

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 12th February 2007 at Upwell village hall. Commenced at 7.30 pm with Councillor Paul Williams in the chair.

Attending:

Cllr. Jill Gooch
Cllr. Andrew Harrison
Cllr. Keith Harrison
Cllr. Frank Humm
Cllr. Prue Lester
Cllr. Hazel Medlock
Cllr. David Pope
Cllr. Sylvie Short
Cllr. Ros Shorting
Cllr. Paul Williams

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Assistant Clerk - Kate Bennett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Crofts, Morgan, Skelton and Borough Councillor Spikings

2. Public Forum

No members of the Public availed themselves of the opportunity to address the Council.

3. Presentation By Mr Ed. Moss Regarding Homewatch

Ed Moss, the regional co-ordinator of the Homewatch scheme in Norfolk, presented the Council with a breakdown of crime figures for the Parish and its neighbours over the past six months. He then introduced the Homewatch scheme to the meeting and there was a general discussion and Q&A session from councillors. It was agreed that the Council was in favour of the scheme and should pursue the initiative further at the next full council meeting.

ACTION: Cllr. Humm to prepare a proposal and outline of proposed activities to initiate a Homewatch scheme in the Parish at the next Full Council meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to prepare article for the next newsletter.

4. Report from Council Surgery

No members of the Public attended the surgery this month.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on January 15th 2007

On a proposal by Cllr. Harrison, seconded by Cllr. Shorting, the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

07/06

6. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only).

Item 3.0 Letters have been sent by the Asst. Clerk requesting attention to the offending hedges/shrubs. Both parties have agreed to “look at” the problem.

Item 12.0 The Asst. Clerk reported that she had not received further information on the extent of footpath repairs required from Cllr. Humm but the issue had been put on the agenda for the next highways tour of the parish.

7. Report of the Finance Committee.

The report of the February Finance meeting had been previously circulated.

Concern was expressed that several members of the Council had not received the report prior to the meeting. It was agreed that this would be investigated.

ACTION: Clerk to speak to the Finance Officer to assess the situation.

There was a query over a membership of the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks), which was now due for renewal. The Clerk reported what was known about the organisation and the services it offered and it was agreed that the fees be paid for this coming year and the benefits of belonging to the society be evaluated by the Clerk and Council at the end of the subscription period.

Proposal: That the subscription to the SLCC be paid for the forthcoming year and an assessment of value for money be made at the end of the period before any further subscription is made.

Proposed By: Cllr. Medlock

Seconded By: Cllr. Pope

On a proposal by Cllr. Medlock, seconded by Cllr. Pope, the finance report was accepted.

8. Correspondence Received.

The following correspondence had been received:

- A letter had been received from the BCKLWN inviting councillors to a meeting and presentation by the Internal Drainage Board and the Middle Level Commissioners. It was established that Cllr. Pope would already be attending so no further action was necessary.
- An invitation to a spring seminar by the Norfolk County Association of Parish & Town Councils was circulated for interest.

9. Report of the Planning committee

The report of the February planning committee meeting had been previously circulated.

There was a general discussion about item 13 on the agenda: the usage of Green Road. The council agreed that it would always be a public right of way.

On a proposal by Cllr. Harrison, seconded by Cllr. Lester, the planning committee report was accepted.

10. Report of the Environment & Leisure committee

The report of the February environment & leisure committee meeting had been previously circulated.

Cllr. Short presented the Council with an update on the progress of the Upwell In Bloom initiative.

On a proposal by Cllr. Short, seconded by Cllr. Harrison, the planning committee report was accepted.

11. Report from the Village Halls.

A report from the Upwell Village Hall AGM had previously been circulated.

On a proposal by Cllr. Shorting, seconded by Cllr. Medlock, the report was accepted.

There was nothing to report from Three Holes this month.

12. Health and Safety Issues.

There was nothing to report this month.

13. Internal Council issues.

Item a A request for financial assistance from the Well Creek Trust had been received. Cllr. Short presented the proposal to extend the existing mooring at Church Bridge. There was a general discussion about the proposal and likely costs and it was agreed that more information was required before the proposal could be considered more fully by the Finance committee.

ACTION: Clerk to pass the details to the Finance Officer and table the issue as an agenda item at the next Finance committee meeting.

14. Parish Affairs.

Item a The Clerk reported that the issue of a Community Information Point for the parish had been raised with the Borough Council again and that they were very happy to help in any way.

Cllr. Short reported on efforts to contact the owner of the old Bank building with view to possibly letting or purchasing the building to use as Parish Council offices/location for Community Information Point.

Cllr. Humm agreed to remove the computer from the previous community information point at Upwell health centre and relocate the computer in the store room at Upwell Hall.

ACTION: Clerk to establish the correct contact and express an interest in buying or leasing the business.

ACTION: Clerk to pass the details to the Finance Officer and table the issue as an agenda item at the next Finance committee meeting.

Item b The Clerk reminded the meeting of the impending local elections and informed councillors that nomination packs would be available at the next Full Council meeting. The Clerk also asked councillors to consider ways in which the forthcoming elections could be publicised and whether possible activities could be organised aimed at encouraging possible candidates to stand.

Councillor Williams agreed to write an article for the next newsletter to encourage candidates to put their names forward.

ACTION: Clerk to put article in 'Welle In Touch' and the next parish newsletter.

ACTION: Cllr. Williams to write article for March newsletter.

Item c The Clerk presented the Council with information from 'Care Network', a funded agency looking to introduce a surgery car service for those struggling to get to Doctors and Hospital appointments. There was a general discussion about the item and it was agreed that the Finance committee should evaluate the issue once it was known whether proportionate funding would be available from Welney/Christchurch/Emneth/Outwell/Elm/Nordelph and Marshland St James Parish Councils. It was also suggested that Care Network be put in touch with the Upwell Patient Participation Group.

ACTION: Clerk to gather more information and pass to Finance Committee for further investigation.

Item d.1 Cllr. Short reported on the meeting of the IWA Rally Group on January 19th. The Council were fully supportive of Cllr. Shorts efforts and, after discussion surrounding several items, requested further updates and briefings.

Item d.2 Cllr. Gooch raised a related issue regarding the cutting of the riverbank in Upwell following a meeting with the Middle Level Commissioners last September. No information has been forthcoming as a result of this meeting and there was concern that the desired cuts would not be possible (due to timing and/or costs).

ACTION: Clerk to establish the dates for this years cuts, assuming no extra funding is available for monthly cuts.

15. Agenda items for the next meeting.

No items were identified.

16. Date and time of the next meeting.

Monday, 12th March 2007. Commencing at 7.30pm at Upwell village hall.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____