Minutes of the Ulley Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2019,
Village Hall

Chairman – Cllr Richard Robson – Chairman of Ulley Parish Council.

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

Clerk – Andrew Towlerton.

Present – 8 members of the public and Borough Councillor Bob Walsh.

6/19 To receive and approve any apologies for absence - There were none.

7/19 To receive any questions from members of the public

Several issues were raised.

Planning application – Reference was made to the planning condition that the two trees be replaced and whether this had been implemented. The Clerk said he would enquire.

Location of the hanging baskets – It was noted that this should be reviewed. It was agreed that this would be useful.

Resignation of former Councillor P Hubbard – It was noted that the Council had received a letter from Cllr P Hubbard informing the Council of his decision to resign as Chairman and councillor of the Parish Council. Tribute was paid to him by councillors and members of the community. The Council thanked him for his dedication and hard work provided during his tenure as a councillor and Chairman.

It was noted that P Hubbard’s resignation announcement had created a casual vacancy that the Council would need to fill as soon as possible.

8/19 Declarations of interest and dispensations - There were none recorded or sought.
10/19 – To approve, sign and date the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 March 2019

Resolved that: the minutes held on the 27 March 2019 were a true record and should be duly signed.

11/19 – To receive information on the following on-going issues and decide further action where necessary

To receive a report on crime and anti-social behaviour issues - The Clerk explained that he had not received the latest recorded figures from the Police but would circulate to members as soon as they were available.

- Drainage Ditch/Telephone Box – An update was provided. There has been a slight delay, as the required light switch was not available. It was hoped that it would be back in stock soon. As soon as it was the developer had agreed to fit it once it been supplied to him by the Parish Council.
- Car park issues around Ulley Country Park – The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Rotherham MBC on this issue and was awaiting a reply.

12/19 - Recreation Ground and next steps

To appoint a suitably qualified body to arrange for the transfer of the lease to the Parish Council from Rotherham MBC, including associated budget provision.

Resolved that: Solicitors Walker and Co. be appointed to arrange the transfer of the lease to the Parish Council from Rotherham MBC up to a value of £300 plus VAT.

13/19 - To consider and agree on the quotes received for the maintenance of the trees in the Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed that he had received two quotes.

Resolved that: Andersons be appointed to undertake the agreed maintenance of the trees in the Recreation Ground up to a value of £700 plus VAT

It was noted that as the trees in the Recreation Ground were in the Conservation Area, any works would require prior approval from Rotherham MBC. The Clerk reported that he would prepare the required planning forms with the assistance of Andersons.

P Hubbard explained that it might be possible to get a grant from the Banks Fund to cover the costs involved in the tree repairs. He agreed to prepare a bid. He was thanked for agreeing to do this.
The Clerk also explained that emergency works were required to one of the trees, as one of its branches had broken off and was in a dangerous and unsafe condition. Andersons had confirmed that they could do this asap. He also explained that the Council had received the necessary consents from Rotherham MBC to undertake the emergency works.

**14/19 - To consider the findings from the latest quarterly inspection (see Attachment 6.1) for the Children’s Play Area at the Recreation Ground.**

A copy of the latest play area inspection for the children’s Play Area was circulated and considered. It was noted that it had not raised any significant concerns with the condition of the play equipment, though did highlight a few areas of improvement that would need to be addressed by the ‘Work About Group.

**15/19 - To confirm the arrangements for the periodic inspections of the Recreation Ground, including budget provision**

It was reported that it was understood that the company (the Play Inspection Company) which provided the inspections of the Recreation Ground on behalf of Rotherham MBC would continue to on the same basis now the Recreation Ground had been transferred to the Parish Council. The approximate annual cost of this service would be £400 including VAT.

**16/19 - To consider the advice provided by the YLCA on requests for financial support from the Halifax fund individuals**

The Clerk explained that the advice he had received from the YLCA had confirmed that the Council could not consider requests for financial assistance. Such requests would need to be considered by Halifax Estates directly. It was agreed that progress with the Halifax Fund should be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

**17/19 - Rotherham MBC's Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy**

It was explained that Rotherham MBC Borough Council has asked that the council contributes to identifying ward priorities for this important document. This request was then considered. It was agreed that the ward priorities were:

- Highway safety and speeding issues.
- Fly tipping.
- Environmental improvements, including to the Recreation Ground.
- Community engagement.
- Community activities

It was noted that it might be possible to seek support from Rotherham MBC’s devolved ward budget to support these activities.
18/19 - Planning update

The Council had been notified of one that day. This was (RB2019/0730) and was to vary condition 02 approved plans imposed by RB2017/1709 at 5 Turnshaw Road Ulley. The Clerk agreed to circulate details to members for comment. He confirmed that he intended to deal with it under delegated powers as the deadline for comments was likely to be before the next meeting of the Council.

19/19 - 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. This covered both the year-end out turn and the latest financial position.

It was confirmed that the Council held £6,091.80 at financial year end. This comprised £3,599.61 in the Co-operative Bank Current Account and £2,492.28 in the Co-operative Bank Reserve Account. It also held 10,675.01 in the Halifax Grant Account. A discussion then took place on financial matters over the last financial year. It was noted that it had recorded a slight overspend on the planned budget of about £300. This was mainly due to the cost of the Public Interest Report (£2311), which the Council was aware that it would have to pay for but not in the last financial year. Indeed, had the Council not made efficiency saving on other budget headings and secured additional grant funding in support of activities the overspend would have been considerably more.

Members were then asked to sign the various concerned associated bank statements and bank reconciliations, which they did.

Resolved that: the following payments be authorised:

- £420.00 to Andersons for emergency works to the trees in the Park.
- £179.68 to Wickstead for new see-saw for the Park.
- £17.99 to Screwfix for padlock for shed.

20/19 - To confirm the Council’s pay award for 2019/2020

The Clerk explained that National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had agreed the new pay scales for clerks 2019-2020 to be implemented from 1 April 2019. This also covered the Clerk as per his contract.

He also noted that due to the introduction of the national living wage, the NJC agreement includes the introduction of a new scale range for some certain specified grades. This roughly equated to an additional 2% increase over the general increase. This would take effect in April 2020. Clerks pay scale was affected by this change in some scale ranges.
The Clerk also requested for a variation in his contract so that he was paid on a quarterly basis. This was in part due to streamline and simply HMRC returns.

Resolved that: the new pay scale and range for the Clerk as per the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) for 2019/2020 be confirmed and that Clerk be paid on a quarterly basis.

21/19 - To confirm the arrangements for the Council’s Internal Audit.

The Clerk explained that this had been arranged. However, due to meet legal requirements, it would be necessary to arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council before the 30th June to meet the requirements placed on parish councils under The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

22/19 - 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.

There was none.