



DRAFT Minutes of the Urchfont Parish Council (UPC) Full Council Meeting held in Urchfont Village Hall on Wednesday 18th October 2023 (Version 1)

Present: Councillor's: Moscrop (PM - Chair), Bamber (SB), Hill (TR), Gibb (HG) and Rotherford (JR)

Councilor for Urchfont & Bishops Cannings: Whitehead (PW)

Members of the Public (for all or part of the meeting): Maria Kemp, Roy Ellis, Brian Taylor, Paul Scarfe, Bill Donald, Nicky Hammond

A. INTRODUCTION

- 1. Welcome by the Chair** – PM welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs Shears (SS), Holt (SH) and Rotherham (PR)

B. PLANNING – See Separate Minutes

C. OCTOBER FULL COUNCIL MEETING

- 1. Declarations of Interest** – None declared at the meeting
- 2. Time set aside for Public Participation and External Reports**

Bill Donald read out a statement (attached in full at Appendix III on the website version only) seeking improvements in the Parish Council website to ensure that it is up to date, better reflects the whole community and can be directly accessed by contributing organisations rather than by going through the Clerk. He advocated that the website was long overdue for a full review and that he was prepared to take part in any WG formed. BL commented that he was involved with Dave Mottram in setting up this website originally and quite recently with the provider to update it to a more modern style and meet more recent regulatory requirements. From the start the Council did not want direct access for organisations to update their pages to ensure that content was acceptable for a PC website. Time permitting, he can only keep pages up to date if organisations submit changes, many do not for whatever reason. PM commented that this is a worthy proposal which should be discussed further at the next meeting with the view to forming a WG.

(Post Meeting Note: Contrary to data in the statement made by Mr. Donald; the Cricket Club page on the website displayed 2020 information not 2014, the page has now been updated to provide a link to the Club's own website. The last set of Community Shop minutes published on the website was for November 2022 not August, the page has now been updated to include documents received to October 2023.)

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13th September 2023

Proposal	Proposer	Seconder	Resolution
To approve and sign the minutes unchanged as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	PM	TH	AGREED with two abstentions as not present at the meeting.

4. Action List Status Review and Update Reports from the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2023 – BL had distributed the latest listing to all councillors prior to the meeting. SB gave the following updates:

47 – Confirmation of Japanese knotweed was included in the recent UP highways survey, no active plants were observed on known sites – Stonepit Path (Bridleway), Stonepit footpath, School Lane.

54 – It had been agreed that SB and TH would undertake the UPC highways survey role for Urchfont and PM for Wedhampton.

64 – The pathway to Oakfrith Wood fences have been repaired by TH.

5. Finance

a. To receive a Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation as at 30th September 2023 – BL confirmed that he had distributed the Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation as at 30th September 2023 to all councillors prior to the meeting. He also confirmed that the external auditors had completed their audit of the 2022/23 accounts and governance documentation, their certificate confirms “that Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.” BL then asked councillors to ratify the spend details which appear on the Bank Reconciliation statement.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconder	Resolution
To ratify the spend details during September 2023	TH	PM	AGREED Unanimously

b. Redhorn News Contribution – PM stated that further clarification is needed before the Council can take a decision on funding. Paul Scarfe and Brian Taylor provided the following written statement on financing for the Redhorn News:

1. All subscribers pay £6 per annum
2. Each household in Urchfont Parish (Urchfont, Wedhampton and Lydeaway) receive a ‘free’ copy – currently 550 – total cost £3300.
3. Have currently received £1000 from Scarecrows and £700 from the Parish Council
4. To finance the first six months of 2024 January to June - £1600 is required.
5. This has to come from within the Parish – not necessarily from the Parish Council. If not, who pays?
6. The only other possible option seems to be that there is a reversion to collecting £6 from each household who wishes to subscribe?
7. Are there other options – this is a decision for the Urchfont Community to make?

SB asked whether advertising charges could be increased, she estimated that Redhorn received around £4000 per annum. Brian Taylor responded that this is not as easy as it might seem, a lot of advertisers use more than just Redhorn News and so rates need to be competitive. SB also asked about the take up of e-versions of the magazine, the answer given was 168 but very few are actually opened and all get a hard copy too.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconder	Resolution
To approve a contribution of £1600 for the period January to June 2024, but with a caveat that Redhorn should canvas the community as to whether they want delivered paper copies, e-versions, both or neither.	PM	JR	AGREED unanimously

c. Quote for tree works in the allotments – PM thanked TH for gaining the following quotes to fell the tree in the allotments:

Green Farm Tree Care	£550 + VAT
GAP Groundworks Ltd.	£1160 + VAT
Pete Rotherham	£1250 (assume + VAT)

TH explained that due to the difference in quotes, he had checked with Green Farm that their quote was correct, it is.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconder	Resolution
To approve the quote of £550 + VAT from Green Farm Tree Care.	TH	HG	AGREED unanimously

6. Lead Councillor, Working Groups, Clerk & other written Reports (attached at Appendix I on website version only)

- a. **Clerks Report** – Nothing further to report or clarify
- b. **Councillor reports**
 - i. **New Footpath adjacent to Recreation Field** – TH reported that this work had been completed to a high standard by GAP and has now been invoiced to the Council. BL stated that he had received the invoice but had not heard anything from WC about the intended CIL contribution for this and the pathway to the School resulting from the Hazel Green development. PW suggested that BL should contact the WC CIL office to seek clarification of what sum is due to the School and Council and when.

ACTION: FC/69/23 – BL

(Post Meeting Note: CIL Office emailed on 16th October)

Proposal	Proposer	Seconder	Resolution
To approve up to £60 towards the cost of wildflower seeds	TH	HG	AGREED unanimously

TH went on to say that he suggested to the School that might get involved in wild flower planting in the mounds of earth on either side of the path and is awaiting a response. PW added that this is another area that would need to be maintained. Whilst some seeds were left, he requested that UPC fund purchase further seeds to fulfil this project requirement for the benefit of the community.

ACTION: FC/70/23 - TH

- ii. **Tennis Club Facilities** - Nothing further to report or clarify
- iii. **Work on the Hags Lane footpath** Nothing further to report or clarify.
- iv. **Crookwood Lane Lay-By** – PW indicated repairs to two utility interventions had been badly undertaken. This layby surface was perfectly laid by Geoff Potter originally and needs to be reinstated to the same standard – Acorn, as the main developer should be held responsible for reinstatement to its former state. Whilst PW agreed that the layby land is owned by WC, the Parish Council should seek reinstatement as they funded and arranged the original work. PM agreed to draft a letter to Acorn for BL to send.
- v. **UPC Highways Report** – SB added to her written report that there have been some improvements since the last survey, but there is still much to consult with the WC Highways Engineer about to facilitate further improvement. PW stated that WC had recently allocated a further £10M towards highway repairs.

ACTION: FC/71/23 – PM

7. CPRE Best Kept Village – PM thanked SB for organising the refreshments at the presentation ceremony. A number of plaques and certificates were awarded at the presentation in September, discussion at the meeting concluded that the following should be displayed as follows:

Wiltshire Council Plaque - To be displayed with previous plaques on the Old Post Office wall – TH agreed to fix this plaque.

ACTION: FC/72/23 - TH

CCm Technologies Plaque – To be displayed at the Community Shop – SB to arrange.

ACTION: FC/73/23 - SB

Framed CPRE Certificate, Framed District Round CPRE Certificate, Framed Merit Award CPRE Certificate.

It was agreed that all certificates should replace all those currently displayed in the Village Hall, BL to arrange with VH.

ACTION: FC/74/23 - BL

8. Speed Indicator Signs of the B3098 – PM stated that no response had been received from Geoff Potter who has been tasked with erecting the poles and sign. PM asked JR to find out the current understanding on the way forward from Martyn Hollyman and Geoff. **ACTION: FC/75/23 - JR**

9. Reintroduction of Speed Watch – PW commented that the former Speed Watch group was successfully organised by David Myers, but this group folded largely because of lack of support and action by the police. The new PCC takes a completely different view on Speed Watch and as a result support, action and police attendance at group sessions has improved considerably. All we need to do is encourage volunteers to resurrect the Speed Watch activity in Urchfont. PM agreed to seek volunteers via the Facebook page and Redhorn News. **ACTION: FC/76/23 – PM & BL**

10. ROSPA Inspection of Urchfont Recreation Ground – SB had reviewed this comprehensive report which had been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting. She confirmed that there are no major observations or concerns raised, really down to minor works on fences, signs and benches. She had noted that some of the equipment is nevertheless looking tired and may need to be refreshed. BL suggested that Playdale could be asked to come and inspect the equipment and quote for any recommended repairs. SB wondered whether a small WG could be formed to undertake tidying and minor repairs to the playground and equipment, she agreed to try and organise. BL commented that the Council used to hold at least annual WG's at the cemetery to tidy old graves etc., TH, as cemetery lead, agreed to look to organise a cemetery WG in the spring. **ACTION: FC/77/23 – SB / TH**

11. Urchfont Parish Neighbourhood Plan – TH referred to the minutes of the last WG meeting at Appendix II of these minutes (on website version only), He then confirmed that 93 questionnaires had been completed out of around 550 properties in the Parish. A public consultation meeting is scheduled for Saturday 4th November between 10am and 12noon in the Village Hall when the following will be on the agenda for discussion overall and within small WG's within the audience:

- Results from the questionnaires
- Priorities identified by the public
- Explanation of what is meant by the term 'affordable houses'

TH confirmed that he attended the WC drop in session on NP's which he found quite useful. The same WC link officer, David Way, has been appointed as for the current plan.

12. UPEG – defer to next meeting

13. Wildflower Planting – PW commented that there is an urgent need to figure out how best to manage these areas in the Parish. TH stated that a lot of people are willing to plant, but few are willing to undertake maintenance. PM agreed to contact UPEG as the main instigator of this planting to try to get a solution either by identifying maintainers or seeking assistance from the Parish maintenance contractor. PW emphasized that part of this is to actually identify what areas have been planted and need to be maintained. **ACTION: FC/78/23 - PM**

14. Community Notice Board at Community Shop – SB proposed that there should be a Community in addition to the Parish notice board located at the Community Shop, probably located alongside the gas cage.. This could be maintained by the Shop and include notices of upcoming events organised by community organisations. PM suggested that any board should be made of MMT (man made timber) to avoid maintenance and that the Scarecrow Festival should be approached for funding. SB agreed to undertake further research. **ACTION: FC/79/23 - SB**

15. Objective to respond to all emails to UPC within 10 days – PM stated that all correspondence to the Parish Council should be addressed to the Clerk as stated on the website rather than via personal emails to councillors. It is also important that all correspondence should be responded to at least with a holding reply within a reasonable timeframe of say two working weeks. She proposed that this target be approved.

Proposal	Proposer	Seconder	Resolution
To respond to all correspondence within two working weeks.	PM	TH	AGREED unanimously

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

- i. **First Responders** – JR reported that his neighbour is currently going through training, PM advocated that JR should facilitate introduction to Carol Blood in Wedhampton and to Market Lavington responders.

ACTION: FC/80/23 – JR

- ii. **Wedhampton Defibrillator** – PM reported that this unit had been faulty for some while now, the matter is being dealt with by Anthea Donald in the hope that it can be repaired.
- iii. **LHFIG Wedhampton Projects** – PM reported that she had queried progress of Wedhampton highways projects, she understands that they have been approved and that detailed plans will be sent to PW. UPC will be subject to a contribution in due course of around £2500. The projects still have to go through due process before the works are initiated.

17. External Meetings – None reported

18. Other Reports from Councillors – None reported

19. Items for Future Agenda – None in addition to any identified above

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th November 2023 - 7.00pm Village Hall
(Conference Room)**

a. CLERK'S REPORT

- i. Finance** – Copies of the Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation on 30th September 2023 will be distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting. The accounts are in good order.
- ii. External Audit by PKF Littlejohn LLP** of 2022/23 Accounts and Governance has been completed and a certificate issued stating – “in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”
- iii. Outstanding Actions** – latest listing will be distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting to provide update where possible.
- iv. Councillor Vacancies** – The Council currently has THREE vacancies.
- v. CPRE Best Kept Village Competition** – Presentations were made at a ceremony outside the Village Hall on Sunday 24th September 2023. The Standard has now been re-located to Pond Green (thanks go to Trevor Hill), locations for the various other plaques and certificates need to be agreed at this meeting.

Bob Lunn, Clerk to the Council

b. COUNCILLORS WRITTEN REPORTS

1. New Footpath adjacent to Recreation Field

The new gravel footpaths at the entrance to the Urchfont Recreation Field are all but complete, thanks to the contractor, Messer's G Potter and P Huntley of GAP Landscaping. This work was commissioned by the Parish Council to allow pedestrians access to the new School footpath, the Recreation Field and Oakfrith Woods without negotiating the very slippery and random muddy slope off the school access road. The new paths will ensure parents of school children, their children and recreation field users safe and easy access to these facilities.

At the time of this report there is still a few elements to be added before the project is complete and I will update the progress at the meeting.

Thanks to the contractors for an excellent job so far, well done.

Cllr Trevor Hill

2. Tennis Club Facilities

The Tennis Club Committee wish to thank the Parish Council for allowing them to extend the boundary of the Tennis Courts which enabled them to provide a third 'junior' court, within the extended area. The new court is much smaller than a full-size tennis court and is designed for use by children under the age of 9 years, who would otherwise find playing on the full-size court daunting and off putting. Although the final colour coating of this court is yet to be applied until weather conditions permit, temporary lines will be provided to allow its use throughout the winter months.

This 'junior' court is the last phase of a two/three-year project by the Tennis Club Committee to improve facilities at the Club, including a new Club House with toilet and resurfacing of the two full size courts at a cost in excess of £60k. Their sincere thanks go to the Scarecrow Committee, Sport

England and in particular the Tennis Club members for their financial support which made these improvements possible.

Cllr Trevor Hill

3. Improvements to Haggs Lane footpath.

Work on the Haggs Lane footpath leading from The Paddock to the Community Shop has now been completed by members of the Rights of Way Group. This work included erecting wooden edging boards along the southern end of the path and clearing excess gravel to improve its surface. Thanks goes to the Parish Trust for funding the edging materials for this work.

Cllr Trevor Hill

4. Crookwood Lane Layby

The lay-by in Crookwood Road was laid by GAP Groundworks Ltd some three to four years ago and the resulting block work was finished to a high standard. During the summer, Wessex Water had cause to dig up a section of the Lay-by and dig a hole to connect their pipes to the existing mains. They have now filled in the hole and reinstated the block work around the existing manhole cover.

The standard of work to fill in the hole and reinstate the block work is, in my opinion, well below the standard of the original finish and should be done again. Even the trench dug across the road from Hazel Green to the lay-by has been badly reinstated and has now sunken to create a rut in the road. (Accepting this is a WC Highways issues).

I believe UPC needs to discuss this matter and decide on how this shoddy work can be corrected

Cllr Trevor Hill

5. Highways Inspection – Urchfont

The Highways survey for Urchfont village was undertaken on Monday September 25th by Sarah Bamber and Trevor Hill.. Martyn Hollyman provided a map showing previous areas of concern along with a copy of his report from January of this year. Although Martyn has retired from UPC he offered to accompany us and we were grateful for his input and knowledge gained from previous surveys.

The main issues of concern are numerous blocked drains and some quite severe delamination of various road surfaces. However, we are pleased to report that the number of items of concern have reduced since the last inspection. 47 Separate issues were noted in the January 2023 survey for Urchfont, this has reduced to 36 at this inspection.

In some areas the delamination and general damage to road surfaces is concerning, particularly in The Croft, Uphill and parts of Crooks Lane. The surfaces are becoming a hazard to vehicles and pedestrians alike and need urgent attention.

Pam is going to survey the Wedhampton area, and then the report will be sent to Matt Perrott the Highways Engineer at Wiltshire Council. We will then arrange a meeting in the village to go over some of the major concerns.

Cllr Sarah Bamber

APPENDIX II TO OCTOBER 23 UPC MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NP WORKING GROUP ON 26 SEP 23 IN URCHFONT VILLAGE HALL

Present: Debbie Carr-Jones (DCJ); Stuart Davies (SD); Rob Dolan (RD); Trevor Hill (TH); Simon Holt (SH);
Ken Mortimer (KM); Linda Jennings (LJ); Sally Stephens (SS)

Apologies: Dave Mottram (DM)

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 Aug 23 had been approved by the WG and passed to UPC. TH

confirmed that no issues were raised. Matters arising would be discussed under subject headings below.

All to note

2. QUESTIONNAIRE

a). Final response level

It was confirmed that 93 questionnaires had been completed. By usual engagement standards, this represented a good response - 17% - of Parish residents.

b). Summaries of responses and definitive list to take forward

Each member of the WG had analysed the responses to all the questionnaires and had circulated them around the Group. It was evident that there were a number of common key issues. Highlighted were the need to avoid large developments, the need for “affordable” small scale housing, and traffic flow and volume. Members discussed the need for a balance between the desire for smaller development sites and the wish for affordable housing - usually deliverable from larger sites. There was discussion about the meaning of “affordable” housing and it was felt that this issue should be discussed at the public meeting on 4 Nov (see **Item 5** following). RB suggested a way of presenting the information from the questionnaires using IT which would highlight the issues most residents regarded as important. It was later considered beneficial to also represent WG members analysis in one document for the information of residents.

Decisions:

- it was agreed that the views and issues raised by residents should be presented at the public NP event on 4 Nov 23.
- RD would look at ways of using IT programmes to represent residents’ comments
- WG members analysis needed to be consolidated into one document

Actions:

- RD would devise a means of showing residents comments in a way which highlighted the most significant and circulate this before the next WG meeting
- TH and LJ would work through WG members analysis of questionnaires and present a consolidated list of residents’ issues for circulation to WG members before the next meeting.

3. OBJECTIVES

LJ highlighted the need for the issues raised by residents to be reflected in the UPNP objectives. Some of the UWLNP objectives could be relevant, but it was agreed that they should be presented to residents for discussion at the public meeting.

All to note

4. BALLINGERS

DM had submitted comments to WG Members about the revised planning application at Ballingers for 21 houses. He expressed concern about the scale of development, the possibility of setting a precedent for future development south of B3098 and noted its previous unpopularity and rejection as a site for inclusion in the UWLNP.

SH confirmed that the application had been called in by WC Cllr Whitehead and that the decision date had been put back. There was concern that if the application were approved in the near future, the number of houses might not count towards the build total in the next UPNP.

There was some discussion about the site and the meaning of “large developments”. Whilst there was a planning definition of the term, local views of what constituted “large” varied. It was agreed that this issue should be discussed at the 4 Nov public meeting. See **Item 5** following.

Decisions:

- Information about the timescale for a decision on the application was required
- If approved, the Parish needed to confirm that it could be part of the Parish’s future UPNP

Actions:

SH would contact WC:

- to check on the on the timescale for a decision on the Ballingers planning application
- to establish that if the application were approved, its housing number would figure in the next, - not the current - Neighbourhood Plan

5. 4 NOV PRESENTATION

a). Format

It had been agreed that the layout would allow for groups of residents sitting round tables. The start time for the meeting would include a time at the beginning for residents to view information helpful for later discussion. Thereafter, would be a short presentation followed by group discussion around the tables.

Members of the NP WG would attend the tables. A spokesperson could be appointed for each group. Discussion would be summarised on a sheet of flip chart paper after which there would be a feedback session. Tea and coffee would be available.

b). Information to be presented

- what is a Neighbourhood Plan?
- the steps involved in its creation – where we are now
- its limitations – what the Plan can and can’t do
- outcomes from the questionnaire
- a description of affordable housing

c). Discussion

Several subjects for the round table discussion were put forward by WG members, including a residents’ review of NP WG findings, the meaning and understanding of a “large” development and the relevance of existing UWLNP objectives along with the creation of new ones. 10 mins on each subject was suggested.

Decision:

All details for the 4 Nov event, including provision of paper, pens, materials etc would be discussed at the next NP WG meeting.

All to note.

d) Publicity

Apart from Redhorn News and Facebook publicity, it was agreed that flyers would be useful.

Decision: A flyer was to required publicise the consultation event on 4 Nov

Action: SH would contact the graphic designer in the village with a view to producing a flyer

6. UPC WEBSITE USE, STORAGE OF DOCS AND PUBLICITY

There was no progress to report on the creation of a NP page on the UPC website. Some difficulties had been experienced with publicity in the Redhorn News. It was suggested that NP information might be included on the UPC News page. SH confirmed that a repeat ad had been forwarded for the Oct Redhorn News.

Decision: Further discussion with the Redhorn News editor was required

Actions:

- SS would liaise with the Redhorn News editor to discuss NP publicity ad layouts
- SH and DM would liaise with the Parish Clerk on the creation of a NP page on the UPC website

7. WC LOCAL PLAN “DROP IN” EVENTS AND WEBINAR

TH had circulated information about publicity events for consultation on WC’s Local Plan, namely a “Drop in” event at Devizes library on 5 Oct between 3pm and 7pm and a “webinar” presentation on 10 Oct 23. It was thought a good idea for WG members to engage with one or both of these events.

SH TH and LJ would consider going to the “Drop In” event whilst SS, DCJ and TH would look at registering for the “webinar”

All to action as appropriate

8. SA/SEA AND NP FUNDING

LJ had contacted WC about “Screening” the UPNP for environmental impacts, as the first stage of SEA. The WC representative stated that WC would undertake the “Screening” exercise, but confirmed that it was usual to do this once policies and site allocations had been proposed. It was clear to WG members that the housing number allocated to Urchfont, as a ‘large” village, would mean developing areas beyond the existing development boundary. TH later suggested that perhaps a Screening decision could be made on the basis of proposing development 100m from the existing boundary in any direction.

Decision: Clarification was required on the suggestion of “Screening” an extended development boundary

Action: LJ would contact WC to see if a decision on the need for SEA could be procured by proposing development up to 100m beyond the existing Urchfont development boundary line.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The points raised were included under the previous headings above.

All to note.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 24 Oct 23 in the Village Hall commencing 7pm.

All to note.

APPENDIX III TO OCTOBER 23 UPC MINUTES

STATEMENT MADE BY BILL DONALD

Good evening.

The Parish needs to be congratulated on its success in becoming a regular winner of “Best Kept Village”. It’s just a shame that we’re unlikely to win any award for “Best Kept Website”!

Yesterday I searched Google for the Urchfont Parish Council and click return, the first picture that appeared was the shop, from about 15 years ago. This is despite numerous attempts from the shop to offer up alternative photographs. Interestingly, this picture has been lifted and used by property developers to promote the village!

Like other organisations, the shop committee minutes are submitted regularly for all to see and yet the last ones that actually appear on the website are from August 2022.

At the bottom of many pages on the site it states words like these:

“Updating of this page is the sole responsibility of the Community Shop via the webmaster, UPC accepts no responsibility or liability for the accuracy of information it contains.”

The key word here is the webmaster. The webmaster is the parish clerk as he is the only person who can make updates. I don’t believe that running the website should be his sole responsibility as Bob holds down an important job at a local school along with his busy role as clerk.

It’s many years since I was a councilor, but back then we were talking about upgrading the website to provide shared responsibility for posting content, yet nothing has happened.

The internet and digital communication channels are a vital part of our current life. The key question is: Should the website be a “Urchfont Parish Council” website or an “Urchfont Parish Community” website?

You could argue that the Shop and others should have their own websites. This costs money and doesn’t help to promote the community as a whole, and certainly isn’t affordable for smaller clubs and associations. The cricket club have out sourced a page on a national cricket club website yet there’s no link to it from the Parish website. If you search the cricket club on the Parish website the latest cricket fixture list is from 2014!

A review of the Parish website is long overdue. The council needs to invest in a website, paid for by the community through our precept, for the community. A website with a clear structure that can allow selected clubs and associations to manage their own content. A selected team of “webmasters” from, for example The Shop, The Community Bus, The Garden Club the Cricket Club and the Tennis Club who together could manage their own content and help manage the content for other smaller organisations. If I’ve learnt anything from running the Community Shop it’s that sharing responsibility helps to create an inclusive community spirit.

I am here today to ask the council to set up a working group to come up with a proposal for a new brighter website that can be for the benefit of the whole community, and one that relieves the burden on our clerk.

Perhaps then, we might win an award for “Best Kept Website”!

Bill Donald