



DRAFT Minutes of the Urchfont Parish Council (UPC) Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 in the Village Hall. Version 2

Present: Councillors: Day (GD – Chairman), Botham (MB – Vice Chairman), Hill (TH), Cowen (LC), Cottell (PC), Creasey (GC), Kemp (MK), Hollyman (MH), Stevens (DS), Cottle (SC), Kinnaird (LK)

Clerk to the Council: Lunn (BL)

Councillor for Urchfont & The Cannings: Whitehead (PW)

Members of the Public (for all or part of the meeting): Mr R Mistlin, Mr D Myers, Mrs K Wale, Mr R Hawkins, Mr R Gillington, Mrs S Houlden, Mr G Houlden, Mrs L Duggen, Mr N Duggen, Mrs B Myers, Mrs B Potter, Mrs V Day, Mr P Cook, Ms N Hammond, Mr R Ellis, Mr S Holt, Mr M Smith, Mrs S Smith, Mr M Taylor, Mrs A Blunden, Mrs C Cannon, Mr E Hale, Mrs R Corke, Mr A Crouch, Mr I Smith

A. Introduction

1. Welcome by the Chairman – GD welcomed all councillors and members of the public to the meeting, noting that the agenda is long but will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

2. Apologies – None, all present

3. Presentation by Urchfont Community Shop – Richard Mistlin thanked UPC for the invitation to speak and began by outlining the history of the shop. The idea was initiated 20 years ago by Ted Collins, but took five years to find accommodation and set up trading arrangements before opening in February 2005. Its 15th Anniversary will be celebrated shortly. He went on to make the following points:

- A management committee supported by various managers and a lot of volunteers run the shop seven days per week throughout the year.
- The written report made by a councillor for the December 2019 meeting was very misleading and inaccurate, it was considered potentially very damaging for the shop and the community. Statements on stock were misleading, stock is regularly checked to ensure that it is not out of date and meets the needs of customers. One of the other shops quoted as having closed is in fact still trading. The shop is always willing to consider suggestions on alternative / new products.
- Whilst newspapers are regularly collected from the shop, many of those customers do not buy anything else despite encouragement from staff.
- Estate agents emphasise the benefits of the shop when selling houses.
- Whilst there are 55 volunteers on the books, the shop needs more even for short periods of 3 hours or less. Full training will be given. Additional managers are also required.

David Myers emphasised that the Community Shop is a convenience store, villagers will inevitably do their larger weekly shops in local supermarkets. He then went on to give some further facts as follows:

- 15% of people visit the shop just to buy a newspaper, although newspapers actually represent 30% of the business.
- The number of customers has fallen by 6,500 since 2015, down from 44,000 in that year. If this downward footfall trend continues then the shop will make a loss in the future.
- Subject to audit the shop only made a trading surplus of £300 in the last trading year.
- Turnover in the last trading year was £100,000, down £2,000 on the previous year.
- Running costs are fairly static thanks to 5-year fixed deals for things such as electricity and others kept constantly under review and reduced where possible.
- Promotional activity is ongoing to encourage people to use the shop more, adverts in Redhorn News for example.
- The shop in Rowde, which is much more of a dormitory village, closed recently. Lack of staff / volunteers was one of the contributory factors.
- It would appear that some customers expect the shop to be open when weather conditions / other factors are bad, maybe not so interested at other times.
- More customers and volunteers are needed

GD quoted from a recent newspaper article which indicated that a community shop in Broughton which only opened in the last two years already has a turnover of £245,000, can any lessons be learned from this to try and improve the Urchfont situation. The Community Shop in Urchfont was identified as the No 1 community asset in a survey for the neighbourhood plan, this should still be the case especially as the Parish population is increasing. GD thanked Richard and David and confirmed that UPC will continue to promote the shop where and when possible.

4. Proposal on Response to Climate Emergency – A proposal submitted by Katherine Wale (KW), a resident in the Parish, had been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting and is reproduced in the Appendix 2 to these minutes (on website only). KW opened the discussion by stating that articles in the December and January editions of Redhorn News had indicated that the Parish Council of Charlton St Peter and Wilsford had adopted an environmental policy and are encouraging villagers to sign up to the WC Green Pledge following recommendations from their working group. In addition the UK Government and various levels of local government, including Wiltshire, have already published policies recognising the climate emergency. The Government is currently on track to fail its 2050 carbon neutral target. If a number of local councils sign up to make a green pledge, then this would be newsworthy and highlight the emergency to a wider audience. She has spoken to a number of people within the Parish who all appear keen to help and have asked what they can do. KW emphasised that we should all do the best we can with what resources are available.

In response to a question from GD, KW confirmed that she had not attended the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting when UPC presented its Long Term Strategy which included environmental initiatives, some of which have been progressed. GD suggested that this could be widened to embrace the suggested working group activities and initiatives. LC indicated that UPC should get more involved, LK liked the idea of a working group to move things forward. The Strategy should be aired again at the next Annual Parish Meeting on 29th May 2020 to which KW should be invited to attend and contribute.

PW clarified the fact that WC had agreed to seek a 2030 carbon neutral target for Wiltshire (which is not controllable), but that a second motion agreed that Wiltshire Council will be carbon neutral by 2030 (controllable). WC is encouraging people to sign up to the Green Pledge.

TH made the point that knowing what to do is the key issue for most people, he asked whether KW could provide a list. KW can provide a list but did not have one currently available. MH asked whether WC is likely to introduce food waste recycling in the near future. PW said that whilst this is environmentally friendly in an urban scenario, it is not in a rural area where composting is considered a better option.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconded	Resolution
To adopt a Green Policy on the basis of what can reasonably be achieved and with what resources are available.	GD	LK	AGREED Unanimously

B. PLANNING – See separate minutes

C. FULL COUNCIL MEETING

1. Declarations of Interest – TH declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 7

2. Time set aside for Public Participation and External Reports

Mr Smith commented that Foxley Fields and its predecessor buildings had originally been known as Crooks Piece in memory of a former land owner. He suggested that UPC should consider adopting this name for the new Uphill site instead of the proposed 'Yardlands' – see item 8 below.

Mr Hawkins indicated that he would like to speak when agenda item 6bv is discussed, this was agreed.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2020

Proposal	Proposer	Seconded	Resolution
To approve and sign the minutes unchanged as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	GD	MB	AGREED Unanimously

4. Action List Status Review and Update Reports from the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2020 – BL reported on outstanding actions as follows:

i. Seek a quote for a Wi-Fi hub in the Duck house to facilitate Scarecrow Festival card reader use – discussions are ongoing between BL and DS to establish the best way forward, installation of and monthly charges for a hub is going to involve significant costs up front and ongoing annual costs basically for 3 days use per year, other options of enhancing the card reader 4g capacity or piggy backing on to an existing private house Wi-Fi nearby are being considered.

ii. Obtain Tree Quotes for works from last survey – SC reported that he has obtained initial quotes from a local tree surgeon which appear to involve significant costs. Critical and other urgent works recommended by the previous survey have been completed, it is the lessor priority work that needs to be addressed now. However, as it is normal for a tree survey to be repeated every 3 years we have now been approached by the previous surveyor, Astill Tree Care, to carry out a new survey this year. SC recommended that UPC obtain a quote for a new survey before embarking on any further tree surgery works.

BL to obtain a quote for a new survey to be carried out as soon as possible and before any further tree surgery takes place.	SC	GD	AGREED Unanimously
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ACTION: FC/07/20 - BL

iii. Japanese Knotweed in Old School Lane – MK reported that as the Knotweed is not currently visible, the decision had been taken not to report it until its presence can be definitively established.

iv. Install CPRE shield on Old Post Office – DS will undertake this shortly, he has the shield.

v. Lydeway Historic Milestone Damage – PC reported that the stonework does not appear to have been repaired as expected, he will contact WC again.

vi. Investigate Wedhampton / A342 footpath signage with WC – PC reported that this has been raised with WC, he is awaiting a response.

5. Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation as at 31st January 2020 - Having distributed these documents prior to the meeting, BL reiterated the points made in his written report below. No points of clarification or questions were raised.

6. Lead Councillor, Working Groups, Clerk & other Written Reports (See Appendix 1 attached on website only)

a. Clerks Report – BL referred to the fact that whilst the pedestrian crossing signs had been installed immediately either side of the informal crossing by Crooks Lane, he had received comments from members of the public that they may have been installed too close to the crossing to attract driver attention early enough. He has reported this to Highways.

b. Councillor Reports

- i. Ash Tree Dieback on Salisbury Plain Training Area – no further update
- ii. Farmers Field Update – no further update
- iii. Urchfont Pond Update – no further update
- iv. Highways Update – see Agenda Item 10 below
- v. Crooks Lane Working Group Update – a letter from Richard Hawkins on this issue had been distributed to all councillors on 11th February 2020.

Chairman closed the meeting for public participation

Richard Hawkins referred to his letter and re-iterated his view that the Uphill development site should never have been included in the UWLNP. The fact that the site was included and that the UWLNP was amended at TIC1, not in accordance with the Independent Inspectors recommendations, is now passing the task of facilitating the footpath to UPC instead of being the responsibility of the developer. This erroneous shift of responsibility is reflected in Informative Clause 20 in the WC Planning approval document for this site. TH agreed with Mr Hawkins' comments and that the 'community aspiration' sentence was incorrectly added after Policy TIC1. Although frustrating, sadly, TH did not believe that the Plan could now be amended. Mr Hawkins asked the Council to ensure that such a situation is not repeated in any future neighbourhood plan preparation.

The Chairman re-opened the Council meeting

7. Crookwood Lane Lay-By Project – TH reported that at the request of Mr Geoff Potter, the approved contractor for this project, a meeting was held on 29th January 2020 between Mr Potter and Mr Malcolm Beaven of Wiltshire Highways. Also present at the meeting were TH, MB and MH. The meeting was to discuss and clarify certain technical aspects of the project and in particular to establish the road and lay-by boundaries. Following discussion, the boundary of the road and the (north) edge of the layby was identified as in line with the end of edging stones at the entrance to the School Drive. Using this point as the reference point it was identified that a 1m tarmac strip was required along the full length of the layby (57m) to act as a ‘vehicle run off’ strip to allow any two vehicles passing in opposite directions on the Crookwood Lane single carriageway, sufficient space to manoeuvre. Mr Beaven stated that this strip will need to meet WC Highways specification, as will the rest of the lay-by works. This 1m strip would reduce the lay-by subject to special surface material to an area of 4m wide along the full length of the lay-by (57m).

BL then reported that the chosen contractor had submitted an updated quote of £27,400 + VAT (originally £19,716 + VAT) based on the clarified parameters = +£7,684. This is still considerably cheaper than the other three quotes originally gained for this project based on original surface requirement etc. by between £2,423 and £8,080. On the assumption that councillors will accept that this quote reflects ‘change control’ under the approved contract rather than requiring a new overall tender process, then councillors are asked to approve the new quote to facilitate commencement of works.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconded	Resolution
UPC accepts that the revised surface specification should be considered as ‘change control’ under the approved contract award and that the revised quote of £27,400 + VAT is accepted.	GD	MB	AGREED Unanimously

BL was tasked with revising the contract document on this basis and instructing the contractor to commence works once confirmation has been received from WC that they agree the new specifications in the revised quote.

ACTION: FC/08/20 – BL

8. Uphill Development Street Name Proposal – BL reported that QDOS have requested UPC to approve the proposed name of YARDLANDS for the new Uphill development, UPC approval is a WC requirement. It is understood that the proposed name had been suggested by the owners of the land. Councillors could not understand the relevance of this name to the area. Councillors considered the proposal from Malcom Smith (see Item 2 above) and felt that this should be suggested to QDOS.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconded	Resolution
To reject the ‘Yardland’ proposal and propose Crooks Piece to QDOS	SC	DS	AGREED Unanimously

ACTION: FC/09/20 - BL

(BL Post Meeting Note: Having left the meeting prior to this item, Mr Roy Ellis (land owner) subsequently advised that ‘YARDLANDS’ is the historic name, going back to at least 1764, of the field in which the new development is being built. ‘Crooks Piece’ is also shown on the 1764 map identifying the land on which Foxley Fields is built today.)

9. Urchfont Pond – Fish – MB reported that the recent pond survey identified that the biggest problem that remains is the number of fish for the reasons outlined in his written report attached to these minutes. There is a need, therefore, to significantly reduce the fish and to deter the public from dumping any new fish into the pond. This can be achieved by;

- i. wading into the pond and catching the fish with nets, which will in itself stir up the silt more, or;
- ii. by getting a quote to electrically stun and collect the fish by boat for relocation elsewhere.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconded	Resolution
To obtain a commercial quote to electrically stun and collect the fish for relocation.	MB	TH	AGREED Unanimously

ACTION: FC/10/20 - MB

10. UPC Highways Review - Further to the February written report on the village highways issues, MB and MH met with Richard Dobson (RD) Area Highways Engineer Devizes and Pewsey on 10th February to discuss the UPC report and formulate an action plan which is summarised below.

- i. Blocked gullies / drains will be cleared by Wiltshire Sewers discretionary service. MH has sent them all the locations requiring attention. RD will liaise with his colleagues in Wiltshire Sewers to schedule a date for the works to be done. GD requested that the ditch along Crookwood Lane to the west should be included in this as one of his neighbours has reported a continual problem there.
- ii. White lines and yellow zigzags will be repainted on a date to be advised. The works will take place in late March or early April depending on the weather.
- iii. RD will review the items on the report relating to potholes, worn carriageway surfaces and other defects such as ruts, sunken manholes / gullies etc. and arrange for those that fall within the council's criteria as requiring repair to be resolved.
- iv. RD suggested that the spare topsoil from the Cuckoo Corner layby project should be used to repair the verges in the vicinity of the pond and at top green. He will arrange for the Parish Steward to transport the soil to the sites etc.
- v. RD volunteered to accompany MB and MH on their next and future village highway surveys enabling reporting and repair to become more efficient and create an immediate understanding of items within and outside of the criteria for repair.

BL asked whether the above included the significant and dangerous pothole state of the road leading to Redhorn Vedette, MB confirmed that RD had agreed to visit this road after their meeting to assess the work required.

MB recorded UPC thanks to Malcolm Beaven and Richard Dobson for their very prompt and positive response on these issues.

11. Annual Parish Meeting (29th May 2020) – GD confirmed that he had invited the new Devizes Councillor, Danny Kruger MP, and is awaiting a response. PW will also be invited to speak. Katherine Wale will be invited to attend as will representatives of clubs and organisations in the Parish.

12. Village Green Risk Assessments – BL reported the following:

All risk assessments have been reviewed jointly by PC and BL in the light of updated information / actions completed, some risk and residual scores have been downgraded as a result.

It is intended to issue the updated Risk Assessment Forms and Risk Control Forms (showing revised scores post completion of mitigation action) to Lead Councillors for the following areas to manage / complete residual actions and carry out ongoing reviews:

- Recreation Ground
- Cemetery
- Village Greens
- Farmers Field

Examples of action needed to fully mitigate high scores are:

- Pond Green – a lifesaving throwing line is still considered necessary?
- Cemetery – clear statements need to be made to and confirmation received from funeral directors regarding their expected compliance with BRAMM and ICCM regulations
- Administration – Contingency planning needs improvement
- Farmers Field – a rigid cover still considered necessary for the open culvert, sharp edges on the metal shed need to be covered and generic risk assessments need to be completed for operational activities prior to activity (in particular for tree felling)
- Recreation Ground – issues and recommendations in the ROSPA report need to be completed (new signs have been prepared, supplementary swing supports installed – working party to be organised shortly to undertake minor repairs)

13. Proposal for a Firework By-Law – BL presented the following comments and suggestion:

- Buying and use of fireworks is subject to national law and guidance given by Gov.UK, HSE and The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

- Fireworks are random, origin of an individual firework is unlikely to be traceable
- I have not been able to find an example of an existing firework by-law elsewhere
- Preparation for any by-law requires prior community consultation and approval by Secretary of State
- Policing of any by-law would be the key issue
- Suggest it may be better to issue an advisory note in Redhorn News prior to any known firework night pointing out vulnerability of thatched properties and the need for extra care?

Proposal	Proposer	Seconded	Resolution
To reject the bye-law proposal as inoperable and facilitate the suggested advisory note in Redhorn News and on the website	GD	PC	AGREED Unanimously

ACTION: FC/11/20 – BL

14. Stolen Post Box at Friars Lane / Uphill – TH reported that he had been approached by Malcolm Smith who had already written to the Post Office reminding them that the post box had been stolen some while ago and that this caused inconvenience to some in the community. Increased housing in the area will make the situation worse. Mr Smith has been advised that if a new box is not installed by the Post Office within 25 weeks of his enquiry, then it should be assumed that the request for replacement has been rejected. UPC is not required to take any further action.

15. UPC Emergency Policy and Plan – BL had distributed updated versions of these documents to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconded	Resolution
To approve the updated versions of the Policy and Plan	GD	SC	AGREED Unanimously

16. Update on Current Parish Issues not covered by above agenda items

- GD reported that the Community Bus Committee had agreed to contribute their financial share of costs to Redhorn News this year, but will withdraw thereafter. It will be up to Redhorn News to consider options for making up any shortfall from 2021.
- GD reported that UPC had received 4 emails from residents of The Orchard complaining about inconsiderate use for long term parking of non-resident vehicles. UPC have advised, in line with policy noted at the last meeting, that this is not a matter for the Parish Council and that residents should individually or collectively consider approaching the community police or WC anti-social behaviour team.

17. External Meetings – GD reported that he had attended the CATG meeting on 4th February, this is a self-supporting group with a small budget which has been exhausted for this financial year. LK reported that she had attended the last Area Board meeting, the minutes of that meeting have been circulated to all councillors.

18. Councillors’ Reports and Items for Future Agenda – GD summarised the items to be included in the March agenda as follows:

- Proposed move of 20mph signage in Crookwood Lane
- Proposal to establish a green working group
- Recording Parish Memories
- Food Waste Re-cycling
- Parish verges

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.48pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 11th March 2020 in Urchfont Village Hall Conference Room commencing at 7.00pm

a. CLERK'S REPORT

1. Update on Clerk's actions from January Meeting

FC/02/20 – Submit PRECEPT demand - The PRECEPT demand agreed at the January 2020 meeting (£50812.73) was submitted to WC on 20th January 2020 ahead of the deadline date.

FC/03/20 – Publicise decision to discontinue skip service – This decision is included in the February edition of Redhorn News and on the website.

FC/04/20 – Proposed bus shelter / seat near Crooks Lane – added to potential project list in the UPC accounts.

2. Finance – Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation is distributed to Councillors with this agenda. Accounts are in good order, but still with negative Reserve indicated at the end of March 2020 due to the fact that CIL monies (£19,716) have not yet been transferred in respect of the lay-by project due to the delayed start date.

3. Pedestrian Crossing Signs – The new 'pedestrian crossing' signs either side of the informal crossing on the B3098 near Crooks Lane have at last been installed by WC.

4. Duck House and Pond Green Water Supply – The water supply to the Duck House was connected by Wessex Water on 22nd January 2020 following installation of the internal compound tap facility by Cllr Stevens. The isolatable extension of the water supply across Pond Green for event use (e.g. Scarecrows) will be installed in due course, this element to be arranged and funded by the Scarecrows Committee.

5. Village Green Risk Assessments – Cllr Cottell (who generated the risk assessments) and I got together to review and update his assessments on 30 January 2020. I will report the outcome under agenda item 13 above.

Bob Lunn, Clerk to the Council

b. Councillor Reports

i. Ash Dieback on Salisbury Plain Training Area.

I attended a meeting on behalf of UPC on the 17th January 2020 hosted by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), the purpose of the meeting was to explain to MOD tenants and Parish Councils within and adjacent the Salisbury Plain Training Area what actions will be taken to manage Ash Dieback disease.

To protect the future of uninfected Ash trees, the DIO together with its strategic partner, Landmarc, is undertaking a tree-felling clearance scheme to remove infected trees, beginning in early 2020.

There is no cure or treatment for the disease and over time infected trees will weaken, causing branches to fall and trees to eventually collapse and die. This presents a significant health and safety risk, especially alongside roads, public rights of way and woodland areas used by the public for recreation activities and military personnel for training.

Infection can lead to the death of young trees in just two to three years and of mature trees within three to five years. Approximately 14,000 trees have been affected by the disease across the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

To protect the public and estate users, DIO foresters and ecologists are working with Landmarc, the Forestry Commission and Natural England to inspect and remove infected trees. A replanting scheme will also take place to replace lost trees with a range of native tree species in accordance with the requirements of the Felling Licence. The DIO and Landmarc are working closely with Wiltshire Council to manage the effect on roads and any potential road closures.

The work will take place in phases and should be completed in approximately three years, with tree health surveying and monitoring continuing once felling is complete. The first phase of felling will target Ashdown Copse and along the A345 (Amesbury to Upavon) and will run until the end of March 2020, when work will stop to protect nesting birds. Phase two will begin in September 2020 to continue work at Ashdown Copse as well as other locations where Ash Dieback has been identified.

The works along the A345 will involve overnight closures and extensive traffic diversions will be put in place to minimise disruption to the Highway network. This may result in some increase in traffic volumes through the Parish during the period of the road closures.

The trees will be felled using purpose-built machinery which makes the operation safer for all concerned. Felling by operative and chainsaw will only be considered when all other options for felling have been considered and will be risk assessed on a tree by tree basis.

Further information is available at www.gov.uk/dio

Cllr Graham Creasey

ii. Farmers Field Update

Pete Rotherham and Jeff Vickers have now completed their chainsaw training course and been awarded their certificates. They both found the course stimulating and instructive.

The final session took place on location at Farmers Field which helped to make a considerable contribution towards felling of the 81 trees that need to be removed during the period up to the end of March, when it must cease due to the bird nesting season.

Pete Rotherham has completed a seven-hour Emergency First Aid for Forestry Workers course. Two additional members of the team hope to complete the same course within the next month.

The first felling session is due to take place on Saturday February 8. Full measures will be taken to ensure safety for Pete and Jeff and also for all those attending to help remove the fallen timber, branches and "brush". Farmer's Field will be closed to the public during this period.

So far, the training and purchase of equipment is well within budget.

Cllrs Maria Kemp and Lewis Cowen

iii. Urchfont Pond Update

1. A further application of 250Kg Of SILTEX was made to the pond. Thanks to David Stevens for his assistance
2. 2kg of winter bacteria and enzymes were added to the pond
3. A further application of SILTEX will be made in February
4. These actions are necessary to reduce the blue green algae count to less than 20,000 cells per millilitre of pond water. So far we have reduced the cell count from 100,000 + cells to 25,000.

Fish

The fish in the pond will be discussed as an agenda item. However, the reasons for having the fish on the agenda are as follows:

- The fish will eat the new growth on pond plants
- The majority of the fish in pond are bottom feeders resulting in:
 - The muddy turbid appearance of the water
 - Nutrients being released from the silt in the pond encouraging the rapid growth of algae.
 - High Ammonia levels in the water.
- As the pond becomes a more favourable habitat for newts, toads and frogs etc. their success in colonising the pond will be limited by the number of spawn etc that survive the voracious appetite of the fish.

Bernice Brewster, consultant to UPC, advises that the fish are now the main issue affecting water quality in the pond.

Cllr Mark Botham

iv. Highways Report

1. Cllrs Botham and Hollyman met with Malcolm Beaven (Area Manager, Highways North, Wiltshire Council) on Wednesday 29th January.
2. Malcolm was provided with a copy of the highways report and its associated maps.
3. Malcolm took on board the fact that there was a lot to do to get Urchfont's highways up to a satisfactory standard. He took the view that the best way forward was to work through the actions described in the report without the need to enter each one on the My Wiltshire App. Once the actions have been completed reporting will revert to the My Wiltshire App.
4. He volunteered to pass the report on to Richard Dobson (Area Highway Engineer, Devizes and Pewsey), a meeting with Richard has been arranged for 09:00 on 10th Feb to go through the report and develop an action plan.
5. The Severity of the potholes in the road up to Redhorn Hill is such that this item will be treated as a separate project rather than a line item in the report.
6. The WC Parish Steward is scheduled to fill in minor potholes in the village at the end of the month. However, it may be that Richard Dobson includes these in the overall schedule of works. Cllrs Botham and Hollyman will work with Richard to determine which potholes if any should be undertaken by the Parish Steward and advise Bob Lunn accordingly so that he can submit the Steward requirement to WC.
7. The ongoing damage to the verges in the village was discussed. Malcolm advised that it is possible to get an S 142 licence which enables those whose homes border a verge to conduct repairs / improvements to it (at their own cost). Cllr Botham has applied for a licence and is also investigating an S 142 licence for the Parish Council.

Cllrs Mark Botham and Martyn Hollyman

v. Crooks Lane Working Group Update

Further to the Minutes of the last Parish Council held on the 8th January 2020 a constructive meeting was held with the developer's project manager (Mr Paul Newman) to discuss the project and the implementation of Informative 20 in the Planning Consent, the meeting was attended by Councillors Creasey and Hill and the Clerk Mr Lunn.

Mr. Newman indicated that the development will eventually generate a total CIL payment in the order of £80,000. A proportion of this money can be earmarked for infrastructure schemes within the Parish, such as the cost of providing a footpath along Crooks Lane. Under current arrangements, Wiltshire Council initially receives 100% of this money, but then transfers up to 25% (approximately £20,000) to UPC. Each party then decides how to spend its respective share. The developer does not currently envisage any further contribution to activities outside the Uphill site boundary.

At the meeting a number of ideas were examined and as a result further discussions with other stakeholders will be arranged to explore the feasibility of implementation.

A further update on progress will be issued in due course.

Cllr Graham Creasey

Proposal for Urchfont Parish response to Climate Emergency Issue

Residents in Urchfont Parish are concerned about the Climate Emergency. Urchfont Parish Council is invited to pass a motion recognising the Climate Emergency and to adopt an environmental policy in support of the Wiltshire Council Climate policies and plans.

Background

On 8 October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a Special Report on the state of climate science. They warned that if the planet warmed by 1.5 degree C there would be devastating consequences across the globe, such as the loss of most coral reefs, and increased extreme weather such as heatwaves and floods. The consequences of allowing a 2 degree C warming would be truly catastrophic. Given that the planet is currently heading for 3-4 degree C warming, even keeping to 1.5 degrees C warming requires radical global changes across energy, land, industrial, urban and other systems to reduce human induced emissions.

Despite (or perhaps driven by) the absence of any climate change measures in the 29 October 2019 budget, pressure from people from all walks of life across the UK has forced climate change to climb the political agenda at all levels of government and to become a focus in news media.

In November 2018, Bristol and Manchester both passed motions that declared a 'Climate Emergency' and set targets aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 and 2038 respectively; this year, Nottingham has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2028. Their decisions have been echoed by councils across the country, with Wiltshire Council declaring a Climate Emergency in February 2019 and pledged to make the county of Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council carbon neutral by 2030. On 1 May 2019, the UK Parliament followed the lead of these local councils, unanimously approving a non-binding motion to declare a climate emergency and called on the government to adopt more ambitious targets for reaching net zero emissions.

Across the country Town and Parish Councils are declaring the Climate Emergency and taking action as they see fit. Helpfully, Bath and North East Somerset and Friends of the Earth have produced guidance for smaller councils, including how grants and support for sustainable energy installations may be obtained.

More locally, Aldbourne Parish Council declared a climate emergency in October 2019, following the recommendations of the community's volunteer group 'Carbon Neutral Aldbourne', which is working with local children to influence change. In November 2019 the Parish Council of Charlton St. Peter & Wilsford recognised the emergency and resolved to take action. One or two more councils following suit in the Vale of Pewsey would be newsworthy and may attract wider support.

Canvassing a handful of residents in the Parish has revealed many more who are keen for local action and leadership in the face of the Climate Emergency.

Proposal - That Urchfont Parish Council agrees a motion to help Wiltshire Council to deliver its Climate Emergency plans and policies for the county to be carbon neutral by 2030 by:

- a. adoption of an Environmental Policy, whereby climate and ecological considerations are at the heart of every decision made.
- b. taking a leadership role in Environmental and Climate activity in the parish.
- c. establishing a Working Group to:
 - i. encourage and assist personal actions to reduce consumption by individuals in the Parish (such as Reduce/Reuse/Recycle)
 - ii. Investigate, initiate and promote community environmental action (such as hedges and tree planting, noting the substantial effort in the eastern end of the Vale of Pewsey)
 - iii. bring Parish, Governmental and Non-Governmental public bodies / voluntary and community organisations together to exploit opportunities to deliver climate and ecological objectives (such as subsidised solar panels on community assets such as the church).

Peter Newell - Peppercombe
Rosemary Winckley - Uphill
Debbie Alden - Crooks Lane
Malcolm and Sue Smith - The Croft
Richard Bromley - The Paddock
Katharine Wale - New End

5 Feb 2020