

Upper Rissington Parish Council

Village Hall, Wellington Road, Upper Rissington, Gloucestershire, GL54 2QW

Telephone: 01451 810839, E-mail: clerk@upperrissington-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Wednesday 15 July 2020, 7pm via Zoom

Present:

Declan TORRIS (Chairman)

Don BOWIE

Samantha BROADHURST

Kelvin WALKER

Vaughan TAYLOR

Nigel MOOR

Absent:

Amos PEEK (Vice Chairman)

Christine HIGGS

Russell MCCANN

Andrew MACLEAN

In attendance: Kath FINCH (Covid 19 co-ordinator).

Members of the public: 4

19/20 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Peek, McCann and Maclean sent their apologies.

20/20 **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman declared an interest in item 27/20 purchase of line paint.

21/20 **Applications for Dispensation**

There were none.

22/20 **Public session.**

There were no questions

23/20 **Report from the County Councillor**

The full report has been put on the PC website. GCC has joined the new Countryside Climate Network and has considered ways to decarbonise highway activities, improve infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians and progress has been made on a countywide electric vehicle strategy. The council has switched to buying 100% renewable electricity for buildings and assets and emissions for 2019/20 show a 70% reduction from 2006/7 levels.

Emergency Active Travel - the DfT has given Gloucestershire £321,757 for emergency pop-up walking and cycling improvements. 4 trial schemes are Bath Rd in Cheltenham, Bourton village centre, Tewkesbury High Street and London Rd Gloucester. GCC and CDC are working on a range of 10 schemes to introduce

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social distancing in town and village centres to improve safety to residents and visitors.

GCC are looking to forward purchase their sustainable green energy needs to ensure they can get the best possible prices to minimise financial risk.

Recycling – GCC want to keep the recycling centres booking systems to ensure safety for staff and visitors and are working hard to make access is as high as last year. At present, Fossecross is performing at 70% compared to last year. Next week cabinet will be asked to approve plans to renew the contract with Ubico for running the councils Household Recycling Centres. The recommended option is to award Ubico a new 5 year contract with an option to extend to 7 years. The sites are performing well with over 60% of all waste taken to the sites being reused to recycled. The council will work with ubico to increase this figure.

Food recycling has increased, since 2008, from zero to 23,000 tonnes. The black bin residual waste still contains around 25% food waste which could be collected and recycled.

Public transport – social distancing pressures on public transport are a challenge. To protect the sector from collapse the council has been supporting operators by paying 90% of contract rates and concessionary scheme reimbursement whilst services have been reduced. At the same time operators have received support from the Government through the Job Retention Scheme and a Commercial Bus Services Support Grant.

The medium-term impact of COVID19 on an industry which is key to tackling climate change and improving access to essential services remains uncertain as 90% of public transport trips are made on formerly commercial services and many school bus operators traditionally rely on income from coach excursions. As the COVID19 Recovery grows concerns were raised regarding peak time bus service capacity. As pupils return to school, shops reopen and furloughed staff return to work bus service frequencies have been increased back to or close to former levels. However with only 20-25% of normal capacity, buses become full very quickly so people living further along routes may face being unable to board, not just at peak times. This risk should be considerably mitigated by a reduction in the 2m social distancing rules and the requirement to wear face coverings on public transport.

A417 Missing Link- Highways England's Road Investment Strategy 2 programme confirmed funding for the A417 Missing Link. Highways England have confirmed that the A417 Missing Link scheme will not be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to commence the Development Consent Order planning application process in May/June 2020. This will now affect the scheme's delivery

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programme. Further information is awaited.

24/20 **Report from the District Councillor**

Cotswold DC have overturned their decision to build the new Waterloo multi storey car park in Cirencester and will wait for a year to see if there has been a lasting change to parking demands due to Covid-19. This will also give them time to look into alternative public transport options. As the main objector in the council debate on the original decision, I welcome this news that they are having second thoughts about wasting so much of our money on a white elephant project.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the amazing community groups in Upper Rissington that, together with similar groups in the other Rissie's has meant that all our residents have felt so supported through the lockdown. Well done all. BUT please be aware that our scientists are predicting a second wave in late Autumn/Winter so please be ready to step up again if things start kicking off again.

No more news from Cotswold DC on the potential planning application.

Cotswold DC are planning to go ahead with a consultation about management companies looking after public spaces in new housing developments in the district and whether it should be allowed. Our experience here together with the new estates in Moreton and Bourton will be important evidence. I will alert you when it is actually launched.

25/20 **Approve and sign minutes of previous meetings**

It was AGREED by all councillors to approve and sign the minutes from the previous 2 meetings.

26/20 **Approve the AGAR 2020.**

Councillor Bowie has been approved as the Deputy RGO and the AGAR 2020 was approved by all.

27/20 **Approve the purchase of a can of line paint.**

All approved the purchase of a can of line paint to spray 2m safety distances on the grass at the zip wire.

28/20 **Agree to issue New Tender for Grass cutting contract for 2021**

It was agreed to advertise at the end August 2020 for bids by mid October 2020 for the new tender for grass cutting.

29/20 **Approve budget to repair picnic table**

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A budget of £126 was approved to replace the damaged picnic table in Folland park as it was cheaper to replace than repair.

30/20 **Finance**

- a. 27p interest received
- b. Payments in the schedule were approved.

31/20 **Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting via Zoom 7pm 24 July 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the Minutes [19/08/2020]