**Ufton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on**

**Tuesday 7th February 2017**

**1. Record of Members Present: -**

Cllrs Baldwin (Chairman), Leeman, Crowther and Clerk Mrs J Chapman

Meeting Commenced 8.00 pm

**2. Apologises for Absence: -** Cllr Tayler

**3. Acceptance of Apologies: -** Cllr Tayler

**4. Declaration of Interests**

Councillors are reminded that they **must** act solely in the public interest and should never

improperly confer advantage or disadvantage on any person to act or gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate. None received

**5. Dispensations -** None

**6. Open Forum - (15 minutes)**

A resident of the village raised the issue of speeding vehicles down Ufton Fields, HGV’s travelling through the village despite the fact there are signs saying the road is unsuitable for HGV’s and vehicles from GRS Breakdown and Recovery, Churchlands, Harbury using Ufton Fields on a regular basis. It has also been noted the Police have diverted traffic down Ufton Fields on three occasions for various reasons. Residents queries were covered later in the meeting under Agenda item 8.5.

The lights surrounding Ufton Church used to act as a form of beacon when travelling from Leamington to Ufton, the lights can no longer be seen. All Cllrs to consider this when travelling up to the village, to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Representative Report**

County Councillor Stevens. Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has agreed an increase in the budget of 1.9% plus 2% towards Adult Services.

Cllr Stevens has £32,000 grant towards Highway projects and £5,000 for Community Grants.

Concern has been raised about admissions to Southam College as the Diocese is considering setting up a Primary Trust, however, there is no Diocese Secondary School in the area. Southam College has 270 places to offer to pupils. This means there will be sufficient places for local children leaving a surplus to accommodate pupils outside the area.

Cllr Stevens has met with Cemex. They are currently building a compound/quarry on the opposite side of Stockton Road. They will be building a 60m tunnel under the road. The tunnel will house a conveyor belt which will transport the clay to the main Cemex works, ready for transportation. Cemex hope to start quarrying in the new area in January 2018.

District Councillor Riches. Has recently had a meeting with Dallas Burston. They will be submitting a planning application for player and visitor accommodation.

The Codemasters site, ”Stoneythorpe Magna” will be coming forward for consideration in the future.

Council Tax Bills – Stratford District Council has received a larger settlement figure from the Government than they were expecting. Therefore instead of increasing the Council Tax by £5 they will be increasing it by 2%

**7. Minutes of Last Parish Council Meeting**

The minutes could not be signed as there was only one Councillor present who was at the last meeting. To be held over to the next meeting.

**8. Matters Arising**

**8.1 Dog Fouling**

Nothing to report. Item to remain on the Agenda

**8.2 Highway Issues**

Water is still “pooling” on the Harbury side of the Bascote Crossroads.

 **ACTION** Clerk to contact WCC Highways

**8.3 HS2**

Nothing to report to remain on Agenda

 Clerk has received HS2 Bulletins from WCC, will forward onto all Councillors.

**8.4 Street Lights**

Cllr Crowther is still investigating this topic. He has been advised by WCC that mercury lights can no longer be maintained following an EU Directive. When Cllr Crowther spoke to Eon Maintenance, they knew nothing about this. Cllr Crowther to report back at the next meeting.

**8.5 Speeding – Introduction of 20 mph speed limit in the village**

The Chairman advised he has spoken to the Police and they are supportive of a 20 m.p.h speed limit in the village

**ACTION** – Clerk to write to Warwickshire County Council Highways to ask for a meeting.

Ufton PC’s Speed Gun is currently on loan to Long Itchington Parish Council. The Clerk has contacted Long Itchington Parish Council to ask for the Speed Gun to be returned. Log Itchington PC believe the speed gun belongs to Southam Police. Cllr Baldwin advised the meeting it does not and he has a letter to show it belongs to Ufton PC.

**ACTION** – Cllr Baldwin to provide the Clerk with a copy of the letter.

**8.6 Neighbourhood Plan**

This was discussed at the last meeting and the Councillors present at the time felt undertakinga Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was a non-starter given the length of time it will take to put a NDP together and there were unlikely to be sufficient volunteers to carry out the work. It was agreed not to pursue a NDP any further.

**8.7 Internet Connection**

The Clerk has been in contact with Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Broadband. They in turn have contacted the Senior BT Openreach Project Manager to ask what can be done. Currently awaiting feedback.

**8.8 List of Projects within the village.**

Cllr Baldwin circulated the list of projects which have been suggested to him. Agreed all Cllrs will email the Clerk with their order of preference for the projects. Once received these will be put to the village via the Ufton Newsletter and the villagers will be asked 1) Has anything been missed off 2) Do they agree with the order of priority.

 **ACTION-** order of ranking to come back to next meeting.

**8.9 Request from Ufton Parochial Parish Council for funding towards the cost of cutting the churchyard grass.**

The Clerk read out a letter from Ufton PPC, which asked the Parish Council to consider making a grant towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard, particularly in relation to the grasscutting.

 **It was proposed by Cllr Baldwin, seconded by Cllr Leeman and**

 **RESOLVED to award a grant of £1,200.**

**9.0 Planning –** none

**10.0 Finance**

**10.1** Cllr Crowther advised an error has been made with regard to the Clerks salary for February 2017, this will be corrected in March 2017.

 **It was proposed by Cllr Crowther, seconded by Cllr Leeman and**

 **RESOLVED the following payments be made.**

Clerks Salary January 2017 and February 2017

 HMRC January 2017 £25.20

 HMRC February 2017 £34.20

 January Ufton Newsletter printing £47.52

 February Ufton Newsletter printing £27.00

 E.on Street Lighting £223.38

 **It was proposed by Cllr Crowther, seconded by Cllr Leeman and**

 **RESOLVED to reimburse Mr P Sheepy £252.00, which he had paid for the servicing of the village defibrillator.**

**10.2** Copies of the financial statement up to an including 22nd January 2017 were circulated via email to all Councillors and copies were given to the Councillors in attendance. The accounts balance apart from £0.04. The Clerk has identified the cause of the error.

**11. Correspondence**

HSBC Bank statement and Eon Invoice.

**12. Any other business**

Cllr Baldwin advised the meeting Cllr van Kesteren has not attended a meeting since June 2016. As she has not offered any explanation for her absence, which would be acceptable under the Local Government Act 1972, she ceases to be a Councillor.

**ACTION** Clerk to write to Mrs van Kesteren and advise her she is no longer considered to be a Councillor.

**13. Items for next Agenda**

Dog Fouling, Highway Issues, HS2, Street Lights, Speeding, Internet Connection, List of Projects – ranking of importance, Church Tower Lighting.

**14. Date of next meeting** Tuesday 7th March 2017.

Signed Date

Cllr C Baldwin (Chairman)