



**Minutes of the meeting of Ulley Parish Council  
held on 21 August 2019, Village Hall – 7.00 pm**

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

Other Councillors in attendance – Richard Steel and Ian Stones

Clerk – Andrew Towleron.

Present – 9 members of the public and Borough Councillor Bob Walsh.

**37/19 - To receive and approve any apologies for absence** - There was one from Cllr Patricia Smith which was approved.

**38/19 - To receive any questions from members of the Public** – Several issues were raised.

**Trees at the pub paddock.** These were starting to regrow and required prompt maintenance if there not to cause a problem. It was explained that a member of the public had raised this with the Planning Department as has had the former Clerk of the Parish Council. The Chairman agreed to raise this with the brewery.

**Fly tipping.** it was noted that this had come to the fore again. This includes fly tipping by lorries at Carr Lane. It was emphasised that the first action should be to report any incidents to Rotherham MBC and to also seek feedback by them on progress. Cllr Bob Walsh gave an update on the action being taken by Rotherham MBC including the use of covert cameras. A general discussion then took place about potential additional measures including inviting a senior officer from Rotherham MBC's Streetpride service to a future meeting of the Parish Council. Also, the use of gates, highlighting their potential introduction on Carr Lane. Also, when taking enforcement that Rotherham MBC should press the courts to make use of the various powers available to them to tackle fly-tipping, including compensation as well as substantial fines.

**Turnshaw Plantation Farm.** It was reported that this was being used for unauthorised activities including motorcycling. These activities are dangerous, a nuisance and causing inconvenience and stress to nearby properties. It was noted that the Police were best placed to deal with this and that it was understood that steps were being taken to address it. It was agreed that the Council should contact Halifax Estates who own the farm about the situation.

**The use of the wheelie bin at the back of the Parish Hall.** An issue with this was drawn to the Parish Council's attention. The Millennium Trust was asked to ensure that it was emptied.

Other issues raised were the management of the Royal Oak Public House and the use of Parish Council owned land adjacent to the village hall for parking.

**39/19 - To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting, Annual General Meeting and normal Meeting all held on 15 May 2019 as well as the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 12 June 2019.**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Annual Meeting, Annual General Meeting and normal Meeting all held on 15 May 2019, as well as the extraordinary meeting of the Council, held on 12 June 2019 all be approved.

The Chairman asked if it would be possible to post the draft minutes earlier on the Parish Council website. The Clerk said that he would seek to ensure this. He also made a few other suggestions about how the presentation of the minutes could be improved, which the Clerk agreed to do.

**40/19 – To receive information on the following on-going issues and decide further action where necessary -**

**Latest Crime Update** – the Clerk reported that he had not received the latest update from the police. He would chase this. Once he had received it, he would send a copy to all members as well as posting it on the Parish Council website.

**Drainage Ditch/Telephone Box Issue** – it was explained that this has been resolved. The necessary part had been ordered and received and would be fitted shortly.

**Car parking issues associated around Ulley Country Park** – The Clerk explained that he had raised this with Rotherham MBC as requested by members. In their response, Rotherham MBC's Parking Enforcement Team had informed the Council that "our officers attended this location on 19/06/2019 at 13:15 and no vehicles were found to be parked in contravention. This location will continue to be enforced whenever we have officers on the beat in this area." The Clerk agreed to emphasise to Rotherham MBC that cars were continued to be parked in contravention.

**Proposed Permissive Footpath** - The Chairman had been in contact with Halifax Estates, who had advised that due to technical issues, it was suggested by Halifax Estates that any further discussions on the path be postponed until 2020.

**Defibrillator** – Cllr R Steel confirmed that he purchased and fitted the pads. The Defibrillator was now working fine, he reported. He also explained and circulated that he prepared a monitoring sheet to facilitate its routine checking by him and other council members.

**41/19 – To consider any applications for the office of parish councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy**

The Clerk explained that the Council had received formal legal notification from Rotherham MBC that it can seek to fill this by co-option. It was agreed that the formal process for filling the vacancy should be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**42/19 To consider the maintenance of the trees in the Park including next steps**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council has notified Rotherham MBC of its intention to remove two trees in the park. This was following advice from an independent Arboriculturist that they were in a dangerous condition and should be removed. As they were in the Conservation Area permission would be required from Rotherham MBC for their approval. Rotherham MBC had inspected the trees and considered that one of the trees should be the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). This meant, that while one of the trees could be removed, a further application would be required to remove the tree protected by a TPO. Moreover, as the tree was proposed to be protected by a TPO this meant that gaining approval for its removal would be less likely than had it not had a TPO. This was the subject of detailed discussion. Reference was made to the report from Rotherham MDC supporting the protection of the tree through a TPO, that there are some inaccuracies within their decision and that it was recognised that it was a borderline decision (the tree received the minimum score to justify it being proposed as a TPO). It was noted that some members of the community were concerned about the loss of the trees. There was some discussion on whether the Council should seek a third qualified opinion on whether removal of the tree proposed to be protected through the TPO was the right option. That it would be more costly for the arboriculturist to undertake works to the trees on separate occasions rather than at once was noted. The insurance position was highlighted especially given that the Council had received specialist advice that the trees should be removed, and was now unable to act upon part of this advice. The Clerk agreed to confirm the insurance position with its insurance company. The scope to challenge the decision by Rotherham MBC to protect the tree proposed to be the subject of a TPO was discussed. It was confirmed that the Parish Council could do this, which it agreed to do in principle. Finally, it

was noted that the arboriculturist in his report recommended that works should be done to other trees in the Park to make them safe. The Chairman stated that he had sought a further quote from a qualified arboriculturist for the works required to undertake this.

**Resolved: That (i) the Council seek to challenge the decision by Rotherham MBC to seek to place a Tree Preservation Order on one of the trees (ii) the Clerk contact the Council's insurers to clarify the insurance position following the decision of Rotherham MBC to seek a Tree Preservation Order on one of the trees and (iii) that the Council agrees to remove the tree that was not the subject of a proposed Tree Preservation Order.**

**43/19 - To consider the findings from the latest monthly independent inspection of the Park (see Attachment 8.1) and health and safety issues in the Park more generally.**

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 improvements and repairs. This would need to be addressed by the 'Work About Group'. The Chairman considered that the Council should review the extent to which it was reliant on volunteers for repairs and improvements to the Park. The Clerk agreed to add this to the agenda of the next Council meeting. Other improvements to the Park were also discussed.

**44/19 – To consider the adequacy of signage in the Park**

A wide ranging discussion took place on this item. This covered both signage relating to activities in the Park as well as to related activities such as parking. It was agreed to consider this item again at the next meeting of the Parish Council when Cllr P Smith (who was leading on this would be in attendance).

**45/19 - Management of the Halifax Fund by the Parish Council**

The Council has received a request as to whether it is the most suitable body to administer this fund. This request had been discussed with Halifax Estates who had also asked the Council to review the present arrangements. The issue was that while there was some merit in the Parish Council acting as the accountable body for the Fund, it can also be restrictive to use it for the purpose of distributing grant funds because of some of the limitations to its powers to act. For example, the law prevents local authorities including parish councils giving grants to individuals or physical works to churches and church yards. This was discussed including potential other management options, including the Millennium Trust. The Clerk was asked to look at options for the management of the Fund including retaining the present arrangement. He agreed to do this for the next meeting.

**Resolved: that the Clerk prepares options for the management of the Halifax Fund for consideration of the next meeting of the Parish Council.**

#### **46/19 To consider future spending priorities for the Halifax Fund**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **47/19 Planning update**

The Clerk confirmed that the Council had not been notified by Rotherham MBC of any for comment at the meeting.

#### **48/19 Victory in Europe Day**

The Clerk reported that this will take place on 8 May 2020, and all parish councils have been asked by the Queen's national events coordinator to consider their involvement in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Council considered that it would be fitting for the Parish to mark this important event. Reference was made to the important contribution that the Millennium Trust could play in taking this forward.

**Resolved: That the Parish Council agrees that Ulley Parish should mark the Victory in Europe Day on 8 May 2020.**

#### **50/19 - To receive a verbal and written report on financial matters within the Council including the latest budget monitoring (see attachment 12.1) and to approve any payments**

Both a verbal and written report was provided. They covered both the year-end out turn and the latest financial position.

It was confirmed that the Council held £8,095.22 at 10 August 2019. This comprised £4489.25 in the Co-operative Bank Current Account and £3,607.95 in the Co-operative Bank Reserve Account. It also held 15,282.16 in the Halifax Grant Account. The Clerk noted that the Council would need to especially keep a close eye on the budget in view of the number of exceptional unbudgeted items of expenditure it had authorised, for example, in relation to the pads for the defibrillator and works to the trees in the Park.

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:**

- £47.40 to X Connect for new lights switch for the telephone box.
- £29.32 to Yorkshire Water for water supply to the Hall.
- £74.28 to Wel Medical for the pads for the defibrillator
- £6.85 to Tesco for various stationery for the Clerk.
- £16.43 to Amazon Prime for a new printer cartridge.
- £19.60 to Heels 'N' Key for keys for the Village Hall.

**51/19 - To receive an update on Halifax fund bids including for Parish Council Equipment (see item 13.1) and Quiet Garden Project, Holy Trinity Church (see item 13.2) and any approved by the Halifax Estate.**

**Resolved: that the bid from Ulley Parish Council for £609.07 to provide equipment and tools to keep the village looking neat and tidy for residents and villagers and the Ulley Millennium Trust bid for £800.00 to purchase new Christmas decorations (internal and external) for the Village Hall be supported by the Parish Council.**

The Clerk noted that the Parish Council had received a bid from the Holy Trinity Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to develop the Churchyard to provide a quiet space for reflection and prayer as well as a community facility incorporating such items as storage sheds. This could not be considered by the Parish as legislation prohibits public bodies including parish councils from spending any money (including through grants) on works associated with church property.

**52/19 - To consider any agenda items for the next meeting of the council**

The clerk reported that the Council had received a request from the HS2 consultation team to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council. It was agreed to defer this.

**Any other business**

There was none.