Ulley Parish Council
Notes of the meeting held Wednesday September 30th 7.00pm Ulley Village Hall

Present
Councillors: Peter Hubbard (Chair), Richard Steel, Richard Finlay, David Wing (Acting Clerk)
Note Taker: Sue Hubbard
Two members of Public.

1. Apologies:
Councillor Andrew Mozley (Deputy Chair) sent apologies due to continuing bad health. These apologies were considered and accepted by the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest
None were declared

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
Accepted and signed by Chair as a true record

4. Matters arising
a) Halifax Fund Account: PH still working with the bank to answer the detailed questions they required an answer to. Require 3 signatories to the account as that is stated in the standing orders. Richard Steel’s name has been added to the account so completion of set up is expected within 2 weeks. The process for bidding for funds will be sent out to all residents. PH confirmed that the Parish council will make the decision re allocating the funds, but Lord Halifax will be kept informed to ensure that the funds are used for the benefit of the whole village.
b) Notice Board. Notice Boards have been delivered. RS to work with John Monahan to get the boards erected
Action: Richard Steel
c) Stewardship Scheme details: PH confirmed that on investigation the scheme does not preclude the cutting of hedges on domestic property boundaries.
d) Costings for swings: RF still awaiting costs for a double swing for children 12+ years
Action: Richard Finlay
e) Village Hall electrical inspection fees & heater replacement costs: Still awaiting costs from the Millennium Trust. Agreed this item be removed from the agenda until costs received.
f) Permissive footpath proposal: RF confirmed that the farmers are happy to have the path extended across the field and for steps to be erected on the bank. Next step is to contact the Landlords and ask for their support. Will then need to find funding for steps and a new stile by the gate.
Action: Clerk to contact Sitwell and Halifax estates.

5. Public Questions and feedback on public questions from previous meetings:

a) Query re windfarm community funding levels:

DW had contacted BANKS and raised the questions asked. A detailed response had been sent, with an offer to come and talk to residents about the issue. BANKs confirmed that they were paying the market rate as per government guidelines. DW has e-mailed the response to the resident concerned.

Question re. the need for a barrier on the land cleared on Penny Hill Lane. Confirmed that as fencing was too costly it was planned that a hedge (Grant funded) would be planted as soon as possible.
Action: Peter Hubbard
6. Parish Clerk
Job description, person spec and a contract of employment have been developed as a good draft. Need to decide on hours of work required and level of pay. Still need some details around pension schemes if required. Working party to complete the final details on the draft documents. PH proposed an extraordinary meeting of the council should then be held to finalise recruitment details. All agreed. PH confirmed that the role could not be offered on a self-employed basis due to changes in HMRC legislation
Action: Clerk to arrange meeting

7. To receive and consider Correspondence
a) Letter: from RMBC - Parish and Town Council Winter partnership scheme dated 17.9.2015. considered under agenda item 18.
b) Letter: External Auditors require a notice confirming an audit opinion has not been issued be displayed for 14 days from 30/9/15 - received and actioned
c) Letter: from RMBC – Rotherham Local plan: Public consultation. Considered under agenda item 18

8. Accounts and Budget for 2016/17
The revised bank account is now active. Currently only two signatories to the account: Peter Hubbard and David Wing. To be reviewed once all queries on the account have been resolved. PH confirmed that the account is a linked account with money being held in a savings account and transferred to a current account as necessary. He proposed that there should be at least a £50 surplus kept in the current account in case of unforeseen expenses.

The Council has joined Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA) at a cost of £43 per annum. This provides support to councils and, through the national association, access to legal advice etc.

Current available balance in the banks accounts:
Community Directplus Account (Current Account) £107
Business Select Instant Access Account (linked savings account) £237.07

The accounts were accepted as a true record.

Internet banking: Agreed it should be applied for. Controls for using this facility will need to be in place once established.

It was felt that additional controls are also required for transferring funds from savings to current account.

The four recommendations set out on paper 2 were accepted with the above amendment to item 4.
Action: Peter Hubbard to amend and action

9. Risk Assessment
Paper tabled for Councillors to consider. Very much a work in progress and all asked to consider what should be added. To be brought back to the next meeting for further consideration. Final version will be posted on the website as one of the Council’s governance documents.
Action: All comments to PH.

10. Planning Applications
a) Siting of Residential Caravan, Penny Hill Lane for MJ Horses (applicants and Architect present)
The planning application was for an area on the boundary of Ulley Parish, but not actually in it. However the applicants wanted the council to be aware of the reasons for the application and looked for their support. The architect confirmed that the caravan would be sited away from public view, did not compromise the openness of the green belt due to the close proximity of the motorway banking and that it was essential to the continuing success of the business. Welfare and security of the horses was a major consideration for the business. Accounts were presented showing that this was a sustainable business.

The Council thanked the applicants for coming to the meeting and confirmed that the plans would be considered during the second half of the meeting.

b) Penny Hill Solar Farm.
A copy of one resident’s objections was read out as they were unable to attend. Concerns focussed on: inappropriate siting of RMBC planning notices, abuse of agricultural land, visual impact on an ancient highway – Carr lane, and the planned development on Greenbelt land.

Recommendation: a) that the Council makes no objection or
b) council objects on grounds of undue intensification of land use for renewable energy in an area of landscape value and greenbelt.

Recommendation a) was proposed by RS, seconded by DW. – Carried
Action: Peter Hubbard to write to RMBC

Request for Public Meeting. The Council had agreed to facilitate a public meeting once the planning application had been received. Date set for October 15th, 7.30 m in the village hall.
Action: Request item be included in Village Newsletter

11. Police in the Community
No comments had been received

12. Updates from meetings attended
FoCUP attended by DW. Main points of discussion were the concerns around the safety of the Pleasley Road junction. Meeting had taken place in the refurbished buildings which were now a very pleasant space.

Area Assembly attended by RS. Main points of discussion were the reduction in police and PCSO numbers, the implications this had for setting local PACT priorities and the need for crimes to be reported through 101. Presentation form housing seemed to suggest that there was funding for a skip for Ulley housing tenants. PH to check at the next area coordinators meeting.
Action: Peter Hubbard

13. Website update
The Ulley Parish Council website was now live. Domain name confirmed as www.ulleyparishcouncil.org.uk. RMBC will provide ongoing support when requested. Katy wing (Resident) has offered to help with administration pending recruitment of a Clerk.

14. Broadband update
Katie Wing had organised a meeting with the potential providers and Banks. The proposed solution should be more cost effective that that used in Treeton, but need more households to express and interest. . RS asked if there were any planning implications now the village was a conservation area – to be looked into if the initiative goes ahead. Confirmed that you would get the full bandwith paid for. RS had contacted British telecom and now had a customer no. BT solution was not to use them.
It may be possible to provide a cable ourselves but likely to be very expensive. Agreed to table update paper at the next meeting.
Action. David Wing

15. Roof Repair bid update
£900 grant agreed from Banks. Parish Council needs to pay the £90 admin fee.
Agreed. Peter Hubbard to action

16. Representation at External Meetings
FoUCP = Monthly meetings. Valuable in terms of links and feedback. Agreed representation should continue on a rota basis

Area Assembly Co-ordinators meeting – During the day so limits availability of councillors. RS and PH to try to work out a rota between themselves.

Windfarm Liaison - Peter Hubbard rep.
Windfarm Liaison Funding Committee – Peter Hubbard rep
YALC meetings - a named representative and a deputy can attend – Peter Hubbard rep.

17. LOGO
Agreed to adopt the proposed new logo for the Parish Council.

18. Any Other Business
a) Village Hall Insurance
Current insurers are Zurich. The current year’s premium is still outstanding. DW has investigated the option of adding the Millennium Trust to the insurance – not possible as would only accept if the Parish Council was the sole Trustee of the Charity. There may be other insurers who would provide this facility however the premium needed to be paid and was then due for renewal in May. Agreed this would be the appropriate time to reconsider.
Agreed: Outstanding Premium should be paid
Action: Peter Hubbard to send payment.

b) RMBC updates
Winter planning – agreed that opportunity for training etc should be offered around the village. Article to go in Newsletter.
Action. Peter Hubbard to confirm interest to RMBC

Local Plan – Noted that still an opportunity to comment on plan until Nov 9th. If anyone want to comments ley DW know by 30th Oct.
Action: All

c) Recreation Ground Lease
Amended document still with RMBC. No response received.
Action: Peter Hubbard to follow up.

d) Repair to wall on Main street.
Brewery had indicated they were not prepared to rebuild the wall now it was made safe. Agreed that the Conservation Officer should be consulted.
Action: Clerk to follow up.

Public agenda completed. Public asked to leave