

Minutes of the Uley Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 10th April 2025 commencing at 7.00pm. 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), Cllr. Tracy Mason-Fayle and Cllr. Jo Dee. Clerk: Adam Biscoe

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. Wendy Thomas (GCC), and approx. 3 members of the public.

Minutes

1. **To receive any apologies for absence**
 - Cllr. Martin Pearcy (SDC), Footpath Officer Bill Bramley.
2. **To receive any declarations of Interest**
 - There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To receive any representation from members of the public**
 - a. It was noted that there are four signs warning large car drivers not to go down Fiery Lane, which a resident felt was excessive. In particular, there is one large sign sited in front of the bench on the Village Green which blocks the view. Might Highways be asked to review this situation. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact Gary Wilson (GCC Local Highways Manager (Stroud – South) (copying in Owlpen Parish Council) to review the siting of road traffic warning signs on approach to Fiery Lane.
 - b. It was recommended that any Planning pre-meetings that the Council decides to convene should be open to members of the public whose application will be considered. See Item 13 below.
4. **To approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting held 5th March 2025**
 - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th March 2025 were unanimously approved.
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 item No.	What	Who	When	10 th April 2025 update
02/10/2024	The Council to request the views and feedback of local children on the playground via the VN.	Cllr Tracy Mason-Fayle	Spring 2025	After the Playground has been refreshed, Cllr Tracy Mason- Fayle will ask users via the Village News to review the playground in June 2025. WiP
11/24. 12	Remove Shani, Tim and Janet at Unity Bank and add Cllr Sean Sage as Approver and Adam Biscoe as Submitter.	Cllr Mills	15 th November 2024	Complete

02/25. 3.a	Cllr. Juliet Browne to invite Peter Belk to a Council meeting to discuss flooding in the Uley Valley and confirm date	Cllr. Juliet Browne	1 st March 2025	Peter Belk to attend APM on Thursday 15 th May 2025 at 6.15pm. Complete
02/25. 3a.	Clerk to include Flooding as a standing agenda item on UPC agendas.	Clerk	1 st March 2025	See Item 8 below. Complete
03/25. 7ai	Flood Warden to draft letters to three landowners whose run-off is contributing to local flooding and to Owlpen Chair as one site is in Owlpen.	Cllr. Juliet Browne	12 th March 2025	These letters were not sent to landowners as planned. They will be sent out in the next week or so by the Clerk. WiP
03/25. 9	Draft a UPC Expenses Policy and present it for approval at the April 2025 UPC Meeting	Cllr. Tony Mills and Cllr. Juliet Browne	2 nd April 2025	See Item 15 below. Complete
03/25. 11b	Cllr Melanie Paraskeva to check with previous clerk if ROSPA need to be asked or if they just inspect as a matter of routine.	Cllr Melanie Paraskeva	2 nd April 2025	Clerk to chase up ROSPA in May if report not received. WiP
03/25 12	Cllr. Juliet Browne, Cllr. Tracy Mason-Fayle to urgently contact Cllr. Tony Mills for email security upgrade.	Cllr. Juliet Browne (Vice Chair), Cllr. Tracy Mason-Fayle	12 th March 2025	Complete.
03/25. 16b	Cllr Juliet Browne and the Clerk to then confirm date of the Annual Parish Meeting.	Cllr Juliet Browne and Clerk	10 th March 2025	APM confirmed for Thursday 15 th May 2025. Complete
03/25 16d	Prepare a future Village News article on planning application process.	Cllr. Juliet Browne	4 th April 2025	WiP

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

- a. The Knoll – Emily Robbins (SDC) has informed UPC that there will be a further survey of the drains in the area at approximately 11.00am on Friday 11th April 2025.
- b. A person selling ice creams from a bicycle asked if they might be allowed to sell ice creams in the Playground. It is policy that no vendor is allowed to use UPC assets to sell any good or service, unless for charity events with special permission. The Council referred the vendor to Stroud District Council to apply for a Pedlers license.
- c. Vicarage development – no updates had been received.

- d. The Chair thanked David Lungley for his assistance over the last month in ensuring Council meeting agendas and minutes were posted to the website.
- e. Cllr. Jo Dee asked if there was a response from Sarah Walker on the details in the Housing Needs Survey. There was no update. **ACTION:** Clerk to chase Housing Needs Survey Update.

7. To receive any update from County & District Councillors

- a. Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva read out Cllr. Martin Pearcy's report – See Appendix 1 below.
- b. Cllr. Wendy Thomas (GCC) highlighted from her written report (see Appendix 2 below) the following:
 - i.) Devolution in Gloucestershire. Three proposals being considered. Deadline for final proposal submission by GCC to HMG due in November 2025.
 - ii.) Wendy's GCC email stays live until end of May 2025 so that she can hand over outstanding issues to whoever is elected to replace her.
 - iii.) Cllr. M Paraskeva thanked Wendy for her service and presented a card and a small present as this was her final UPC meeting.

8. Flooding

- a. Gary Wilson (GCC Local Highways Manager (Stroud – South) has informed Cllr. Wendy Thomas that he 'will be able to carry out some CCTV work on the 5 gullies within Woodstock Terrace that fall within the Highway extent, and this should take place over the next 8 weeks.'
- b. BT – the stream in the BT facility had been silted up at the entrance to Goldingham Close in Raglan Way. A resident was unable to contact BT or anyone else to help, but the flooding had resolved itself on this occasion. **ACTION:** Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva to get details from a former councillor for a BT contact in case of any future problems on their site.
- c. Letters to landowners re road flooding following consultation with GCC Highways were not sent as the result of a misunderstanding. They will go out by 17th April 2025.

9. To adopt a new Grant Application form for 2025-26

- The Grants sub-committee were thanked for their work on this. The Council unanimously **approved** the revised Grant Policy and Application form. **ACTION:** Clerk to ask David Lungley to post Grants Policy and Application Form to the website.

10. To approve the Clerks Report

No Clerk's Report received.

11. To receive an update on highway and footpath matters

Footpath's Officer William Bramley written report:

- a. Phil Rymer has now cleared the tree in return for the timber on the bridleway above Sheepphouse farm.
- b. With the RNLI walk planned for 27 April, I have been checking the route and trying to resolve a couple of issues: The fallen tree on the footpath just before Cockadilly has been referred to Stroud District Council and the land agent has been warned that unless they clear the tree, the council will do so and charge them accordingly. A large, uprooted tree has destroyed part of the run of steps on the footpath on Hyde Hill to the Bury. I have asked the wardens to prioritise this and to also do some path widening further up the footpath.
- c. A new rope will soon be installed on the kissing gate behind the village shop.

Spring has sprung and so has the steady growth of vegetation on the path edges. Don't forget your secateurs on your walks in the coming months.

12. Playground matters

- a. A quotation for refreshing the Playground had been received from Rob Kee. The Council agreed the work should go ahead, preferably after the Easter School holidays. **ACTION:** Cllr. Sean Sage to contact Rob Kee and ask that work be undertaken week commencing 28th April 2025.

- b. Cllr. Tony Mills reported that one of the toddler's swings was broken. It was agreed that two new toddler swings should be purchased and installed as soon as possible. Total cost £252 + VAT. **ACTION:** Cllr. Sean Sage to coordinate purchase and fitting of two replacement toddler swings in the Playground.
- c. It was agreed that a new sign should be procured and installed as soon as possible. **ACTION:** Cllr. Sean Sage to ensure replacement of Playground sign.
- d. Once the Playground had been refreshed, Cllr. Tracy Mason-Fayle would be inviting under 16 users to send in drawings or photos of an artwork depicting their favourite aspects of the Playground. These then might appear on the front page or inside the Village News.

13. To consider the following Planning Applications:

- a. **S.25/0382/HHOLD** 14A Shadwell Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5BW Erection of first floor extension and porch
The Council notes that the property already has a side extension and extensive parking. **NEUTRAL**

- b. **S.25/0384/HHOLD** 10 Lampern View Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5TD Erection of two storey & single storey rear extension

This house is one of a row of houses built in 1927-28, which border Uley's Conservation Area. There is an attractive uniformity in their appearance and UPC considers that the front elevation of 10 Lampern View should be maintained as with the rest of the houses in the row.

UPC would like to see a more sympathetic approach to the fenestration of the rear elevations which is out of keeping with the neighbouring houses. Further, the very large skylight proposed in the roof of the single storey extension is contrary to the Cotswold National Landscape's Dark Skies policy.

In addition, with regard to the proposed small window the Council would refer the applicants to the Uley and Owlpen Community Design Statement: 'it is important that replacement windows and doors give a similar visual appearance to those in the existing house, for example in terms of overall shape and the colour and size of the frames.' (OU 15) **OBJECT**

- c. It was agreed that some councillors would routinely meet prior to the Monthly Council meeting to share notes about planning applications to be considered at the Monthly meeting. The applications would still be discussed and minuted during the PC meeting afterwards. These meetings would be open to members of the public who have a planning application that is due to be considered. The meetings will usually be held in the Village Hall immediately prior to the Monthly meeting – starting at 6.30pm. The meetings would be coordinated by Cllr. Sean Sage. Further details of meeting times are available from the clerk at clerk@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

14. To note the following Planning Decisions

S.24/2150/FUL Stouts Hill Lampern Hill Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5BT Erection of perimeter fencing & access gates. Wed 26 Feb 2025 **Permitted**

S.25/0055/HHOLD 6A The Green Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5SN Installation of a single storey glass roofed open structure to the front elevation Permission Wed 05 Mar 2025 **Permitted**

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S.25/0203/HHOLD 16A South Street Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5SP Erection of a front extension. Tue 25 Mar 2025 **Permitted**

S.25/0258/TCA 6 Whitecourt Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5TG Remove dead tree at front Permission Thu 06 Mar 2025 Application **Approved**

15. Finance Report

- Finance update

- To authorise monthly payments.
- Approve Ear Marked reserves for FY 2025/26
- Approve Expenses Policy
- Update on contact and signatories on Unity Bank account.

March 2025 – Financial Year end report

Summary

Throughout FY 2024/25 the Cashbook and Bank balances have reconciled at the end of each month and now also as of 31/3/2025 the financial year end. The Precept/Reserves ratio has improved again slightly to 11.1.

We are in a better position as we are taking nearly £9k of unspent budget into Reserves for FY 2025/26 from the unspent Precept budget for FY 2024/25.

We are also carrying over a credit with the HMRC of £798.56 which will be used against future payments.

General Reserves Budget

There was one Ear-marked reserves payment in March 2025 for the May 2024 election expenses.

Looking forward

The FY 2025/26 budget has been set and we expect to get our first 50% payment of the precept from SDC in April 2025 as usual.

During FY 2024/25 we spent money from both our Ear-Marked Reserves (£3,711.55) and our General Reserves (£1,543.00). In addition, we had the underspend from the precept. We therefore need to review the level of Ear-Marked and General Reserves we hold.

The Finance Committee have produced a draft proposal for the Ear-marked Reserves which is shown below.

Proposed FY 2025/26 Ear-Marked Reserves	FY 2024/25		FY 2025/26	
	Budget £	Spend £	Proposed £	Change £
Playground contingency	2,400	0	4,000	1,600
Highways contingency	2,000	0	2,000	0
Election fund	3,000	1,079.55	3,000	0
Allotment	550	500.00	550	0
Uley CIL	2,132	2,132.00	0	-2,132
Greenway study	500	0	500	0
Recruitment	750	0	750	0
Village Hall Legal Fees	0		3,000	3,000
Total	11,032	3,711.55	13,500	2,468

Our opening bank balance for FY 2025/26 is £44,644.34. In addition, we are owed £2,440.58 by HMRC for VAT repayments. Our Precept budget for FY 2025/26 is £34,062.

With the proposed £13,500 Ear-Marked Reserves, this gives us an opening precept to reserves ratio of 11.83 months. An additional £2,250 of Ear-Marked Reserves would bring this down to the 11 months we have seen through FY 2024/25.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to increase the Greenway Study from £200 to £500 and to approve the Ear-Marked Reserves detailed above.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to pay Clerk's salary for April 2025.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to increase the budget on the Annual Parish Meeting from £50.00 to £100.00.

16. To receive any reports from PC Representatives

- a. Cllr. Tracy Mason-Fayle – Patient Participation Group. See below.
- b. Cllr. Geoff Keen - Uley Society has finished activities for the winter – will start again in September.

- c. Cllr. Geoff Keen - Friends of St Giles AGM in Church this Saturday. – 12th April 2025. He reported a £4800 profit this year – £2500 for the church wall.
- d. Cllr. Jo Dee – Millenium Green Committee has elected a new Chair. Planning for VE Day on 5th May 2025 is progressing well. Celebrations commence at Midday with a blessing of the trees. Volunteers needed to help set-up.
- e. David Lungley - Joint Woodland Committee has completed its work for the year and is working well

17. Articles for the Website and Village Newsletter and date of next meeting

- a. Newsletter – Annual Parish Meeting, bonfires, Playground work.
- b. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th May 2025.

Actions outstanding from Meeting on 10th April 2025

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03/25. 11b	Cllr Melanie Paraskeva to check with previous clerk if ROSPA need to be asked or if they just inspect as a matter of routine.	Cllr Melanie Paraskeva	2 nd April 2025
03/25 16d	Prepare a future Village News article on planning application process.	Cllr. Juliet Browne	4 th April 2025
04/25 3a.	Clerk to contact Gary Wilson (GCC Local Highways Manager (Stroud – South) (copying in Owlpen Parish Council) to review the siting of road traffic warning signs on approach to Fiery Lane.	Clerk	15 th April 2025

04/25 6e.	Clerk to chase GRCC Housing Needs Survey Update	Clerk	15 th April 2025
04/25 8b.	Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva to get details from a former councillor for a BT contact in case of any future problems on their site.	Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva	1 st May 2025
04/25 9.	Clerk to ask David Lungley to post Grant Policy and Application Form to the website.	Clerk	8 th April 2025
04/25 12a.	Cllr. Sean Sage to contact Rob Key and ask that work be undertaken week commencing 28 th April 2025.	Cllr. Sean Sage	8 th April 2025
04/25 12c.	Cllr. Sean Sage to coordinate purchase and fitting of two replacement toddler swings in the Playground.	Cllr. Sean Sage	1 st May 2025
04/25 12c.	Cllr. Sean Sage to ensure replacement of Playground sign.	Cllr. Sean Sage	1 st May 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.

Appendix 1

District Councillor Martin Percy Report – April 25 (March activity)

Council meetings

Extra-Ordinary Council 20th March

- The council agreed to investigate three options further for a final decision by on a unitary council for Gloucestershire by November in line with Government timetable on a preferred option, which were:-
 - A single unitary council across Gloucestershire
 - Two unitary council approach, dividing Gloucestershire
 - The proposal from Gloucestershire city of a greater Gloucester and 'other; Gloucestershire

The council will consider each option in conjunction with other councils in the coming months, and confirm what funding is available to support the transition.

Development Control – 4th March

- Refused permission for redevelopment of Aston Down Business Park.

Environment Committee – 6th February

- A trial will commence in one, possibly two, distinct estates in the first instance. A simple booking system, separate to the global bulky waste booking system, will be devised to take bookings from residents in the area(s) selected to reduce the incident of fly tipping on the district.

Community & Licensing Committee – 6th March

- Noted that the decarbonisation of Stratford Park complete achieved practical completion in January 2025 after received of £4m grant.
- Lido repair works -competitive tendering will commence in March 2025 with a project start date in September 2025 (date set back in order to protect the lido swimming season.
- The Community Wellbeing Grants were greatly oversubscribed, with more than 60 applicants asking for more than £1.5m in 2023/4. It was agreed that the Community Wellbeing Grant budget should be targeted directly to Community Hubs to other VCSE partners who deliver specialist wellbeing work in the district and to Cultural and the term of new grant contracts should be one to two years as appropriate and some of the overall budget held back in order to fund potential new partners each year until 2028.
- While some of the previous Community Wellbeing Grant recipients would be more appropriately funded in alternative ways. including Small Grants of less than £1,000, Stroud Funding (crowd funding platform) or funding related to other the Council or partner workstreams.

- Customer feedback from the revised Stratford park leisure centre and café is generally positive, but with some negative feedback on the new App, and the busyness of the centre at peak times, and inconsistency of service.
- Report from Museum in the park showed visitor numbers up, increased school group visits.
- Community wardens update
- The committee agreed the proposed Council financial budget and capital budgets for 2025/26.

Other news

- The Local Plan remains unapproved by his majesty's Inspectorate principally due to the M5 Motorway junction infrastructure. Stroud have asked for a detailed report from the Inspectorate to understand the full rejection reasons and has the support of the local MP to challenge the decision.
- Stroud District Council has been awarded £5.2million to deliver warmer, healthier and energy efficient homes. This will help to tackle fuel poverty and improve tenants' health and wellbeing, and help fight climate change. Stroud District Council was the lead partner in a consortium of Gloucestershire social housing providers which was awarded £15.7 million to provide warmer, more energy efficient homes, reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty.
- Development Control meeting on the 8th April will consider the eviction of a Coaley Resident from their mobile home on Pinnels Lane.
- Further progress on the feasibility study between Uley and Dursley for safe cycle and walking pending confirmation of Uley Parish Council letter of support to enable funding to be secured from SDC.
- £30,000 of funding from SDC agreed towards Woodchester Mansion grant bid of over £200k to secure the future sustainability of the property.

Appendix 2

Wendy Thomas, County Councillor, Dursley Division

Report for Uley Parish Council, April 2025

This is my last report to Uley PC, as a new councillor will be elected on 1 May.

Highways

I have spoken to Gary Wilson re a resident's request that the gullies on Woodstock Terrace be looked at. Gary has responded:

I will be able to carry out some CCTV work on the 5 gullies within Woodstock Terrace that fall within the Highway extent, and this should take place over the next 8 weeks.

Regarding any flooding within the school playing field, this would be out of my remit to resolve unfortunately.

Gary also reports that a colleague is liaising with a resident re blocked gullies by Marsh Farm.

Transport

The Berkeley Vale Robin

The Berkeley Vale Robin is becoming one of the more popular Robin routes; please continue to promote the service. The link to The Robin homepage is [here](#).

Devolution update

As mentioned in my March update, elections will go ahead as scheduled on 1 May; new councillors will be elected to two-year terms. The local devolution timetable now looks like this:

- 21 March: submit interim proposal with options for size/boundaries of a new council
- March – November 2025: feedback from government; opportunity to refine proposal
- 28 November: final proposal/implementation plan to be submitted for approval

From GCC's cabinet meeting on 20 March, you can read the proposal submission [letter](#) and review the options [analysis](#), which favours a single unitary authority.

GCC News

Living Well in Later Life Campaign

GCC has launched this campaign to help older residents find out more about services for them. The council will be raising awareness of services, such as the Disabled Facilities Grant which can help with grants of up to £30,000 to help people to live independently for longer.

Older residents are also being encouraged to [sign up to Digi Hubs](#), which offer free support to help make the most of the internet to help to access services that make independent living easier, and to keep in touch with friends and family.

There will also be self-support advice and tools, such as the [Online Financial Assessment](#), a finances calculator to assist with planning for the costs of care. The assessment tool and [information about services for older people](#) can be found on the county council website.

New resource to help keep children safe online

GCC has launched a new webpage that gives parents and guardians information about different aspects of online harms, with details of further information and where support is available.

Young Gloucestershire are one of the partners the council consulted with to develop the webpage and help provide expert insight into the needs of children and young people. Young Gloucestershire provides young people with support and seeks to help them to develop the skills they need to thrive.

As part of the county council's commitment to stopping the risk of harm to children and young people, the council is also working with Young Gloucestershire to develop and deliver additional youth worker support to those experiencing harm online.

The Online Harms portal can be viewed on the [council's website](#).

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.

Contact details:

Email: wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Phone: 07570 931816 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/Wendy4Dursley/

Appendix 3

Uley Surgery Update

The Practice expect to be able to make a credible offer to Dr Alvis to purchase the building during 2025.

Cam Surgery New Build Feasibility Study

Dr Bristol continues to lead this activity with the Feasibility Study due to proceed in Q2, 2025.

Re-Ordering of Prescriptions

The Reception Team have all now received additional training to assist with those who were approved for telephone re-ordering – previously this had been restricted to limited members of the team

The on-line reordering through System-Online (Practice website) or NHS App now provides a quicker turn-round for patients.

Uley Surgery Opening Hours

The Practice are now planning to increase the Uley Surgery Opening Hours to mirror those at Cam Surgery

Current Hours – Mon to Fri 0830 – 1700hrs

Planned Hours – Mon to Fri 0800-1830 hrs.

The changes to be implemented gradually over the summer months as changes to staff rotas and possibly some contract adjustments.

Possible Introduction of Electronic Triage System

CUFP are considering the introduction of an Electronic Triage System to support the Reception Team with arranging the most appropriate response to patient contacts.

Prior to any changes to the current system CUFP and the PPG will be communicating with all patients to provide them with an understanding of why the change is being brought in and how it will work.

The changes will not happen until late 2025 / early 2026.

Where appropriate, digital support will be offered, but traditional phone and walk-in contact with the Practice will remain available.