

**UFTON NERVET PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD
VIA ZOOM
ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY, 2021**

Present: Mr D Hannington (Chairman)
Mr D Brown
Mrs P Chopping
Mr G Godwin
Mr N Bagshaw
Mr G Jones

In Attendance: Mrs F Jones Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillor Mckinnon had given his apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Forum

Mrs Maria Pagatto raised the issue of cars speeding in Shortheath Lane and Island Farm Road. The Chairman gave an update of the Council's recent actions. Speed Indicator Devices (SID) had been deployed in the village in the past and had indicated that there was a problem with speeding and that the village was viable for the Community Speed Watch scheme. However, the District Council had not been able to move forward because of the pandemic. They had sited a SID machine on a post near the playpark in Camp Road on 27 January, with the intention of collecting data for 3 weeks. It was the Parish Council's intention to purchase a SID machine with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, possibly in conjunction with Sulhamstead Parish Council. The machine would then be moved around various sites in the villages to collect data, with the hope of building a case for traffic calming measures, particularly in Camp Road. The Council were waiting for a Traffic and Road Safety officer from the District Council to visit, so potential sites and suitable street furniture (to attach the SID) could be discussed.

Mrs Christine Sullivan expressed her concerns about speeding in Camp Road and Church Lane near the school. She also raised the issue of there being no pavement for pedestrians in this area, with the poor condition of the highway leading to giant puddles. This necessitated the need for pedestrians to walk in the road and Mrs Sullivan felt it was only a matter of time before there was an accident. Mrs Deborah James commented that in her opinion it is often the parents themselves who speed when taking their children to school. She suggested that the school could run an education campaign to reduce speeding by parents. The Chairman explained that this issue had been raised in the past with the District Council and a cost of £40,000 had been indicated to create a pavement. He suggested that Mrs Sullivan work with the council to build a case with photographs for a pavement, whilst the council collected data from the SID machine.

Mrs James raised the issue of a planning application 21/00109/House, for a 2m high acoustic fence and driveway gates at Oak Lodge, Shortheath Lane, Sulhamstead, RG7 4EQ. She felt that it would not be in keeping with the current post and rail fences in situ at Oak

lodge and the two neighbouring properties and would detract from the rural feel of the area. Mr Julian Bailey, also a neighbour of Oak Lodge was also unhappy at the height of the fence where it borders Wises Firs. He had had previous discussions with the owners of Oak Lodge (Mr and Mrs Essex) who had indicated that a lower fence might be installed and undertook to get clarification from Mr Essex. Councillor Bagshaw commented that a householder was allowed to erect a meter high fence on their property. The Clerk suggested that Mr Bailey and Mrs James check their deeds for any covenants which prevented fences other than post and rail to be erected.

Mrs Maria Pogatto and Mr Peter James requested that the council use a local Facebook group to communicate with the residents of the area. The Chairman replied that the council would discuss the suggestion.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of 30th September, 2020 were approved and would be signed by the Chairman as a true record when he and the Clerk were able to meet in person.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The District Council had granted a Covid Recovery Grant to SUN school for £441. The Clerk needed to raise an invoice to claim the grant. **Action: Clerk**

6. Report by the West Berkshire District Councillor

Councillor Mackinnon had sent his report by email.

7. Planning Matters

21/00109/HOUSE 2m high acoustic fence and driveway gates to roadside elevations, positioned behind hedgerow.

The application was discussed and it was agreed to object to the 2m fence in the part that bordered Wises Firs on the basis it was not in keeping with the post and rail fences of neighbouring properties. **Action: Clerk**

8. Highway Matters

Councillor Bagshaw requested that we report the state of the road opposite the school and request that it be repaired. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Brown reported that there had been fly tipping in Ufton Lane near the canal bridge. He agreed to report it to WBC. **Action: Councillor Brown**

9. Playpark

Councillor Godwin was no longer carrying out playpark inspections, so Councillor Jones offered to undertake them once a month. **Action: Councillor Jones**

10. Finance

a. Payments

The following payments were approved:

HGS Sherfield	October '20	£118.80
Mrs F Jones Expenses	October '20	£95.43
HGS Sherfield	November '20	£118.80
HGS Sherfield	December '20	£118.80
Burghfield British Legion	December '20	£25
Mrs F Jones Salary	December '20	£261.69

- b. Review of Budget and Spending**
The budget and spending year to date was reviewed.
- c. Setting of Precept**
The Clerk presented the proposed budget which was discussed. Councillor Jones proposed a precept of £3200 and this was seconded by the Chairman.
- d. Review of reserves**
The reserves were reviewed and note was made that no CIL money had been spent as yet. However, it was anticipated that a SID machine would be purchased before the financial year end.
- e. Financial Risk Assessment**
The Clerk reminded the Councillors that the financial risk assessment needed reviewing before the financial year end. Councillor Jones agreed to undertake this as well as inspect the items on the asset register. **Action: Councillor Jones**

11. Local Matters

- a. NAG meeting**
Councillor Chopping informed the council that she would be attending the Burghfield and Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group meeting. She commented that she had received information that a number of bicycles had been stolen and a resident had had their outside wine store broken into. The Chairman reported that electric fence batteries had been stolen from the Equestrian Centre in Ufton Lane.
- b. Four Houses Corner**
Councillor Chopping enquired if the Traveller site had been cleared and if work had started on the refurbishment. The Clerk agreed to ask Councillor Mackinnon for an update. **Action: Clerk**
- c. Local Plan Review**
The Clerk highlighted that the deadline for the Local Plan Review consultation was 5th February. Councillor Bagshaw undertook to read it and inform the other Councillors of any matters of concern or need to comment. **Action: Councillor Bagshaw**
- d. Road Signs for St Mary's Church Sulhamstead Abbots**
The Chairman raised that the PCC from the church would like some road signs to give directions for visitors. The Clerk agreed to report this to WBC. **Action: Clerk**

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9th March at 7.45pm, venue to be confirmed.

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Chairman Date