

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Attending:

Cllr. Chris Crofts
Cllr. Jill Gooch
Cllr. Andrew Harrison
Cllr. Keith Harrison
Cllr. Frank Humm
Cllr. Prue Lester
Cllr. Hazel Medlock
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. David Pope
Cllr. Sylvie Short
Cllr. Ted Skelton
Cllr. Ros Shorting
Cllr. Paul Williams

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Assistant Clerk - Kate Bennett
County Councillor - Harry Humphrey

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Spikings

2. Public Forum

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

3. Report from Council Surgery

No members of the Public attended the surgery this month.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on February 12th 2007

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

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

Item 14.d.2. The Clerk reported that the Middle Level Commissioners had not yet set a date for the first cut of the riverbanks in Upwell but had been informed that it would probably be in July.

6. Report of the Finance Committee.

The report of the February Finance meeting had been previously circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Medlock, seconded by Cllr. Short, the finance report was accepted.

7. Correspondence Received.

The following correspondence had been received:

- An invitation to the Fenland Council and Fenland C.V.S.'s Funding Fair had been received, offering the Council the opportunity to meet funders and learn about the new funding toolkit on offer.
- An invitation to the Norfolk Rural Community Council' evening entitled 'Are you supporting your local economy?' had been received. The Council was invited to hear how it could best support individuals and local organisations to sustain and improve the local economy.
- An invitation to Upwell & Outwell Age Concern Luncheon Club's AGM had been received. Cllr. Humm offered to attend.
- A letter had been received from Mr Dave Short, of Town Street, Upwell. Mr Short asked for action to be taken on a number of issues, including: vacant and run-down premises in the village centre which he felt were detrimental to the visual appeal of the village (and in a conservation area); a narrow boat currently moored in the village and being used for residential purposes; untrimmed hedges causing problems for drivers and pedestrians; speeding vehicles in the village and mud on the road outside the 'Mulberry Lea' development on Town Street.

ACTION: Clerk to enquire about licensing and/or registrations required for residential use of boats on Middle Level waters.

ACTION: Asst. Clerk to write to home owners along Town Street regarding overgrown hedges.

8. Report of the Planning committee

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

Cllr. Skelton raised a concern, questioning whether the Council was discriminating (or appearing to discriminate) against horse owners due to the number of planning proposals refused for stables. There was a general discussion about the rise of 'horsiculture' and whether this was effectively reclassifying agricultural land. The Council was happy that there was no discrimination and that the refusals were entirely due to practical matters of planning.

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

9. Report of the Environment & Leisure committee

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

Item 10/11 Cllr. Short presented the Council with an update on the IWA rally and Villages in Bloom projects. The Council requested further updates at next month's meeting.

Item 17 The Clerk reported that the neighbouring allotment holders had been notified and Mr Ken Bruce had expressed an interest in acquiring the 1 acre allotment now vacated by Mr Dix. It was agreed that Mr Bruce should take over the allotment.

ACTION: Clerk to advise Mr Bruce and draw up necessary paperwork.

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

10. Report from the Village Halls.

A report from Upwell village hall had previously been circulated.
On a proposal by Cllr. Medlock, seconded by Cllr. Andrew Harrison, the report was accepted.

There was nothing to report from Lakes End this month.

11. Health and Safety Issues.

Following a number of incidents involving the deaths of young people on local roads, Cllr. Humm reported back from a meeting with Grant Cotterill of Norfolk Fire Brigade. Mr Cotterill is proposing to take an appliance to areas where young people are known to congregate in the evening and demonstrate some of the fire & rescue skills and equipment used when attending road traffic accidents in an attempt to raise awareness of the dangers of driving at night/speeding/dangerous driving etc. The Council agreed that this was an excellent idea and suggested that he attend the Youth Group at the pavilion on a Tuesday evening.

12. Internal Council issues.

Item a The project documents for the redesign of the Parish Council website were presented by the Clerk and approved by the meeting. The Clerk will now begin the redesign process and report back to Council at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to prepare four main web pages prior to the next meeting.

Item b Cllr. Morgan reminded the meeting that the sub-groups formed as a result of the Councillor Responsibility Matrix should produce their reports on progress to date at the next full Council meeting.

13. Parish Affairs.

Item a Cllr. Humm presented the meeting with details of the public meeting planned to launch the parish's Home Watch scheme. The meeting is been scheduled for May 5th and a number of local law enforcement agencies and emergency service representatives will be present, along with representatives of the Home Watch scheme and other relevant parties. There was a call for as many councillors as possible to be available on the day to 'recruit' attendees into the scheme.

ACTION: Clerk to prepare posters for notice boards and local shops.

ACTION: Clerk to prepare press release for Fenland Citizen and investigate the possibility of getting supporting advertising from local businesses.

Cllrs. Humm and Lester reported back from a recent D2 meeting and presented the Council with a document outlining the structure for the Western Area Support Network.

07/12

- Item b** The Clerk handed out nomination packs for the forthcoming local election and ran through the election timetable.
- Item c** Cllr. Morgan reported on the recent meeting of Upwell and Outwell Parish Councils regarding anti-social behaviour in the villages.
- Item d** Cllrs. Morgan and Shorting presented a report from the recent meeting with Borough Council Grounds/Street Supervisor and the Green Space Technical Assistant. The Council heard that the work carried out in Upwell cemetery to date was excellent and it was hoped further work would further improve the burial ground.

ACTION: Clerk to ensure an article is prepared for the newsletter informing residents not to feed the rabbits in the cemetery.

14. Agenda items for the next meeting.

It was noted that the Parish Assembly would take place before the next full Council meeting. Cllr. Morgan requested Councillors to read his Annual Report and advised that this would appear in the forthcoming newsletter and would be an item on the Parish Assembly agenda. Any Councillor wishing to suggest an amendment should do so well before the Parish Assembly date.

- Reports from all sub-groups regarding activities relating to Parish Plan (Councillor Participation Matrix).
- Website

15. Date and time of the next meeting.

Tuesday, 10th March 2007. Commencing at 7.30pm at Upwell village hall. Preceded by the Parish Assembly at 7.00pm and Councillor Surgery at 6.30pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____