

UPPER CLATFORD
ANNUAL PARISH (VIRTUAL) MEETING
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH 2021
AT 7.30 PM OVER ZOOM

Present:	Speakers: Cllrs P Heslop (Chairman), PC J Foley and PC T Allen (from Item 3), R Bennett, C Eyre Attending: 10 Parishioners, Members of the Public and, TVBC Ward & HCC Cllr Minutes: C Emmett Parish Clerk
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1.	Apologies for absence Nil	
2.	Chairman's Introductory Comments The Chairman for the meeting, Cllr P Heslop welcomed all attendees to the meeting and welcomed PC J Foley from the local police and asked her to give an overview of crime in the area and policing activities.	
3.	Update from Local Police (PC J Foley) PC Foley introduced herself as the Beat Officer for the Test Valley District working out Stockbridge. She gave an overview of crime in the local area which was minimal and tended to non-dwelling related, involving farm and household out buildings. She suggested preventative measures should clear deterrents such as signage, lighting alarms etc. There were a few other crimes noted in the area including a car thefts and thefts from cars, little drug activity or 'County Lines' gangs in the villages but more so in the town. When asked about reports of dog thefts, PC Tim Allen joined the meeting and indicated that social media had blown this out of all proportion and that locally and throughout Hampshire figures were extremely low. When it was suggested by a member of the public that there was a reluctance to report, the Police Officers stressed the need to report to ensure they are aware of local crime and can build a picture of any trends. It was also noted that a crime number is given and needed for insurance claims. The best methods of reporting low level or suspected crime was to use the Hants Police website or phone 101. In response to a question regarding the number of local beat officers it was reported that numbers had risen from one to four over the last year and a further two were expected later in the year. There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked the Officers who then left the meeting.	
4.	Parish Council Annual Report a. Overview – (Chairman Cllr P Heslop) Welcome everybody to the 2021 Annual Parish meeting, and particularly to members of the public. I'm Peter Heslop and I've been Chairman of your Parish Council since June 2017 having been re-elected to the Council in May 19 and voted into the Chair each May thereafter but would be happy for other Councillors to stand for the role if they so wish! I am again pleased to say we still have the full quota of 10 Councillors. In this very odd year of enforced isolation, lockdown and restrictions on all of us, I was very pleased to see the volunteering spirit is alive and well within the Parish and that many of you registered with our COVID-19 Support Group and have been providing help to those in need. Thank you. I have asked Cllr Richard Bennett, who has been co-ordinating this effort, to give a brief update later in the meeting. Despite lockdown, the Parish Council has continued to operate by holding monthly meetings on-line over the internet. The links to these meeting are published at the foot of each Agenda which are always displayed on the Parish Notice Boards and website. The meetings may be on line rather than face-to-face, but of course they are still public meetings. Do please feel free to join us and listen in. Your views are very welcome at the meetings, by direct contact with Cllrs or via email to the Clerk who will pass them on to us. We are well supported by 2 Anna Ward Test Valley Borough Councillors, Maureen Flood and David Coole (who is also one of our Parish Councillors) and our local Hampshire County Councillor, Andrew Gibson. I would very much like to take this	

opportunity to thank them all for their support this year including making grants towards 2 of our projects this year: The Speed indicator sign and a Taskers railing monument we are having commissioned at the moment. I feel it is appropriate to single out and acknowledge the years of support given to all parishioners and local residents by Andrew Gibson, who will be standing down from Hampshire County Council and not seeking re-election in May 21, after many years of service at the County Council which has included holding several of the more challenging portfolios. Many thanks and best wishes for the future, Andrew.

I will now try to keep my brief short as Cllr Eyre will be giving a quick review of the NDP progress which now only awaits your approval at a public Referendum to be held very soon, and I know Cllr Eyre has some hot-off-the-press information on the referendum which he'll share with you in a moment. I have also asked Cllr Richard Bennett to speak on support for parishioners he has been co-ordinating during these difficult times of COVID-19.

.As a Council we manage and maintain the small plots of land we own around the parish including the 2 play parks, the sports field and pavilion, The Green and the old Chalk Pit. We also look after several small plots given to use by the developers in Anna Valley which we aim to keep as public green spaces to be enjoyed by all by keeping the grass and hedges cut and the play equipments in a serviceable condition. This year we have done some work on the pavilion and garage store on the sports field and are looking to improve the trackway there next year. Cllr David Coole leads in this area. We have also made provision in the budget to progressively replace the wetpour child safety surfaces in Bawksbury Bridge PF. Cllr Andrew Wilson keeps an eye on things in BBPF and Cynthia Williams on the equipment at AVPF. Cllrs Ann Lockhart and Richard Bennett have oversight for our trees.

We are routinely invited to comment on all planning applications related to the Parish. The Planning Committee, led by Cllr Nick Shah, have been doing this by reviewing applications on-line and making appropriate comments to TVBC by email. There are 2 wider areas relating to Planning which are currently of concern to the full Parish Council:

- The first concerns the Cowdown Solar farm (one of the largest in the UK) which lies predominantly in our Parish. As part of the developer's case supporting the original Planning Application back in 2014, a generous Community Fund was promised to be paid to the community if the development went ahead. That promise has never been honoured, and the developers now claim that the offer was withdrawn due to local objections before the solar farm was built. It is a matter of public record that no such objections were made. The Parish Council continues to pursue the developers to make good on their original promise and we would be very interested to hear from any parishioners who remember being consulted about the Solar Farm back in 2014.

- The second concerns the ability of the Parish Council to have some oversight on development or change of use of lands now designated as Local Green Space around the north of the parish, and we are working closely with TVBC to ensure that our Local Green Spaces are adequately protected for future generations.

In line with plans expressed last year, and with grant funding from both TVBC and HCC we have purchased a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which is regularly moved by Cllr R Bennett to various key locations on the entry roads to the villages. This, device coupled with '20 is Plenty signs' seems to be helping remind drivers of the need to take care throughout the built-up areas in the parish. With the increase in numbers of people exercising on foot and by bike around our area due to COVID, better road safety can only be a good thing. To that end we are also exploring the possibility of developing a 'Permitted Footpath' between Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford to improve pedestrian safety.

Our accounting year ends at the end of March. Spending details are published in the minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meetings. This year we anticipate spending approximately £37,000, slightly below the anticipated budget and despite an unexpected increase of over £2000 for grounds maintenance when TVBC were asked

to step-in and replace the selected contractor who felt unable to continue due to COVID-19. Fortunately, this was offset by a grant for NDP work that we had not anticipated. This expenditure is met from the Precept (£15,680), rent from the Old Chalk Pit (£10,300 plus), VAT refunds (£3,035) grants (£4844) and a contribution from the parish reserves (estimate £1640). Next year we have planned on a similar spend and hope to do more work at the sportsfield and possibly work on the Clatfords footpath. To cover this we will be raising the precept by a modest £390 but, unless we can secure grants, the parish reserve funds will be contributing about £4500.

Now over firstly to Charles Eyre who has led the tremendous effort on the development of our Neighbourhood Development Plan. Following that Richard Bennett will update you on our Covid 19 support activities

b. NDP Progress Report (Cllr C Eyre)

The NDP process has been slowed up and then stalled over the last year, due to COVID restrictions. The Public Consultation on the Draft NDP closed on Tuesday 10th December 2019. That provided us with a Draft which could proceed to Regulation 14 (TVBC Consultation) and then Regulation 16 (Independent Examination). David Hogger, The Independent Examiner, issued his independent report on the examination of the Upper Clatford Neighbourhood Plan on 10th November 2020 which identified areas where the Draft NDP needed to be updated or amended. None of these amendments were significant enough for the Parish Council to feel that they could not be accepted.

Today, we can confirm that all amendments and updates have now been made, and the Draft NDP was amended to reflect these changes and this "Referendum Ready NDP" has now been finalised and has been placed on www.upperclatford.com.

The Referendum is set for 6th May 2021, coinciding with the other elections on that day for the Crime and Police Commissioner and Parish Councils elections. TVBC will be publishing all the information regarding the Referendum on the TVBC website on 17th March, which will include the referendum plan, examiners report, and information statement.

The Referendum is conducted in accordance with procedures that are similar to those used at local government elections, and The Chief Executive of Test Valley Borough Council is the Counting Officer. A simple majority of votes (over 50% of those voting) in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan is sufficient for it to succeed. Under relevant Regulations, TVBC may not promote the outcome of the referendum but the Parish Council may as can and the Ward Councillors, as long as TVBC resources are not used. This allows the Parish Council or any other group to campaign for a yes vote in favour of the Plan. These campaign groups have to operate under the rules within the above regulations and register. So, campaign groups and UCPC may inform and encourage parishioners to vote in favour of the NDP. Please do vote on the 6th May 2021

As Chair of the Steering Group I would like to thank those who have worked so hard, notably: The Steering Group members, Richard Bennett, Nick Shah, David Coole, Andrew Wilson and Ann Lockhart; the Working Groups comprising many residents who worked hard to produce the Evidence Statement and a special mention to Hollie Folkard-Tapp for her expertise and work on the ecology aspects; our Planning Consultant, David Nicholson (DJN Planning Ltd) and Sarah Hughes of TVBC both of whom guided us through the process and Julia Shah for social media promotion.

Any questions?

	<p>1. Will Postal Votes be allowed? Yes, those registered for postal or proxy votes may use them in the Referendum.</p> <p>Peter Heslop then personally thanked Charles Eyre for leading this tremendous effort.</p> <p>c. COVID-19 Support (Cllr R Bennett)</p> <p>The COVID-19 Community Support Group was formed in March 2020, and over the past year in excess of 200 members of our Parish Community have pledged their support to Parishioner's seeking help throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The peak demand was during the Spring 2020 lockdown period when over 50 individuals or families requested support and were linked up with respondents in their immediate locality, who assisted mostly with shopping and prescription collections. Various other initiatives to support community wellbeing were arranged through the Group in the early stages of lockdown, such as communicating food outlets (Nick and Julia Shah) and coordinating plant deliveries from a local nursery (initiated by Nicki Crosthwaite-Eyre). Greenfields Farm Shop also provided a dependable food ordering and delivery service. The Group has kept in touch with the community via the dedicated Parish website page (maintained by Charles Eyre) and mailshots to its members, and has also worked with the TVBC support group, Unity. Demand for support has much reduced under COVID-19 restrictions in 2021 but a few volunteers have continued to provide care and assistance. The kindness of volunteers throughout the past year has been heartwarming and all are thanked enormously for their sustained generosity during this pandemic, which will hopefully soon be greatly alleviated by the ongoing vaccination programme.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked him for his report and efforts</p>	
5.	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>a. Database.</p> <p>i. A parishioner asked if the database created for the COVID-19 support could be maintained for other uses? No. The Chairman made the point that under GDPR and Data Protection rules, personal information can only be retained or used for the specific purposes it was gathered for. Seeking wider permissions for use of that data from those registered is being considered prior to closure of the Support Group.</p> <p>ii. Charles Eyre suggested the same extension of use of data held for the NDP might also be sought. The permission and evidence of same applies as above.</p> <p>There being no further questions the Chairman thanked those attending and declared the meeting closed.</p>	

Meeting Closed at 8:12 pm