Council had previously commented on. This had been approved by Rotherham MBC.

61/18 To receive a verbal and written report on financial matters within the Council including bi-monthly Budget Update and consideration and to approve the following payments.

Both a verbal and written report was provided. It was confirmed that the Council held £9,398.53, which comprised £3,599.05 in the Co-operative Bank Current Account and £5,799.48 in the Co-operative Bank Reserve Account. It also held 11,055.01 in the Halifax Grant Account. Members where then asked to sign the various concerned associated bank statements and bank reconciliations, which they did.

A written and verbal overview was provided on the overall budget situation. It was explained that the budget was broadly on track. The main budget area of concern was spending on the utilities heading especially as we enter the winter period. The Clerk confirmed that he was seeking quotes for energy supply to the Hall. It was asked if the written report could be provided as part of the forma agenda. The Clerk explained, that subject to the removal of any personal data, this could be.

Members were asked to consider any changes in the precept for the following coming year. It was agreed that the budget for the following year should be the main agenda item for the Councils January meeting. The Clerk also promised to provide a budget scenarios for the meeting based on no increase in the precept.

Resolved: that the following payments be authorised:

- £1.01 to Royal Mail for Postage.
- £28.85 to Yorkshire Water for water usage for the Hall.
• £160.88 to NPower for electricity usage for the Hall.
• £2106.00 to BDO for Public Interest Report.
• £4.53 to HMRC for underpaid tax.
• £560.00 to Hobson Nurseries for Winter Planting.
• £660.00 to Hobson Nurseries for summer Planting.
• £6.48 to B&M Retail for paper and box file for the Clerk.

It was also agreed that a payment of £2106.00 to BDO for Public Interest Report be approved subject to a satisfactory detailed breakdown of the charges.

62/18 To consider and confirm the appointment of Spectrum CIC/Voluntary Action Rotherham as the Councils Internal Auditors

Resolved: that Spectrum CIC/Voluntary Action Rotherham be approved as the Councils Internal Auditors for 2018/2019.

63/18 To receive an update on Halifax fund bids including any approved by the Halifax Estate and by the Council through delegated powers.

There were none.

Any other business.

The Chairman reported on a useful meeting that had taken place with the HS2 engagement Team prior to the main meeting. Cllr P Smith provided an update on consultation activities especially with young people in relation to the recreation ground.