

USRAcic AGM
Monday 18th July 2022
7.00pm Village Hall

Present:

Ian Storey (IS, Chair)

Tim Buxton (TB), Gordon Moore (GSM), Georgia Moore (GM) and Iris Morgan (IM) - Committee
16 residents

The Chair welcomed all residents and introduced the committee

1. Apologies

Received from:

Cllr Neil Clarke, Cllr Roger Upton, Fay Harrison, Jan and Mich Stevenson, Dilly Warman, Veronica and Steve Ball.

2. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 21st February 2020

Approved and signed by IS.

3. Chair's Report

- Since our last AGM the sudden loss of Wendy Roberts was noted. Appreciation was given on all the hard work Wendy did for USRA, in particular her work with Saxonbury. She is sadly missed by all the committee.
- A reminder was given on why USRA is a Community Interest Company, this being due to USRA, unlike many other residents' associations, owning property and land.
- Achievements over the last two years include:
Acoustic panelling and new fridge freezer in the hall
Purchase of a defibrillator, situated outside Venezia, with 2 well attended training sessions
- Thanks were given to all the volunteers who, in many different ways, contribute towards the smooth running of USRA and its amenities. There is always need for more help and anyone interested should please contact secretary@uppersaxondale.com.
- The Local Boundary Review is now finalised and Upper Saxondale is in a new Borough Council ward with Shelford and Newton (This will not affect our Parish Council status).
- **A second Parish Council Consultation is now underway, and residents are urged to reply to this. If you have already replied by email and have not had confirmation of your reply, please respond again. RBC are aware of this error.**
- If we do succeed in gaining Parish Council status the question of moving USRAcic assets over to the new PC will be put to members at a meeting later in the year.
- Community land and assets were discussed, it was explained that these can be placed into 3 groups:
 - a. USRA owned land and assets.
 - b. DWH owned land under the section 106 agreement, which at some point will be transferred to RBC. There is however a strong possibility this land could be handed over directly to the new PC.
The handover of this land would also come with a financial settlement from DWH, the purpose of this being to fund ongoing maintenance.
 - c. DWH land that does not come under the section 106 agreement, it has been indicated by DWH that they may wish to negotiate a handover agreement on this.

4. Financial Update

Tim Buxton presented the headline figures for the accounts 2022. (See attached).

5. Election of Directors

Directors Ian Storey, Tim Buxton, Georgia Moore, Gordon Moore and Iris Morgan were proposed by Glyn Miles to continue as directors for the coming year. There were no objections. PASSED
There were no further nominations.

6. Community Reports

- **Coffee Morning**

Ian Storey spoke about the great contribution the coffee morning volunteers make to the community by holding the regular Friday coffee morning. Specific coffee mornings help to raise money for charity, including the Jubilee afternoon tea party which raised £200 for the Prince's Trust. Thanks were given to all involved. (There will be no coffee mornings in August).

- **Tennis Club**

Tim Buxton reported there is one men's summer league playing in the higher league. There is a WhatsApp group for members of all abilities who meet on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. There is a tennis camp for children which runs in the school holidays. The tennis club encourage members of any ability to come along and join in.

- **Communications**

A report received from Fay Harrison and Dilly Warman was read out by Iris Morgan: The **Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/Uppersaxondale>) is used to share 'in the moment' messages and information about activities and events happening within our village and sometimes for surrounding villages too. We welcome posts from village residents sharing news, information and photos relevant to our village. Advertising your business is fine provided it is based and operated within our village. You can also offer unwanted items for free. Create the posts yourself, which will appear in the 'Community' tab, no need to ask the admins for permission but remember to be courteous and respectful. Take a look at the page's 'additional information' if you're not sure how to post.

The **website** (<https://www.uppersaxondale.com>) contains a wealth of information about our village such as its hospital history, the facilities and land cared for by USRA, as well as news about village hall activities, the recently installed defibrillator, parish consultation and ward boundary changes, links to local businesses and useful contacts. If you spot a gap in what's included, then let us know and hopefully we can add it.

Please look at the **Facebook page** and **website**. We hope you find them useful.

Email us at secretary@uppersaxondale.com if you have any questions or suggestions.

- **Friends of Upper Saxondale Conservation Area**

Georgia Moore spoke about the formation of a new group named Friends of Upper Saxondale Conservation Area. This group has been formed for any resident to join in order for a greater say in how the land at US is managed. The group's remit is to make recommendations to USRA on how they would like to see budgets for land maintenance spent and it would be hoped this group would stay in place if and when a new PC is formed. Any resident interested in joining please contact secretary@uppersaxondale.com.

Georgia introduced Jane Rogers and thanked her for her contribution in looking after the fruit farm. As a member of the conservation group Jane spoke about her part in helping keep the fruit farm the lovely peaceful area it has become. Jane weeds, prunes and clears hedges and encourages others to come along to help and enjoy this lovely spot.

7. Q&A

Pre submitted questions:

Q. An electronic speed sign was installed recently on Henson Lane, which alerted drivers if they were exceeding the speed limit as they entered the village. The sign seems to have disappeared, any idea what has happened to it and if it will be replaced?

A. The speed sign was a temporary interactive sign normally put up for 4-6 weeks, this was up there a couple of months. The way forward is a survey to ascertain the criteria for a permanent one. A speed survey needs to be carried out after which an assessment made. If it meets the criteria, it can be installed. If not, the Council will not install but one could be installed if the Parish Council are prepared to pay for it, £9200, which includes sourcing a power supply and 10 years ongoing maintenance.

Q. Deer signs were planned from 2022/2023 NCC budgets. Do we have a date for when this will be done?

A. These are due to be put up over the next 1 to 2 months

A question on speed reduction signs was also mentioned and will be considered along with the findings from the interactive signs.

Q. Going back to 2018 concerted requests have been made to Barrett's / David Wilson by local residents (supported by USRA), to have the cherry trees in Millennium Way reduced in height. But all to no avail, and as recently as May this year Barrett's / David Wilson advised that the requested work would not be done.

What plans do the new Parish Council have for improving the state of Millennium Way, not just in relation to the tree height, but also for a general clean-up to restore this community focal point to its former glory.

A. Meetings with the USRA committee and DWH are due to take place very shortly and this area, along with others, will be discussed for bringing up to standard before handover. Looking forward to Parish Council run land and amenities, Millennium Way, along with other areas, will be considered and maintenance plans drawn up accordingly.

Q. What will happen to our LTA Membership when we no longer pay our monthly USRAcic members fee?

Why do USRA only file Micro accounts? Because of this USRA never show to the membership either in the Annual Return or the committee minutes what is the income and expenditure. Year ended 2020 show Reserves of £82,815 and in 2021 Reserves of £40,771. Why? I'm sure it will be some accounting procedure but what is it please. And how much of this money, if any, is ring fenced for the tennis club.

A.

1. LTA Membership – the tennis club will continue with the format to be decided should we become a PC. It will still be a member of the LTA.
2. Companies House allows for Filled and Unaudited accounts for small businesses. This avoids higher accounting costs.
3. Details of the 2022 accounts were presented at the meeting and will be attached to the minutes
4. The reduction in the balance sheet to £40K is a correction of a mis posting of Fixtures & Fittings to Land assets in 2014.
5. Depreciation of F&F are at 20% reducing value per year so the loss comes from pro rata value from 2014 to 2022.
6. Cash held in sinking funds for tennis and hall along with the current account are shown in the attached document

Q. I have followed the discussion on the new Upper Saxondale (US) parish council (PC) proposal and have some concerns that I hope can be addressed.

The information previously provided has alluded to the fact that other similar sized parish councils have lower charges than we currently pay to Radcliffe-On-Trent PC. However, without a clear understanding of the likely costs that the US PC will face, there can be no certainty in this. In particular, assuming the David Wilson land will be acquired by the new USPC and since David Wilson have thus failed to repair the pergolas, refused to maintain the trees on Millennium Way (approx. cost £4k) but provide some maintenance of the parkland, the following questions come to mind:

- What are the costs that the USPC will have to take on from David Wilson (assuming transfer of ownership)?
- What are the costs that will be taken on from Radcliffe-On-Trent PC?
- Will a proportion of Radcliffe-On-Trent PC reserves (if any) and how much be transferred to USPC?
- Is there a financial plan that we can review?

A.

1. David Wilson Land. We have a meeting this Friday with David Wilson and Rushcliffe Borough Council to walk the land and to identify areas that need bringing up to standard before any takeover.

Regarding the cost of looking after this land we are also in financial consultations with them for them to give us a sum of money to compensate for taking this over.

David Wilson are keen to get rid of this liability but could just walk away hence the urgency.

2. The main costs we will take over from ROT are the playground maintenance and the cost of dog bins.

3. We are not asking for any proportion of ROT reserves.

4. Regarding a financial plan we are at the early stages in writing a budget for the new Parish Council which will need to be with RBC by early January.

Early indications show a precept reduction for people living on the ROT side of the village and a small increase for those on the Cropwell Butler side.

There are also around 84 houses who now give a voluntary contribution to USRA this can cease once we are a Parish Council.

Meeting Questions:

Q. Directors were thanked for their work with USRA.

A question on the possibility of caravans arriving on USRA land via the back road was raised.

A. It was explained that to keep the bollards/gate to car park locked is not practical as access is required at all times. The possibility of travellers arriving on the land is always there, however this has never happened to date and USRA is informed if there is a problem in the area, in which case short term locking could be arranged.

Q. It was asked if the committee were aware of an area of uneven and dangerous pathway to the side of Venezia.

A. It was confirmed that, as ownership of the path is unclear, both DWH and the owners of the building have both been informed of the hazard by USRA.

Q. A resident was concerned about management of trees, hedges and fly tipping of garden waste on Millennium Way.

A. This will be discussed at the future meeting with DWH and USRA.

8. **AOB** - There was none.