Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 29/07/2015
Village Hall – 7.00pm

Present:

Peter Hubbard, Chair, David Wing Councillor and Acting Clerk, Richard Finley, Councillor. Sue Hubbard, Note Taker. Darren Hughes, District Councillor. 6 members of Public (5 residents), 2 representatives from Banks.

1. Apologies
Andrew Mozley, (in hospital) Richard Steel (holiday)

Members accepted the apologies from RS as the holiday was booked before he became a Councillor. Members were saddened to learn that AM was in hospital and wished him a speedy recovery.

2. Declaration of Interest

PH and DW declared membership of Ulley Millennium Trust. Agreed the meeting should move first to Bank’s presentation about the proposed Penny Hill Solar Farm.

6. Presentation by Banks Renewables (Agenda item taken early)

Banks attended the meeting to provide feedback to residents following on from the Exhibition on June 25th. 31 people attended the exhibition. Biggest concerns related to the lack of commitment to restoring the hedgerows around the windfarm, and what the implications were therefore for the Solar Farm proposal. A site visit had been arranged to look at the issues.

Confirmed that they were putting in a planning application to build a 5 mega-watt farm covering 7 hectares of farm land which would operate for the life span of the windfarm. The Solar Farm would use existing infrastructure built for the windfarm. Construction was expected to take 12-15 weeks with 70 deliveries all of which would be routed out of the village. The land would be grassland planted with wild flowers to create greater diversity. An addition £5,000 per annum would be added to the funds available to local communities.

Q1. How would the site be kept tidy if local farmer refused to have sheep?
A1. The plot would be cut three or four times a year.

Q2. Height of hedgerows were insufficient to screen the site.
A2. Agreed it was inevitable that the site would be seen from some areas. Would investigate looking at using larger hedging whips for replanting.

Agreed:

- The date for site visit to look at hedges be sent to PH.
- The Council would consider the planning application once submitted and respond then. It was not appropriate for the Council to make a comment at this time.
3. **Statement of Acceptance**

Statement of acceptance of role on the Council signed by RF and confirmed by PH as Chair.

**ACTION:** Statement to be held by Clerk

4. **Minutes of the previous Meeting**

Agreed as a true and accurate record.

5. **Matters Arising**

   a) Halifax Fund. It was agreed that the Parish Council would administer this fund but that the funds should be held in a separate Bank Account. The first application for a new account had been turned down. It has been resubmitted by PH and is now awaiting approval. Proposed that the letters for Residents already prepared by the Council should now be set out.

   **AGREED:** Letters to be sent to every household and a Public Meeting to be organised.

   **ACTION:** PH to print the previously agreed letter and arrange for it to be sent out.

   b) Notice Board. Delivery expected within the next couple of weeks

   c) Stewardship Scheme: RF confirmed that local farmer managed hedges under the higher level scheme. However hedges on roadsides and garden perimeters could be cut at any time.

   **ACTION:** PH to provide a report for the next meeting

   d) Costings for Swings. **DEFERRED. RF to advise**

   e) Bark under swings: **DEFERRED. (Clerk action)**

   f) Transpar Code: PH confirmed that the code is now effectively law. It provides a governance framework and lists quite clearly what information the council needs to provide to the public to ensure transparency in the way it conducts business.

6. **See above – taken as first agenda item**

7. **Public Questions**

   (Recorded here but taken at the end of the meeting)

Q1. Parish Clerk. Have all records been returned as Clerk held all historic records?

   **A1.** Not yet but the Parish Council will do all it can to get all records returned as soon as possible.

Q2. E-mail had been sent to DW requesting public meeting to consider the Solar Farm. Why had this not happened? Concern: The funding made available to communities by Banks was only reviewed and uplifted for inflation etc every 5 years. This meant in effect that the value diminished over that time period. The Solar Farm funding was to be set up on the same basis, using the same values as used three years ago for the windfarm. It was felt that this ought to be challenged by the Parish Council.

   **A1.** DW had forwarded e-mail to the Chair who had arranged for Banks to attend this meeting, which was a public meeting, and residents had been notified of this in the newsletter and had had an opportunity to raise these points. Unclear at this stage what a further public meeting would be able to resolve, especially given the attendance levels at this meeting.
Agreed:

1) DW to write to Banks putting these points forward. Their response to be circulated
2) A Public Meeting to be held once the Planning Application for the Solar Farm had been submitted.

8. Parish Clerk

Andrew Pashley has resigned as Clerk due to other commitments. In the interim David Wing is acting as Clerk. The council now had an opportunity to review the role of the Clerk, frequency of meetings etc. This would take a while and it was agreed to offer a 2 month fixed term contract for someone (preferable an experienced Clerk) to undertake specific tasks.
AGREED DW/PH to form a task and finish group and report back at the next meeting.

9. To receive and consider correspondence

None received

10. Accounts

The Chair had been informed that the account stood an approx. £700 with the next instalment of the precept due in September. Bank account signatories need to be changed and to enable that to happen the bank asked that the resolutions on page 6 of the ‘Change of account signatories’ document be considered. The resolutions were read out to the committee for their consideration. The Chair proposed these should be accepted.
AGREED: Members unanimously agreed to accept the resolutions.
ACTION: The Document was signed by Chair and Acting Clerk. PH to return complete documentation to the Bank.

It was noted that the account was frozen until the signatories had been changed.

11. To consider any planning application received (Doc 1)

The Parish Council is now getting notification of any relevant planning applications. It was noted that one planning application for 4 Penny Hill Lane had been approved recently

12. Police in the Community

No officer present.

13. Update from Meetings attended by members (Doc. 2, 3, 4, 5)

Papers circulated for information. It was noted that the RMBC consultation exercise was not yet complete and members of the public had opportunities to be involved until September.

14. Website Update (Doc. 6)

The domain name for the website will be www.ulleyparishcouncil.gov.uk. It is expected that the site will be live shortly.
ACTION: DW to advise when site is live

15. Village Hall Insurance

PH had been given some documentation from the ex-clerk but it does not clarify what is covered.
ACTION: PH to contact Insurance Company

16. Draft Recreation Ground Lease (Doc. 7)

The Council is making good progress in taking over the lease for the Recreation Ground. Carl Battersby from RMBC has been very helpful. It has been agreed that the Council will not be charged by RMBC for surveying the site. A plan had been provided and members were asked to consider if the small piece of land to the front of the area (between the flower beds and the house boundaries) should be included so that this could also be kept tidy. Doc. 7 sets out the expected Heads of Terms for the proposed transfer. Members considered if it was necessary to engage a Solicitor in the process. It was noted that once a lease was in place the Parish Council would have full responsibility for the maintenance of both the site and the play equipment.
AGREED: 1) PH ask RMBC to include additional plot of land.
       2) Not to engage a Solicitor
       3) Council would maintain Site and Play equipment
ACTION: PH to feedback to RMBC

17. Ulley in Bloom Winter planting

Ann Rangecroft (Resident) has volunteered to source plants for winter planting. Expected costs £250. She had requested an upfront payment of £50
AGREED: £250 agreed for winter planting. £50 to be paid asap.
ACTION: Acting Clerk to note and use to inform the budget planning process when possible.

18. Broadband update (Doc. 9).

DW has established that areas like Ulley that are ‘under review’ by BT will be left to the end of the rollout period (2017). 3 options were tabled for discussion.
AGREED: Option 2 (work to be part funded by Council and residents) should be explored further.
ACTION: DW to discuss with RS and ask RS to take the lead.

19. Village Hall Electrical Inspection Fees and Heater replacement (Doc. 10)

The Parish Council is responsible for the repairs and maintenance to the Village Hall building. The Millennium Trust organised and paid for the electrical inspection and work required to get the 5 year N.I.C.E.I.C. certificate as it was essential for safety of those hiring the hall, but they would like to be reimbursed. There was also a heater that required replacing.

AGREED:
1) Agreed in principle that costs for inspection fee and subsequent work required should be reimbursed.
2) Agreed replacement heater should be funded.
ACTION: PH to confirm costs of Inspection and remedial work at the next meeting
20. **Permissive Path**

The Parish Council had been asked to consider taking action to extend the permissive path from the reservoir entrance on Ulley lane so that it emerges by the pumping station. The biggest piece of work required would be building steps into the banking. The first step is to get the agreement of both local farmers, and then liaise with DEFRA.

**ACTION:** RF to liaise with local farmers and residents to get agreement in principle. To report back at next meeting.

21. **Skip on Recreation Ground**

Building work at no 10 Main Street was due to start. Due to access difficulties residents had notified the council that a skip would be placed on the grassed area (part of the Recreation ground) at the rear of their garden.

22. **Streetpride update (Doc 11)**

DW is in close contact with Streetpride. Gullies have been emptied, dead trees removed from hedges at top of Ulley lane/Main Street. Damaged signs are to be replaced and hedges cut back from 30mph signs. The dangerous wall owned by Sam Smith’s Brewery has been dismantled but that seems to be the end of any action.

Residents were encouraged to support the Parish Council by contacting RMBC Streetpride with any concerns as well as letting council members know.

**ACTION:** DW to contact Brewery to ask for the wall to be rebuilt and seek support from Conservation Officer if necessary

23. **AOB**

1) **Village Hall Roof**

The roof has developed a large leak. On inspection it has been found that the valley lead has perished and so is letting in water. Indicative repair costs are £750 plus VAT. It may be possible to seek an insurance claim due to the proximity of overhanging trees which may have added to the damage.

**AGREED:** Obtain full Quote and set up an extraordinary meeting to consider it

**ACTION:** PH to liaise with RS to get quote.

**Date of next meeting:** 30th September 2015, 7.00pm Ulley Village Hall.

**Dates for 2015**
- 30th September 2015
- 25th November 2015

**Dates for 2016**
- 27th January 2016 (note Chair apologies)
- 30th March 2016
- 25th May 2016
- 27th July 2016
- 28th September 2016
- 30th November 2016