

# UPPER CLATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

King Edward VII Memorial Hall Upper Clatford Hampshire

## Council Members Present

Cllr Peter Heslop, Chair, (PH)  
Karin Bennett Clerk  
Cllr Richard Bennett (RB)  
Cllr Gerry Dawson (GD)  
Cllr Liz Dawson (LD)  
Cllr Charles Eyre (CE)  
Cllr Nigel Freemantle (NF)  
Cllr Robert Hawkins (RHk)  
Cllr Richard Hydes (RH)  
Cllr Patrick Littlehales (PL)  
Cllr Cynthia Williams (CW)

## TVBC & HCC

Cllr Maureen Flood TVBC (MF)  
Cllr Susanne Hasselmann TVBC (SH) (apologies)  
Cllr David Drew HCC (DD)

- 1) **Welcome, Declarations of Interest and Public Participation** - Chairmans welcome, all councillors were present. No new declarations of interest. No members of the public chose to speak.
- 2) **Minutes of the November meeting** were agreed and physically signed by PH. With thanks to RH for preparing them in the absence of a clerk.  
Chair PH proposed the **appointment of the new clerk** Karin Bennett (KB) – all present agreed.
- 3) **Clerk's Update** – funding for clerk to attend training course agreed. Also agreed for CE to attend the same course. **Action:** Clerk to provide update on future courses available for new councillors.
- 4) **Planning** – RH confirmed there were no planning applications requiring attention at this time.
- 5) **Financial Statement** – Clerk presented current financial statement (Appendix), accepted and agreed by all present. CE asked for dates of payments to be added in future. **Action:** Clerk to revise format.  
CE advised cost of hall hire has increased. **Action:** Clerk to note for the next years' cost.  
Chalkpit Funding - CE – advised that following negotiations with the solar farm business they have generously agreed to provide more funding to support the redevelopment of the Chalkpit, expected in December 24. To better manage the funds for the Chalkpit Project and improve clarity, in future income, spend, and funds attributable to the project will be separately identifiable in the accounts. Funding already received is currently set aside in a fixed interest account which has recently matured. **Action:** CE and RB to provide an outline budget, proposed investment solution in the interim, and to work with Clerk to hive off Chalkpit spend etc within the accounts.
- 6) **Borough Councillor's Update** - MF provided an update on the provision of fuel allowance for those in need, Bury Hill Meadows tree planting, planning application to demolish the *Poundshop* centre to make way for the new theatre in Andover. Use of the Rural Prosperity Fund by TVBC. MF confirmed the recent planning application for All Saints Upper Clatford regarding replacement exterior lighting would be going to the

Northern Area Committee as a matter of process. MF expressed her thanks for everything the councillors do.

- 7) **County Councillor's Update** - DD provided updates on the new food waste collection scheme, timescale for collections will soon be agreed. Likely to be commenced in Autumn 25. Foster carers -1600 children in care in Hampshire – need for more foster parents. Cost of living support available in Hampshire is via the *Connect for Communities* scheme providing help for families who are challenged. Setting a course for economic success in Hants, HCC trying to promote the economy. The financial pressures being faced at County Council level, *empowering local government for the future is the key to tackling financial pressures* example of circa 30 people a month fall out of being self-paying in care homes relying on HCC to meet the need. Despite the pressures DD emphasised there is no risk to services.
- 8) **Playing Fields** - CW nothing to report.  
RHk – pavilion and sports field – Regarding maintenance of sports field UCYFC confirmed they are satisfied with the service received and that they have a good relationship with the providers (TVBC). Noted that the track requires work if not addressed by Rock Recycling RHk will draft a new tender and seek quotes. **Action:** update required January meeting
- 9) **Trees** – noted that some fallen tree clearance had been carried out to improve the river flow on the Pillhill Brook, assumed by the Environment Agency (EA).
- 10) **Open spaces and Footpaths** – RB referred to the creation of a new footpath proposed by HCC, no objection from the UCPC viewpoint. RB advised he has asked HCC to review the footpath entry to Bury Hill meadows from Anna Valley side and the footpath by Anna Valley playing fields abutting the Chalkpit with a view to making them safer to use. HCC have agreed to review. **Action:** update on progress at the next meeting.
- 11) **Highways** – RH advised that the road problem action tracker distributed to all councillors. Noted that flooding under bridge in Norman Court lane seems to be effective, RH has chased HCC re lineage for Watery Lane, the work has been sub-contracted but not delivered. Noted that the tracker would benefit from the addition of the location. RHk highlighted the HCC Walking and Cycling survey currently active, Clerk confirmed it is on the UCPC website. CE advised he produce a form for near misses on Watery Lane. **Action:** CE.
- 12) **Environment** – GD provided an update on the Pillhill Brook Association (PBA) annual meeting held in December noting that kick sampling in the rivers was now suspended (November to March) because of trout breeding.  
PH provided an update on Southern Water and pan parish forum, policy is under development for the area which will include the policy on discharging into the rivers not being acceptable. Not aware of any issues of this type for this immediate area but there are issues in Abbots Ann. Cllrs reported that there has been some kind of issue at St Annes Well. **Action:** PH to investigate.  
Brief discussion of the issues that had been experienced in the watercress beds in Anna Valley which are currently out of action. PH confirmed our supportive stance to the landowner.
- 13) **Defibrillator** - Clerk advised the need to have a working defibrillator that was guaranteed to ensure that the UCPC was covered from a legal liability perspective. Clerk understood the current equipment is outside of warranty, to ensure effective protection it would need a daily check which is not viable. Cllr Dawson comment if necessary council will need to suspend use. Agreed that the best option was to investigate the cost

of a new one. Noted that a member of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church has generously offered that his church may be willing to help fund this. **Action:** Clerk to research cost of new equipment and liaise with individual (Mr M Diplock and church re cost providing update at next UCPC. Clerk to verify the liability/insurance position of the UCPC regarding the provision.

14) **External Committees** - RB provided an update on the Test Valley Association of Parish Councils meeting in November. The *greening campaign* is providing the offer of thermal imaging camera for use locally to highlight heat loss for residents. To be taken undertaken by individual PC's, if interested, training will be provided. GD agreed to take on responsibility and follow this up. **Action:** GD to provide an update on progress at next meeting.

15) **Chalkpit update.** RB advised that a new design brief has now been prepared which was more consistent with the funds available. Will go back to architect Luke Rose to get designs redrawn at no further cost, will also seek other architects to provide no cost drawing . New design brief approved.

Topographical survey needed in order for architects to do final drawings. Agreed expenditure: up to £1000 (inc VAT). **Action :** Proceed with survey, GD to send Clerk topographical invoice for payment.

GD has sought quote for demolition, this has come in at an upper cost of £23,500 (ex VAT) and a lower cost of c £17,000 (ex VAT) subject to requirements/asbestos and any planning stipulations eg ecology. **Action:** GD to seek two further quotes to meet procurement requirements. Decision on demolition in February meeting. Noting that a decision to demolish will be sufficient to achieve zero rating (business rates).

Bat survey has been done but not finalised – CE will chase this. **Action:** Chalkpit Working Group (CWG) to provide statement on ecological survey finding and what is known to be required.

Rock fall survey has just been received. **Action:** CWG to provide summary of findings and any actions needed January meeting.

Re the issue of cost of electricity closing off and reconnection some discussion of a work-round to retain the connection and protect it during building to avoid reconnection cost which will be far greater than cost of maintaining the connection. **Action:** CWG to provide statement of comparison costs to enable a decision to be made.

Noted that Mike Elwell has joined the CWG as a consultant at no cost.

Fundraising – CE has put together spreadsheet of possible sources of funding for the project. Noted excellent work already achieved by CE . **Action:** CE to share funding spreadsheet

16) **Grounds Maintenance** – GD – seeking clarification re quality of delivery by TVBC. Query re what is included in the contract . **Action:** Clerk to investigate and feedback.

17) **AOB**

LD advised no information has been found on the availability of a lengthsmen scheme in Hampshire.

18) **Next meeting** - the internal auditor will need to be appointed subject to having found one in time and next year's budget will be circulated prior to next meeting. **Action:** clerk to seek internal auditor quotes, finance lead to prepare budget in conjunction with clerk.

**Appendix**  
**Financial Statement November 2024**

<b>Upper Clatford Parish Council</b>		
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 1-30 Nov 24</b>		
<b>Balance brought forward from 31 Oct 24</b>		£78,287.12
<b>INCOME</b>		
Interest business ac	£6.70	
Interest on fixed term deposit 20K	352.88	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£359.58</b>	<b>£78,646.70</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
TVBC - Grounds Maintenance	£807.15	
Village Hall Payment	£90.00	
CGL Chalk Pit Geo Survey (error duplicate)	£2,466.00	
SSE - electricity Sports Field	£78.80	
	<b>£3,441.95</b>	<b>£75,204.75</b>
<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>		
Treasurers account	£9,251.32	
Business Account	£20,953.43	
Fix Term Deposit	£45,000.00	
		<b>£75,204.75</b>
<b>Dec 24 Forecast Payments</b>		
Maintenance	£807.15	
HCC Street lights Apr-Sep 24	£1,050.80	