

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council held on 17th May 2017 at 7.30pm in Uley Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Jonathan Dembrey (JD) (Chairman), Janet Wood (JW) (Vice-Chairman), Mike Griffiths (MG), Tim Martin (TM), Belinda Holley (BH), Melanie Paraskeva (MP).

In Attendance: County Councillor Loraine Patrick (LP), District Councillor Jim Dewey (RJD), Ashy McKay (AM) (Clerk).

JD opened the meeting and welcomed the newly elected County Councillor Loraine Patrick.

1. **Apologies.** David Sykes (Footpaths Officer).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2016** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
3. **District and County Councillor Reports.** LP reported that as she has just started she is still getting to know key officers, meeting with Highways and undergoing training. She is a long-standing member of Dursley Town Council and has a day job so her availability for meetings is limited. She promised to sort out any issues that are raised with her and will send reports to the meetings. She will sit on Children and Families and the Commons and Rights of Way Committees.

Councillor Jim Dewey presented his report:

“ I would like to thank Ashy and all members of Uley Parish Council for the support they have given me throughout the year and the work they have undertaken to support the village. Background: Elected 2016 and currently sit on Environment Committee, Development and Control (Planning) Committee and Planning Review Panel. Also on Cam Dursley and Uley Greenway Group for Cyclepath and SDC representative on Prema Arts Centre Board. Problem Resolution: The main issue that I am involved with in the village is the problem of parking and speeding. We have a meeting with GCC Highways manager Andrew Middlecote in June to discuss this issue and see what steps can be taken to avoid potential accidents. I am available to act as a

point of contact for residents and the Parish Council with SDC and have been contacted over a planning matter with a listed building and the Rose and Crown community asset. Housing: Stroud has a council house building programme to deliver 236 homes at a cost of £19m over 5 years. The Council is a valued and effective partner in economic development and regeneration by local companies, investors and GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership. Local Plan – Gloucestershire’s only local plan adopted under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and shortlisted for a national award, helps us scrutinise planning applications and reign in development not in the Local Plan, thus protecting our rural environment from opportunistic development. Local Flooding – I attended a conference held at Gloucester University and sponsored by SDC on RuSuds - Rural Sustainable drainage scheme in the Stroud Valleys - one of only two UK projects sponsored by the Environment Agency with a CPRE award. With attendees all over the country, including Somerset, Cumbria and Wales, Stroud leads the way in reducing flooding in our area and commendable work has also been carried out along such lines by the National Trust at Woodchester Park. Promote Health and Well Being: SDC recently allocated £300,000 for cycling and walking in the District with a full-time officer appointed (Gideon Darley) who amongst other things will seek match funding from other sources such as from the Lottery for cycling and walking projects. One such is the CDU Greenway Project which promotes building a cycle path through Dursley and Cam to the railway station in order to promote health and reduce congestion. I would urge Uley community to start thinking about producing plans for any such projects in the pipeline. I would be happy to support such plans and provide representation to Stroud District Council and make our voice heard. One such project might be the establishment of a footpath from the village to the playing fields along Tinkley Lane. The Future: Stroud District Council, like almost all council across England, has signed up to a four-year grant settlement offered by Government. However, Stroud will be the first authority in Gloucestershire to lose all revenue support grant and by 2019/20 will be paying £549,000 to the Government. Effectively Stroud must

become a self-financing council with council tax and business rates the principal source of income. It's not clear yet how this income will be distributed between councils. I wish to congratulate Loraine Patrick who was elected Gloucester County Councillor for our area and look forward to working with her for the benefit of Uley Parish Council and their residents."

In a response to a question from LP, RJD stated that the SDC refuse collector is Ubico who run the contract in-house. LP thought there are problems with the current reporting system and also with tagging contaminated waste bins (contaminated waste cannot be recycled).

4. Chairman's Report.

Councillor Jonathan Dembrey presented his annual report:

Introduction

Good evening, my name is Jonathan Dembrey, Chairman of Uley Parish Council and these are my fellow councillors. This year we have had some comings and goings: Councillor Jim Dewey has stepped down from his role as Parish Councillor to concentrate on his role as a Stroud District Councillor, where he sits on the Development Control Committee. Jim was instrumental in the Community Speed Watch Group and in getting the '20 is plenty' signs in the village. We very much welcomed Juliet Browne and Tim Martin as our new Parish Councillors, who have proved to be great assets to the Council this year.

Uley and Owlpen Community Design Statement.

After many months hard work, in September 2016, the Community Design Statement was formally adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document by Stroud District Council. I would like to thank the sub-committee members under the Chairmanship of Mike Griffiths for everything they have done to make this happen. This includes detailed audits of characteristic buildings in the two parishes and the features that make them special, as well as hundreds of photographs taken of Uley and Owlpen from many different viewpoints. The Community Design Statement is already proving to be a tremendous help by providing strong guidelines to the Parish Council, architects and developers to safeguard and enhance the unique heritage and

environment of Owlpen and Uley.

Parish Council Website.

The new Parish Council website was launched earlier this year when Stroud District Council discontinued support for the Community pages on their website. We believe the new website is an improvement on the old one as it is much easier to update and post information on it without having to go through SDC. The only drawback is that there is now no direct access through to the SDC planning portal which used to make finding local planning applications very straightforward. I would like to thank Paul Weeks for his many years help in posting the meeting agendas and minutes on the old SDC website. Also, Mike Griffiths once again for all his hard work in setting up the new website and in keeping it up to date and the Local Government Association for providing a grant to cover the costs of set up and maintenance.

Budget 2017/18

This is the first year the Parish Council has been without the Community Support Grant which last year had tapered to £537. Before it was handed over from central government to the Local Authority, this annual grant used to be over £1,000. To compensate for this loss of annual income for the first time the Parish Council agreed to increase the annual precept by 1.99% or £312 totalling £16,353. This however has not resulted in a higher payment per household as the number of council tax paying households has increased in the last year by over 2%.

Trees.

This year the Parish Council have noticed an increasing number of applications for remedial works to trees in the village. Added to this is the increasing incidence of what seems to be unauthorised tree works. To monitor the situation, the Parish Council have set up the role of Tree Warden and Councillor Juliet Browne has been appointed as our first Tree Warden. She and the Parish Clerk have met with Mark Hemming, the Tree Officer to Stroud District Council to discuss what can be done to prevent the loss of trees in the village, and the unauthorised works. Mr Hemming advised that residents should be cautious about

engaging people who are not authorised to carry out tree surgery and to check on the Arboricultural Association website to see if planning permission is required.

Other News.

We would also like to thank Sue Colquhoun who has stepped down as the Village Agent, and welcome Penny French in her place.

Following on from the recent County Council elections we are very sad to see the departure of Steve Lydon. Steve was a frequent presence at the Parish Council meetings and never failed to send through his reports keeping us in the loop on County wide matters. I would particularly like to thank him for all his help on sorting out Highways issues, and especially in establishing the Lengthsman scheme that has been a great success, and for funding improvements in Court Gardens. We welcome in his place Councillor Loraine Patrick who we hope can continue in Steve's footsteps as a strong advocate for Uley and our concerns.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all their energy, enthusiasm and hard work in what is a voluntary role. Ashy McKay for help and support as Parish Clerk, David Sykes for all his good work as Footpaths Officer and finally Guy Blanch as Flood Officer.

I hope that the Parish Council can look forward to another successful year to come.

5. Open Forum.

Vicki Coffey from the Fireworks Group explained that the annual Firework display in some respects had become a victim of its own success. It has raised over £31,000 for charity but attracts so many people now that there are increasing problems with parking and access for emergency vehicles. Graham Turnbull, a Director of the Millennium Green Trust explained that the Trust are supportive of the event but would like to see the issues arising from increasing use addressed effectively. He underlined that the Trust does not wish to see the display moving from the Field. PCSO Josh Griffiths said that he thought the display was very

positive for the village. Although there had been some complaints about parking and congestion in particular, the Police would not issue tickets as it was just a once a year events and he thought there were other ways to reduce the congestion. He suggested asking the St. John's Ambulance to be on site in the event of any casualties, and recommended keeping a clear route for emergency vehicles who may need access to an incident in the village not necessarily connected to the display. VC suggested leafletting households on one side of The Street and South St. asking them not to park on the road and coning off that side to keep a clear path open, Air Cadets could help steward. It was suggested that the main point of congestion was coming out of South St. It was suggested that directional signs could be used to divert cars from the village and a press release issued to warn people to use other routes. JW suggested that numbers could be kept down by charging for access to the Field. Dursley charge £5 a head for their event and raise £8,000. If a charge was made the MG Committee would need to check the terms of their insurance. JW raised the issue of disturbance to livestock. In the past sheep in a neighbouring field had died of shock and cattle stampeded. Animal welfare needed to be considered. BH said that the village really values the display and wants to help to make it work better on the night. VC said that the date for the display this year will be on October 21st. The MG Committee said that it wanted to meet with the Fireworks Group to investigate the issues and progress the event in future.

Thoss Shearer asked the Parish Council for the latest position on the proposed Vodafone/Telefonica radio base station in Uley. AM said that that Vodafone and Telefonica (CTIL) sent an email to the Parish Council as part of a pre-application consultation process asking for comments on their proposal to locate a 12-meter radio mast at the Coal Yard, Lampern Hill, Uley. This was received after the last UPC meeting and the PC had intended to discuss the issue at the next meeting on 7th June following some exchanges via email. However, the landowner at the Coal Yard has since withdrawn his offer of the site. TS advised that the PC should be prepared as the company is likely to return with an alternative site, but the PC should be

cautious about proposing any alternative sites itself. When a planning application is made, there will be 56 days to respond. SDC have so far considered 9 applications for masts and attachments and have permitted them all, ignoring comments objecting. Minchinhampton PC suggested alternative technologies micro network or small cells. TS advised the PC to set up a working group before the next meeting to draw up a holding response. MS asked for the PC to post notifications in the Village News, Shop and website updating on progress. TS agreed to circulate information on the position of other Parish Councils.

It was agreed to set the date for the APM earlier next year and advertise in advance in the Village News and more widely.

Josh Griffiths gave a report from Dursley Police. There are 2 Neighbourhood Watch schemes' in Uley, a Facebook group has been set up. School Children have designed some 20 is plenty speed watch signs that have been put up along The Street. Burglaries: 1 October – March; Theft 2 in the last 6 months; Anti-social Behaviour Orders 5. Crime figures in Uley are low with only 25 incidents overall 2012016, and there has been a drop of 42% in the last 6 years in the wider area. The police are trying to revive community speed watch. In answer to a question from TJM, JG stated that the local schools do cycling proficiency tests with Road Safety officers. Several people complained of drivers, especially of big lorries and also horse riders, using mobile phones. The BHS are running a campaign to promote safe and responsible riding and driving. On the spot fine of £200 can be applied.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.