

07/25

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 9th July 2007 at Upwell village hall. Commenced at 7.30 pm with Councillor Neil Morgan in the chair.

Attending:

Cllr. David Barnard
Cllr. Chris Crofts
Cllr. Jill Gooch
Cllr. Andrew Harrison
Cllr. Frank Humm
Cllr. Prue Lester
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. Roger Mungham
Cllr. David Pope
Cllr. Chris Robinson
Cllr. Sylvie Short
Cllr. Ros Shorting

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Assistant Clerk - Kate Bennett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Keith Harrison, Borough Cllr. Vivienne Spikings and County Cllr. Humphrey .

2. Declarations of Interest

No councillors declared Interests relating to any of the agenda items for discussion.

3. Public Forum

No members of the public attended the meeting this month.

4. Report from Council Surgery

No member of the public attended the surgery this month.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on June 11th 2007

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

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

No matters were discussed.

07/26

7. Report of the Overview Committee.

The report of the Overview Committee had previously been circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Short, seconded by Cllr. Harrison, the report was accepted.

8. Report of the Finance Committee.

The report of the July Finance meeting had been previously circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Crofts, seconded by Cllr. Shorting, the finance report was accepted.

9. Report of the Planning Committee.

The report of the June Planning committee meeting had been previously circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Lester, seconded by Cllr. Shorting, the Planning committee report was accepted.

10. Report of the Environment & Leisure committee

The report of the June Environment & Leisure committee meeting had been previously circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Mungham, seconded by Cllr. Lester, the Environment & Leisure committee report was accepted.

Item 14 Parish Footpaths. Cllr. Lester presented the meeting with an updated Footpaths report.

ACTION: Clerk to reproduce footpaths map and distribute to all Councillors.

11. Report from the Village Halls.

Cllr. Morgan gave a verbal presentation as there was little to report this month.

12. Correspondence

The Clerk drew members' attention to a number of items received and reminded them to look at the correspondence folder for information about activities.

13. Health and Safety Issues.

There was nothing to report this month.

14. Internal Council issues.

Item a Clerk Hours. Cllr. Morgan asked the meeting to restrict contact with the Clerk team to times during the respective clerk's working hours (Tue/Thurs 10.00 – 3.30 Kate Cobley & Mon-Fri 9.30 – 2.30 Kate Bennett). Alternatively both Clerks may be emailed at any time but may only be able to respond during their working hours.

07/27

Item b **Members' Handbook.** The Clerk distributed the new Members' Handbook and Cllr. Morgan asked the meeting to read it and contact the Clerk with any comments or queries so that it could be adopted as a formal Council document at the August full Council meeting.

Item c **Electronic Distribution of Council documents.** Following a trial two month period where all meeting information had been circulated electronically, the Council members were asked whether they wished to continue to receive information in this format.

There was a general discussion about this subject with members both for and against electronic distribution making their points known.

Following the discussion, Cllr. Barnard proposed that the decision be deferred until the next meeting so that members could digest both sides of the argument before making a final decision.

Proposal: To postpone the decision about whether Council information should be sent out to members electronically or in paper format until the next meeting.

Proposer: Cllr. Barnard

Seconded By: Cllr. Crofts

It was then suggested that this proposal be amended and that a decision on the issue should be made immediately, with members voting as to whether they would receive Council paperwork electronically or in paper format.

Amendment: To decide immediately whether Council information should be sent out to members electronically or in paper format – with members being able to choose their preferred format.

Proposer: Cllr. Pope

Seconded By: Cllr. Andrew Harrison

The amendment was carried by nine votes to three.

There followed a show of hands to decide who would receive information electronically: Nine members wished to continue receiving information by email. Three members wished to receive hard copy paperwork. The Clerk noted down who was for which format and will make the necessary arrangements next month.

Item d **Website.** The Clerk reported on current activity to redesign the website.

Item e **Parish Plan Update Report.** Cllr. Morgan distributed the Parish Plan Update Report and reminded the meeting that it was a complementary document to the review document issued last month. Cllr. Morgan suggested that a meeting by each sub group be held on a four-six week schedule. The lead Councillor for each should now convene a meeting and report back on activities. There would be a new item added to the standard agenda to accommodate this from August onwards.

15. **Parish Affairs.**

Item a **Well Creek Flooding.** Cllr. Morgan presented the meeting with the background to this issue, which was a request for help from Dr Millard, of Town Street, Upwell. Dr Millard had recently lost a house sale due to inconsistent environmental reports. Cllr. Morgan reported that the area is considered to be in either flood group risk 1, 2 or 3 depending upon the agency contacted and this was clearly an unacceptable situation. There was a consensus of opinion that the flood group risk should, in fact, be 1 (the lowest) because Well Creek is effectively a managed watercourse and there are substantial flood defences throughout the area.

Cllr. Morgan had asked Cllr. Pope, being a Borough Councillor, to help with investigation and by bringing his powers as a Borough Councillor to bear where necessary. Cllr. Pope reported that he was in the midst of correspondence with a number of people about this issue and will report back as soon as is practicable.

ACTION: Cllr. Morgan to circulate Dr Millard's email for comment and general information.

Item b **Proposed Wind Farm at Marshland St James.** It was agreed that, due to this being so far outside of the Upwell Parish area, no further comment needed to be made on this subject.

Item c **C.C.T.V.** Cllr. Morgan reported that Farm Watch had demonstrated their suggested system to a number of Councillors and they were in general agreement about its suitability for the village hall. Cllr Humm was asked whether D2 funding had been applied for to help with the purchase and he reported that it was on the Agenda for the next D2 meeting at the end of the week.

Item d **Proposed Town Street Development.** Cllr. Andrew Harrison reported there were rumours about a major housing development on a plot of land to the rear of Town Street stretching from the Methodist Church to Mulberry Lea. There was also another planning application for a further eleven houses on the largely complete Millers Rest site and more for The Old Mill.

The Parish Plan questionnaire showed that residents were absolutely opposed to more new housing estates being built in Upwell and that services such as the Health Centre and School were already facing overloading from the large amount of new development that had been seen in the area over the past few years.

The Council recommended that the Planning Committee refuse the current application for a further eleven houses at Millers Rest on the basis of the Parish Plan results and number of houses being asked for. The issue of the land purchase to the rear of Town Street was deferred until the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

07/29

16. Item e HGV Traffic on Low Side/Small Lode.

The issue of large vehicles using Low Side was raised by Cllr. Gooch. Due an incident where a lorry had struggled to get out of Low Side at the Outwell end of the road (due to a narrow bridge) Outwell Parish Council had agreed to erected a sign warning that the road is not suitable for HGV traffic. Cllr. Gooch asked whether the Council would do the same at the Upwell end of the road. There was a general discussion about this issue and concerns about the alternative route for HGV traffic.

Proposal: To erect a sign warning that the road is unsuitable for HGV traffic at the junction of Small Lode and New Road (at the Five Bells pub).

Proposer: Cllr. Barnard

Seconded By: Cllr. Humm

The proposal was carried by eleven votes for and one abstention .

ACTION: Clerk to add the issue of HGV traffic in Upwell to next month's agenda.

17. Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Land Purchase To Rear Of Town Street
- HGV Traffic In Upwell

18. Date and time of the next meeting.

Monday, 13th August 2007. Commencing at 7.30pm at Three Holes village hall.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____