

Minutes of the meeting of Utterby Parish Council held
Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 6.00pm – held remotely with Zoom



Record of Members Present:

Present - Cllr Alan Woodward (AW) (Chair), Ann Van Spall (AVS), Cllr John Mackin (JM), Cllr Nicola Mackin (NM) and Cllr Jackie Woodward (JW).

Not Present – Glenda Thorndycroft (GT) and Terry Buckley (TB),

In Attendance - Clerk Maria Vincent and Cllr Edward Mossop (ELDC).

42 Apologies Received

Glenda Thorndycroft (GT) and Terry Buckley (TB)

43 To receive any Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

None received.

44 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 2nd September 2020 as correct and for the Chairman to sign a copy forthwith.

45 Council Matters, Actions and Communications

a) **Chairman's Report** – Cllr AW stated that this meeting had important items on the agenda. Since the last meeting he had met with Colin Horton the ELDC Tree Officer (report later).

NB: at this point 6:14pm Cllr AVS left meeting with technical issues returning at 6:18pm.

Further the Chair reported that he had also attended an online meeting ref Benson Court (on agenda) and that the Parish Clerk had joined Cllr JW on a two-hour walk of the entire village to all boundaries as the Clerk often struggled when Councillors were referring to different areas regarding reports/complaints.

b) **Clerk's Report** – Nothing to report that wouldn't be covered in agenda items.

c) **LALC Report** – The Clerk referred Councillors to the report she had emailed with the meeting's supporting papers.

Communications – The Clerk reported a number of communications had been received.

- Firstly there had been three emails/letters of complaint regarding the pruning of the Willow tree on the Village Green and that this should not have been cut having had a TPO on it, and no permission being given by ELDC or the Parish Council. This would be covered later in the meeting.
- An email had been received regarding the state of the roads, in particular Church Lane, requesting we ask ELDC road sweeper to clear the smashed conkers. This was considered by Councillors and was **RESOLVED** that it was not considered any worse than usual, that the rain would soon clear it and no action be taken.
- A request had been received to ask if the Parish Council was interested in nominating a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Co-ordinator as the post was now vacant. As no-one came forward a 'call out' would be added to the Utterby Voice.
- An email had been received from the Fotherby CAV (countryside access volunteer) to say he had now relinquished his post.
- An email had been received from LCC to say some refurb work had taken place on the Packhorse Bridge info sign, but another coat of paint would be added.

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46 Finance and Budgets

a) **Payments** - It was **RESOLVED** to accept and pass the payments for October: Woodward Peat and plants £42.48; David Buckley hedge and tree cutting £150; Staff Salary and expenses for September 2020 £240.76; Glendale Countryside Ltd Verge and grass we £230.40; DW Gibbs October bus shelter cleaning £20.00 **TOTAL £683.64**

b) **Finance Report**

The Clerk Reported: Our spend to date, not including October's payments is £2,411.60 – last year at this time it was £3,046.61. Bearing in mind our precept was £8843.84, we now have over twice the budget of the current precept in our account and this is a concern.

I estimate that spending on items that we have to pay until the end of March 2021 will be: Salaries £1200, Verges and Village Green Grass Cutting (through to end Oct then in mid March) £500, Hedges £80, Bus Shelters £100 - Estimated total Oct-end March = £1880 plus Utterby Voice print cost (unknown but likely to be £100).

Expected expenditure	£1980.00
October payments	£683.64
Current spend to date	£2,411.60
TOTAL Spend (estimate)	£ 5075.24

This decrease to date in spending is due to the lack of expenditure on the village hall hire rate and also because we have not spent much on the village Tidy Up - all due to COVID. I have asked LALC for advice regarding the 2021/22 precept and if they are expecting any requests for 0% increases by District Councils due to government spending on COVID. NB: Quarterly monitoring check to be carried out by Cllr AW the following day.

c) **Consideration of budget and precept implications for 2021/22**

Councillors discussed the issues of not having spent the budgets this year on the likes of signage, village hall hire, and the Tidy Up mainly due to the Covid Crisis and lockdown. The considered the implications looking at either increasing, decreasing or keeping the precept for next year at 0% increase. They discussed projects that could be considered still for this year, ie tree care and seating for the village green. Clerk to put together a sample budget for each variable (increase, decrease and 0). Cllr Edward Mossop to ask ELDC for guidance on precept caps for 2021/22.

47 Planning

a) **Updates to previous planning applications** – The Clerk reported that the Methodist Chapel application had been approved. She confirmed we had still heard nothing regarding communications to ELDC ref Templeton. Cllr Edward Mossop to ask Planning for progress.

b) **Any urgent planning issues** - None

48 Parish Council Amenities (bus shelters, village green, etc)

a) **Welcome Pack** – No new residents.

b) **Utterby Tidy Up Campaign** – The Clerk reported that the previous contractor for planting daffodils was no longer willing to undertake this due to the danger of working on the A16. Clerk to ask DB. The Clerk also reported that Mole Man had placed traps on the Village Green but that many had been 'taken'. He would re-bait the ones on verges the following day.

c) **Verges**– Mole Man to re-bait the traps on verges the following day.

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- d) **Village Green** and e) **Village Trees** – Cllr AW explained that he met with Colin Horton, ELDC Tree Officer (Cllr JW took notes). Cllr AVS asked why all Councillors had not been invited and that they all should have been invited. Cllr AW stressed it had been a fact finding exercise to review the trees in the village which Mr Horton had kindly agreed to do without charge to the Parish Council. The Clerk explained that Cllr JW had gone purely to take notes. See Appendix 1 for report. Cllr AVS was disappointed that ivy on trees had not been considered in the report. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would put out for quotations for the tree-work raised in the report and also received quotes for new trees (decent size) and two seats to be placed on the Village Green. Further to the issue with the cutting of the Willow tree, as the Tree Officer had stated, no work should have been done on this as a TPO and it is protected, only the Parish Council contractor should undertake work on it following a TPO application.
- Cllr JM was concerned with some of the hanging branches of trees on the pathway. Clerk to ascertain location of these trees and also to write to owner of trees that block visual on junction of Church Lane and A16.
- e) **Village Trees** – see above
- f) **Kissing Gates** – It was **RESOLVED** to get quotes for renewing/refurbishing the Kissing Gates onto Church Lane.
- g) **Millennium Seat** – It was **RESOLVED** to get quotes for renewing/refurbishing the Millennium Seat which was in very poor repair.
- h) **Utterby Voice** – It was **RESOLVED** to delay the production until January 2021 so that photos of Christmas events could be included.
- i) **Bus Shelters** – In good order.
- j) **Notice Board** – It was **RESOLVED** to receive quotes to refurbish the notice board including new Perspex.

49 ELDC/LCC Services (Streetlights, Bins, Highways, Verges, Footpaths, etc

- a) **Updates on previous issues** – Following no replies from the owner of the fishing lakes land or LCC regarding the dog bin which was overflowing, Cllr Edward Mossop agreed to take a look and see if he could track down the ownership of it.
- b) **Packhorse Bridge** – some refurb work had taken place on the Packhorse Bridge info sign, but another coat of paint would be added.
- c) **Speed Signs in Village** – the Clerk reported that she had again followed up on the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership RADAR signs – one not working (Louth end) and one intermittent (Grimsby end), that she had reported in July 2019, but had been told to now report it on Fix My Street. Further the Clerk suggested that it may be that the Parish Council consider getting their own Speed Radar Sign if the current one could not be mended, and suggested the type that were solar and where stats could be accessed from online cloud accounts. This system would allow the Parish Council to report more fully on speeding along the A16.
- d) **Benson Court** – Cllr AW reported to Councillors that a meeting had taken place between Platform Housing Group, Cllr E Mossop (ELDC) and himself (Chair of UPC) and a number of other ELDC representatives. Cllr Mossop reported on the meeting. That of the 21 units, 9 were empty and occupants did not have connections with the village as originally when those releasing farm cottages etc, would move there. Platform Housing said that there was low demand for these units and they would be speaking with the current residents to gauge their feedback as to staying in the units or moving. There would be a survey going out to all residents of Utterby and that the Parish Council could help in the distribution of this before any decisions were made.



50 Notifications

- a) None.

51 Date and time of Next Meeting

- a) Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday November 4th 2020 – time and meeting type to be confirmed nearer the time.

The meeting finished at 7:18pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

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Appendix 1

Chairman of Utterby PC meeting with Tree Officer September 2020

I met with the ELDC Tree Officer Colin Horton for an information review of the trees in the village with particular reference to trees on the Village Green and down Church Lane.

It is worth mentioning that the map of the TPOs and numbering of the numbers of trees has no bearing on the map and work done by the previous tree surgeon and the work they did after the survey. They do not tally.

- Mr Horton was not concerned with the condition of any of the trees in Church Lane except for an overhanging branch in the garden of the 3rd house down on the left from A16.
- We could as a Council ask the owner to remove the offending branch or we could pay to have it removed with their permission. We can discuss this as a council.
- Enquiries were made as to who owned certain trees in Church Lane, house owners or highways, and who would be responsible should any work be needed or damage be caused. A map could be acquired by paying £3 to Land Registry (NB this only covers one property at a time). We could address any queries with trees and boundaries by asking ELDC.
- The Millennium Oak can have a few branches trimmed to allow access to the seat underneath.
- Trees were inspected on the Village Sign site and Mr Horton suggested that a number of stakes should be put around the small tree to protect the bark from mowers.
- Trees were inspected on the Village Green. The Willow tree should not have been trimmed without permission, it has a TPO on it. He recommends quite major work in order to preserve it for the next 10 years. It does NOT need to be felled.
- All trees, except for the Willow and the Ash, were considered to be in good condition. The Ash tree has the beginning of Ash Die Back.
- He suggested planting two trees where we have lost three trees on the Village Green/A16 in addition to any other trees we decide to plant.
- The small trees are doing well, he suggested cutting a branch off a small tree in order for the main branch to thicken and encourage foliage. These small trees would also benefit from stakes around them to prevent mower damage.
- The tree behind the village hall which is causing concern for the village hall committee was deemed to be healthy and the work already done should not impact on the tree as it stands. If it were to fall, it would fall in the field.

It was a valuable and worthwhile meeting and cost the Parish Council nothing.