

**Minutes of the Ulley Parish Council Annual General Meeting**

**held at the Village Hall, Ulley at 7.00 pm on 27th November 2024**

Members: Cllrs: R Robson (Chairman), S Hubbard, C Myers, W Cooper

Apologies: Cllr Pitchley (RMBC), Jake Richards (MP), Dawn Thomas (RMBC)

In attendance: Sarah Whitaker (Clerk), Cllr Robert Taylor (RMBC), PC Laura Cooper (Police), 11 members of the public

A public session of 15 minutes was held prior to the formal Council meeting, in accordance with Section 3 of the Council’s Standing Orders.

1. **Speeding** – still a huge issue in the village, with many incidents occurring recently. A village petition was discussed. PC Cooper will make some enquiries regarding a speed gun. Cllr Taylor suggested we try a different approach as conventional methods are not successful in obtaining traffic calming solutions from RMBC. MP Jake Richards will be holding a surgery in the Church at 11am on Saturday 14th December.

**40/24 To receive and approve any apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

**41/24 To note any declarations of interest on items to be discussed at this meeting.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**42/24 To consider any matters to be excluded from the public.**

There were no matters to exclude.

**43/24 To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th August 2024 and the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 2nd October 2024.**

**Resolved: The minutes of the meetings be approved as a true record.**

**44/24 To receive written applications and to co-opt a candidate to fill the vacancy for Parish Councillor.**

There were no applications received.

**45/24 To receive a report from the Millennium Trust**

1. **Improvements –** With the remaining grant money LED lights a new oven and 2 external sockets have been installed.
2. **Events –** Upcoming events including the village fayre, children’s Christmas Party and Over 60s meal are to be well supported by the community. The brass band concert was very good.

**46/24 To discuss the Village Hall Repairs**

No update

**Resolved: Cllr Cooper to provide an action plan for the next meeting.**

**47/24 To consider any issues arising from the management of the Play Area.**

1. **Monthly & WeekIy Inspection report -** Nothing new to report, still low risk. The sign near the new shed is damaged this may need to be removed and replaced **Resolved – Cllr Robson to assess the sign and the algae on the boulders.**
2. **Basket Swing –** This has been successfully installed by RMBC and we await the invoice.

**48/24 To receive an update on the new shed for storage of equipment.**

The shed has been delivered and installed successfully. Cllr Robson advised not to use WD40 on the lock, if it becomes stiff a silicone-based oil is required. The shed came with 2 keys.

**Resolved: Cllr Robson to explore the option of having new keys cut and/or a key safe installed. A ramp may be required inside the shed, Cllr Robson to advise further on this upon inspection. Clerk to pay the invoice for the shed.**

**49/24 To receive an update on Speeding and Highway matters.**

RMBC have advised that the VAS sign will be relocated, and the HGV signs have been ordered. The recent tube survey in the village was not instructed by RMBC therefore, no results can be obtained.

**50/24 Grounds Maintenance**

1. **Hedge Trimming in the Play Area –** The work has been completed. **Resolved – Clerk to pay invoice and reclaim from HEUVG.**
2. **RMBC maintenance schedule –** RMBC have completed the maintenance schedule indicating the number of scheduled and actual cuts. There is some uncertainty amongst parishioners regarding this number. **Resolved – Clerk to request the dates of the cuts from RMBC.**

**51/24 To receive an update on the phone box.**

Jule Samuels delivered a presentation for ideas and management of the phone box. **Resolved**: **Julie to put together a summary including costs for the Clerk who will complete a HEUVG bid for funding, painting the phone box also to be considered.**

**52/24 To discuss obtaining a gov.uk domain**

The clerk produced a document summarising the upfront costs, ongoing costs and benefits of moving to a gov.uk domain. There is a £100+VAT grant available until March 2025.

**Resolved: Not to progress at this time.**

**53/24 To discuss Ulley in Bloom 2024**

The invoice has been received from Hobsons £1,000 + VAT.

**Resolved: Clerk to submit a HEUVG bid**

**54/24 To discuss servicing of Equipment**

The risk assessments state the equipment should be serviced, however, concerns were raised as the service costs are approx. 25% of the purchase price.

**Resolved: To have the relevant equipment serviced as per the risk assessments. Cllr Robson to review the risk assessments.**

**55/24 To discuss the proposed Whitestones Solar Farm**

Planning permission is not required as the decision is made by the Secretary of State. A community consultation will take place on Thursday 5th December between 10am – 2pm in the Village Hall. UPC encourages residents to complete the Whitestone's solar farm feedback form. Further information can be found on their website; whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk.

**56/24 To note any Planning Applications received since the last meeting**

Planning Applications and updates noted.

**57/24 To receive a financial update including;**

1. **To receive a report to 31st October 2024, including Bank Reconciliation, Payments for Authorisation & Budget vs Actuals.**

**Resolved: The following items were authorised for payment:**

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| 02/08/24 | HMRC | Clerks Tax July 24 | £ 59.40 |
| 16/08/24 | EDF | Electricity Village Hall | £ 35.32 |
| 23/08/24 | ICO | Data Protection Fee | £ 35.00 |
| 30/08/24 | Scottish Water | Water Village Hall | £ 48.40 |
| 02/09/24 | SSE Energy | Electricity Village Hall | £ 252.05 |
| 04/09/24 | Whitaker, S | Clerks Salary August 24 | £ 237.84 |
| 09/09/24 | HMRC | Clerks Tax August 24 | £ 59.60 |
| 12/09/24 | Lovely, J | Shed Base | £ 650.00 |
| 17/09/24 | EDF | Electricity Village Hall | £ 30.51 |
| 01/10/24 | Whitaker, S | Clerks Salary Sep 24 | £ 320.40 |
| 04/10/24 | HMRC | Clerks Tax Sep 24 | £ 80.00 |
| 15/10/24 | Whitaker, S | Microsoft 365 Subscription | £ 79.99 |
| 17/10/24 | EDF | Electricity Village Hall | £ 46.63 |
| 24/10/24 | Whitaker, S | 10 x Poppies for Lampost | £ 42.50 |
| 31/10/24 | Whitaker, S | Clarks Salary October 24 | £ 305.67 |

**Balance – Current £11,500.80 Reserve - £4,205.82**

1. **Approve reimbursement of Annual Microsoft 365 subscription fee to clerk and the purchase of poppies**

**Resolved: Agreed**

1. **National Salary Award**

The Clerks national salary award increase to be backdated to April 2024.

**Resolved: Agreed**

1. **Budget Review**

The Clerk has drafted the budget for 2025-26

**Resolved: Cllrs to review the budget to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting**

1. **Dual Authority**

Dual Authority is still not in place for online banking. The Clerk has spoken to the Co-op Bank who require a signed letter to set this up.

**Resolved: Agreed, letter signed.**

**58/24 To consider a review of policies, including:**

1. Pension Policy – **Resolved: Agreed**
2. Health & Safety Policy – **Resolved: Agreed**
3. Sexual Harassment Policy & Procedure – **Resolved: Agreed**

**59/24 To consider any general correspondence received, including:**

1. **White Rose Update** – **Resolved: Agreed to Select a Parish representative to the RMBC/Local Councils Joint Working Group**
2. **CAP Meeting –** Details of the current burglaries reported, plans to remove the shrine still in place. Residents encouraged to report any suspicious activity near Burgoyne to RMBC/Police.
3. **PC Network Meeting –** no update.
4. **VE Day 8 May 2025** – Ideas/thoughts encouraged from residents, request to be put in the newsletter
5. **Incident on Park Access Road** – noted

**60/24 To consider any agenda items and arrangements for the next Meeting of the parish council to be held on 26th February 2025 –** none.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed …………………………(Chairman). Date: 26th February 2025