

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Adam Biscoe.
Telephone: 07753-739636
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Minutes of the Uley Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2025 commencing at 7.01pm. The meeting was held in the Uley Village Hall, The Street, Uley.

PRESENT: Councillors: Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva (Chair), Cllr. Tony Mills, Cllr. Geoff Keen, Cllr. Sean Sage, Cllr. Juliet Browne (Vice Chair).

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. Wendy Thomas (GCC), Footpath Officer Bill Bramley and approximately 7 members of the public.

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Cllr. Tracy Mason-Fayle, Cllr. Jo Dee, District, Cllr. Martin Percy (SDC).

2. To receive any declarations of Interest

- a. Cllr. Sean Sage: Playground User Committee
- b. Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva: Allotment Association

3. Representation from members of the public

- a. Fop Street Bus Shelter CCTV sign. **Action** Cllr Juliet Brown to report back on CCTV Sign on Fop Street Bus Shelter.
- b. Planning Application S.24/2150/FUL. See Agenda Item 12 below.
- c. Listing the Old Crown Inn as an Asset of Community Value. See Agenda Item 7. Below.

4. To approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting held 4th December 2024

The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, including progress with outstanding actions not included on the agenda

Date of meeting and agenda no	Action	Who	By when	Update 7th January 2025
02/10/2024	Parish Council to continue considering the pub being registered as a village asset.	UPC		See Agenda Item 7
02/10/2024	The Council to request the views and feedback of local children on	Cllr Mason-Fayle	Spring 2025	No update. On-going

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	the playground via the VN			
11/24. 6	Cllr Paraskeva to contact SDC Housing Department to discuss future disposal of car park.	Cllr Melanie Paraskeva	December 2024	Done: Alison Fisk (SDC) couldn't comment until all studies of Knoll had been completed. Biodiversity linkage may be a consideration as SDC sites reviewed together.
11/24. 9	Cllr Sage to discuss playground maintenance budget for playground.	Cllr Sage	02/12/2024	See Item 14 below.
11/24. 12	Remove Shani, Tim and Janet as from Unity Bank and add Cllr Sage and Adam Biscoe.	Cllr Mills	15/11/2024	Complete, except registering Cllr Sean Sage with Unity Bank. On-going
11/24. 13	Cllr Keen to report back on Electric Bicycle Hub.	Cllr Keen	02/12/2024	No responses received to date. Cllr Geoff Keen will ask Becki Hughes to publicise via Uley friends Facebook Page. On-going.

6. To receive an update from the Chair of Uley Parish Council

- It is unlikely there will be any formal response from Stroud District Council regarding re-development of the Knoll until Feb/March 2025.
- UPC Chair and Cllr Martin Pearcey (SDC) to attend a meeting with Diocese at the Vicarage with regard to possible affordable homes development on 22nd January 2025. **Action:** Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva to report back to Council outcome of meeting with Diocese regarding any possible redevelopment of the Vicarage site.

7. Listing the Old Crown Inn as an Asset of Community Value

- The Council had received a letter from some residents requesting the Council apply to Stroud District Council to have the Old Crown Inn listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The Council noted

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that there had not been other representations requesting listing. No members of the public present spoke to this agenda item. Cllr. Sean Sage reported he had met with the Landlady of the Old Crown Inn on 3rd January 2025 and heard that she has plans to further develop the business and had no intention of selling the property. In the absence of two Councillors, it was considered not timely for the Council to vote on listing the Old Crown Inn as an ACV and that the matter would be discussed further at the February 2025 meeting. **Action:** Clerk to write to Anna Summers noting that listing the Old Crown Inn would be an Agenda item for the 5th. February 2025 meeting.

8. Updates from County & District Councillors

Cllr Wendy Thomas and Cllr Martin Percy's written reports are attached at Appendix 1 and 2 below.

Cllr Wendy Thomas noted the following matters:

- a. A report on use made of the Robin on demand bus transport.
- b. Overcrowding on the No. 65 Bus in the mornings. To date, Stagecoach (the operators of the bus) had not agreed to use a larger bus or add another service unless it is funded by GCC. MP Dr. Simon Orpher has written to Stagecoach about this matter.
- c. Noted that GCC Cabinet were having an extraordinary meeting to discuss the English Devolution proposals contained in the UK Government White Paper on Thursday 9th January. Significant implications of the proposal are that the responsibilities undertaken by SDC would in future be undertaken by GCC or a Mayor covering Gloucestershire and a neighbouring County. Cllr Wendy Thomas thought it was unlikely there would be any direct impact on the responsibilities of UPC and that implementation would be some years away.

9. Clerk's Report

- a. This was approved and the clerk was thanked for introducing it.

10. To receive an update on highway and footpath matters

- a. The following temporary road closure was noted: part of the 401473 Elcombe Road, from outside the property known as 'No. 28' to outside the property known as 'Elcombe Farm', for a distance of approximately 95 metres. From 15th to 17th January 2025.
- b. Footpath Officer Bill Bramley reported cutting back small branches and some larger branches etc on certain paths.
- c. Cllr. Juliet Browne noted that George James is planning to remove a tree stump on Lampern Hill that has the potential to move and so disrupt access.

11. Playground matters

- a. Playground budget: Cllr Sean Sage has contacted some local companies to quote for undertaking maintenance of playground. It was noted that Charlie Kee used to do playground maintenance, but this had passed onto his son Rob Kee. Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva agreed to contact Tim Martin for Rob Kee's number and pass it on to Cllr Sean Sage. Juliet suggested contacting Robin Coates. Cllrs asked for a schedule of maintenance. **Action:** Cllr Sean Sage to report back with an estimate for annual Playground maintenance.

12. To consider the following Planning Applications:

- a. S.24/2150/FUL Erection of perimeter fencing & access gates. Stouts Hill, Lampern Hill, Uley, Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5BT Erection of perimeter fencing & access gates. Respond by 9 January 2025.

Councillors noted the right of householders to enclose their land, but emphasised this should be in a way that was sympathetic to the setting. Cllr. Tony Mills has previously circulated an analysis of the application.

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It was agreed that the application was inconsistent and sometimes contradictory or unclear. The Council would object to the application on these grounds and encouraged the applicant to re-apply. **Action:** Cllr. Juliet Brown to circulate a detailed response to S.24/2150/FUL planning application prior to submission to Planning at Stroud District Council.

13. To note any Planning Decisions by Stroud District Council

- a. S.24/1980/TCA T1 Apple: Reduce in size by approximately 1m to improve canopy shape. T2 Magnolia: Crown reduce by approximately 30% (1 - 1.5m). Consent
- b. S.24/1980/TCA 12 South Street Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5SS T1 Apple: Reduce in size by approximately 1m to improve canopy shape. T2 Magnolia: Crown reduce by approximately 30% (1 - 1.5m). Consent.
- c. S.24/2147/T5DAY 5 The Green Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5SN, T5DAY - Removal of Oak Tree (T4). Approved

14. Finance Report

a. Summary

Cashbook and Bank balances continue to reconcile and the Precept/Reserves Available ratio has reduced from 11.3 months in November to 10.8 months at the end of December. This is due to having to use some non-earmarked reserves for the VAS signs. This is, however, still a reasonable level of reserves and nothing to be concerned about.

Overall spend remains well within budget primarily due to the lack of Clerk salary payments since August. This is now in hand and January should see a back payment made to our new Clerk.

Precept Budget

December's Precept report reinforces the expectation that there will be an underspend overall for the budget at the end of the financial year, despite some minor overspends in some areas. The main areas and reasons remain the same as stated last month.

As we move closer to the end of the financial year, we will consider how the underspend is best allocated and where and how much is put into ear-marked reserves which will enable their easier release should circumstances dictate that is the action to take.

Precept Budget spend stands at 55.62% of the total budget which is well below the pro rata spend rate of 75% for this month of the financial year.

Cllr Mills to write a report summary for the village news in due course.

General Reserves Budget

£2,132 of Uley CIL ear-marked reserves and £1,543 of non-earmarked reserves were spent as part of the payment for the VAS signs. There were no other reserves payments in December.

Looking forward

The draft budget presented at the December meeting has been revised to £34,062 – an increase of approximately £500 on the previous year. Because of an increased population liable for the precept this means a £1.24 decrease for a Band D household compared to 2024-25. The budget was approved and the precept

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was set at £34,062. **Action:** Clerk to submit Precept Request form to SDC before 31st January 2025. **Action:** Cllr. Tony Mills to prepare a summary of Precept and Budget for February edition of Village News.

b. Monthly Payments

Three payments were approved for payment. It was also agreed to recompense Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva for the cost of the £25 thank you gift to the editor of the Village News. Prior approval was also agreed to cover the Clerk's salary for November and December 2024.

- c. Good progress has been made with updating key holders of Unity Bank. Cllr. Sean Sage details to be added.

15. To receive any reports from PC Representatives.

- a. Cllr. Juliet Brown (Flood warden) requested Cllr Wendy Thomas (GCC) encourage a joined up approach by the flood management team and Highways Department at GCC to flooding. Recent rains had undone recent highway resurfacing on Lampern Hill. SDC site visit offered and Cllr. Wendy Thomas suggest Gary Wilson from highways to also attend. Cllr. Juliet Brown to liaise with Cllr Wendy Thomas to progress a holistic approach to flooding and road highways. **Action:** Cllr. Juliet Brown to discuss recent flooding from the lake at their property with the Chisolms.
- b. Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva reported that the Allotment Association tenants had all paid their rent for 2025 and would be paying £500 into the UPC Unity Bank Account by way of rent at the next mtg. **Action:** Clerk to ask Charles Goldingham (allotment landowner) to raise an invoice for £500 to the Parish Council for 2025 rent. **Action:** Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva to pay in a cheque to Uley Parish Council from the Allotments Association.

16. To consider articles for the Website and Newsletter

- a. Details of Robin Bus Service
b. Thank Robin, Sarah and Bobby Coates for recent work relating to storms.
c. Response to recent flooding
d. Link to parish and district council responsibilities checklist.

Actions Resulting from 7th January 2025 Meeting

Date of Meeting and agenda item No.	What	Who	When
7 th January 2025 Item 3.1	Report back on CCTV Sign on Fop Street Bus Shelter.	Cllr. Juliet Brown	5 th February 2025
7 th January 2025 Item 6	Report back to Council outcome of meeting with Diocese regarding redevelopment of the Vicarage.	Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva	5 th February 2025
7 th January 2025 Item 7	Write to Anna Summers noting that listing the Old Crown Inn would be an Agenda item for the 5 th . February 2025 meeting.	Clerk	15 January 2025
7 th January 2025 Item 12	Circulate a detailed response to <u>S.24/2150/FUL</u> planning application prior to	Cllr. Juliet Brown	9 th January 2025

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	submission to Planning at Stroud District Council.		
7 th January 2025 Item 14	Clerk to submit Precept Request form to SDC before 31 st January 2025	Clerk	By 31 st January 2025
7 th January 2025 Item 14	Prepare a summary of Precept and Budget for February edition of Village News	Cllr. Tony Mills	5 th February 2025
7 th January 2025 Item 15.a	Cllr. Juliet Brown to discuss recent flooding with the Chisolms.	Cllr. Juliet Brown	5 th February 2025
7 th January 2025 Item 15.b	Clerk to ask Charles Goldingham (allotment landowner) to raise an invoice for £500.	Clerk	By 31 st January 2025
7 th January 2025 Item 15.b	Pay in a cheque to Uley Parish Council from the Allotments Association	Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva	By 31 st January 2025

Uley Parish Council is opposed to discrimination in any form and at all levels and is committed to take all steps within its power to counteract it. We wish to create an environment where all forms of discriminatory or oppressive behaviour unacceptable and to provide community leadership in promoting tolerance, understanding and respect. Please note that this meeting may be recorded / TCA.

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Appendix A

District Councillor Report – Dec 24

Council meetings

Council – 13th Dec

- The council agreed to Ubico the waste collection company to explore new opportunities.
- Approve the schedule of revised polling districts and polling places for Hamfallow and Randwick and Westrip Parish Councils.
- The Council agreed to the purchase of the commercial units at Brimscombe Port from St Modwen Homes with a budget of £630,000 added to the Council's Capital.
- Agreed the appointment of additional independent members.

Housing Committee – 10th Dec

- The committee approved
 - a) the full depooling of rents and service charges from 01 April 2025;
 - b) Agree to a service charge cap for Flat block Communal Areas of £12 (to be reviewed each year);
 - c) Include an increase of £100,000 to the Tenant Support Fund in the proposed budget for three years to mitigate the impact of depooling on tenants in financial hardship;
 - d) Include an additional Housing Officer for two years within the proposed budget from April 2025.

- There are 96 homes remaining for delivery in the current approved programme, including the three 'Swedish house sites' where an architect has recently been appointed.

Environment Committee – 5th Dec

- The Committee approved the future collection of household batteries and vapes/e-cigs at the kerbside and the introduction for the collection of small electrical items at the kerbside to improve recycling rates.
- The Committee endorsed the Repair and Reuse proposal to make repair more affordable, through tax reductions and repair vouchers.
- Expanding the UK's right to repair regulations to cover all consumer products, strengthen design standards and remove barriers to repair for everyone.
- Introducing a repair index to help the public choose more repairable and durable products.
- Introducing requirements and targets for reuse and repair to be prioritised over recycling and providing investment to make this a reality. This should be a key part of amended extended producer responsibility rules.
- Supporting a new generation of repairers through repair training, accreditation and apprenticeship.
- The committee approved CIL funding for 1) Feasibility Study for a new Cam Doctors' Practice to receive £5,880; and 2) Feasibility Study for Cam Health Hub to receive £15,000. For approved at the S&R Committee.
- The committee agreed to continue support for the current strategy of management of open spaces and amenities on new residential developments.

To better support the role of our Parish and Town Councils in their communities

- by:
 - Providing them first-refusal (along with the District Council) for any open spaces and amenities delivered on new residential developments in their community.
 - That legal agreements established during the planning application to protect step-in rights for the District, Town, Parish Council, should they wish to manage at a later date if management companies fail to meet their obligations.
 - To protect freehold residents from the financial and legal liabilities afforded management companies / agents.

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- To improve the quality, delivery, and sustainability of open spaces and amenities to adoptable standards on new developments across the district.
- Walking & Cycling report showed continued interest in schemes and the Wotton-Kingswood-Charfield Greenway detailed design and Standish multi user path detailed design and construction, which will form part of the 26 mile Bishops Cleave to Stroud Cycle spine. More information on walking and cycling is on the SDC at <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/projects/walking-and-cycling/>

Development Control Committee – 3rd Dec

The committee heard the following planning applications:

- Forest Green new stadium (M5 Junction Stonehouse), Layout, scale, external appearance of the stadium and the landscaping of the site design - Approved.
- Current Forest Green stadium (Nailsworth). Outline planning permission for 95 homes – Approved.
- Bentley Cottage, Vicarage Street, Painswick, Stroud – Refused
- The committee Approved a average increase in Planning Fees of 1.7%.

Community & Licencing Committee – 12th Dec

- Work on improving the Council's website whilst progressing is slower than anticipated and more efforts are required to quicken the pace.
- Children & Young People Mental Health -Officers have started work on the district wide Youth Strategy by undertaking the first of 3 workshops. This work will help provide a framework moving forward for work across the district.
- A revised pricing scheme across Lifestyles Stroud District's Be Active inclusive pricing scheme replacing the current concessions scheme offered at Active Lifestyles Stroud and Active Lifestyles Dursley was agreed which reduces the membership cost of those over 66.
- To date six local football/sports clubs have benefited from council fundings for grounds improvement totalling £64k.
- The committee approved the continuation of the previous leisure board overseeing the transition of Stratford park into council operation to an enduring role in the oversight of the operation of both Stroud's leisure facilities.

Other news

- Stroud District Council celebrated 50 years of serving communities, with a tree planting at Stratford Park. Stroud District Council was set up in April 1974 from smaller rural and urban districts, and to mark the half century, a 3-metre-high commemorative Norway Spruce was planted in Stratford Park which is owned and managed by Stroud District Council.
- Stroud District Council (SDC) has awarded contracts worth £11.75 million to Speller Metcalfe for the construction of 44 new affordable homes on three council-owned brownfield sites across the district. The projects will see the development of:

Eight homes for affordable rent on the former council house site at Gloucester Street and Bradley Street in Wotton-under-Edge. Thirteen homes for social rent on the site of a former sheltered housing scheme at Cambridge Avenue in Dursley
Twenty-three homes for affordable rent and shared ownership on the site of a former sheltered housing scheme at Glebelands, Cam

Construction is set to start in Spring 2025 with completion anticipated between March and September 2026.

Appendix 2

Wendy Thomas, County Councillor, Dursley Division

Report for Uley Parish Council, January 2025

Highways

Flooding sign for ad hoc use in Uley:

I have asked Gary Wilson about this and he has said that due to health/safety and liability issues, parish councils are not able to place any flooding signs on the highway network themselves. He advises that any flooding should be reported on 08000 514514. A gang will then attend site, and place any flood boards out if necessary.

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Transport

The Berkeley Vale Robin

GCC has published some updates and statistics on the Robin. Scroll to the bottom of this [page](#) to see the growing usage of this service in our area. The link to The Robin homepage is [here](#).

Overcrowding on the early morning 65 bus from Dursley to Stroud

Many residents in Nympsfield, Dursley and Uley have highlighted that this first service in the morning usually very crowded, with many passengers having to stand. Lately this has been worsening and passengers have been denied boarding. This has resulted in school children not being able to get to school. I have raised this with GCC's Integrated Transport Unit and they report that Stagecoach refuses to increase the size of the bus used or put on an additional service, unless GCC's funds it. This is also being raised with our MP as it is simply not acceptable.

Devolution update

I have sent an email to all the parish and town clerks in my division, outlining where we are on this fast-moving situation. I will provide a further update via email after GCC's extraordinary cabinet meeting on 9 January.

GCC News

Pharmacy services consultation

GCC regularly consults on pharmaceutical services across the county and welcomes the view of anyone who uses or would like to use community pharmacies, dispensing surgeries, etc. The survey is available on the link below and will be open until 21 February. [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\) Consultation | Have Your Say Gloucestershire](#)

The survey can also be made available as a hard copy via post, please contact rachel.howard@gloucestershire.gov.uk (External link) or telephone 01452 - 426466.

GCC launches consultation on their proposed 2025-26 budget

A public consultation will run from 5 December until 5pm on 10 January 2025 to allow residents to have their say on the proposed spending plans.

[Budget consultation 2025-26 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Clean Air Night

GCC is raising awareness about the health and air quality dangers of wood burning. Clean Air night is Wednesday 22 January. You can find out more on the links below.

[Indoor fires and wood burning | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

[Clean Air Night](#)

GCC encourages 'swaps' to help meet the county's environment goals

GCC has published a list of easy 'swaps' residents can make to reduce their carbon footprint:

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<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/greener-gloucestershire-climate-dashboard/what-can-you-do/easy-swaps-you-can-make/>

Links:

GCC Highways Fix My Street: www.fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Highways info on planned road works, planned resurfacing, patching and pothole repairs:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/>

Watch Council meetings: [Home - Gloucestershire County Council Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#)

Submit questions to County Council meetings: stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Members of the public may submit written questions about matters within GCC's powers and duties. The deadline for this is usually 10 days before the meeting date.

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