

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 14th April 2008 at Upwell village hall. Commenced at 7.48 pm with Councillor Neil Morgan in the chair.

Attending:

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

County Councillor – Harry Humphrey

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Assistant Clerk - Kate Bennett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Shorting.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Public Forum

No member of the public availed themselves of the opportunity to address the Council.

4. Report from Council Surgery

Mr Tibbs of Upwell had asked for advice about planning applications outside of the development area. Cllr. Gooch and Asst. Clerk Kate Bennett had advised.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on March 10th 2008

On a proposal by Cllr. Andrew Harrison, seconded by Cllr. Gooch, the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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6. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only)

Item 12.0 Health & Safety. Cllr. Shot asked for an update on the situation. As the matter was to be discussed later in the meeting the issue was dropped at this point.

Item 14.0 Trees Felled. Cllr. Harrison asked if anyone at the meeting know why ten trees had been felled in Lakes End recently. Cllr. Humm reported that the trees were diseased.

7. Report of the Finance Committee.

The report of the April Finance meeting had been previously circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Andrew Harrison, seconded by Cllr. Pope, the finance report was accepted.

8. Report from the Planning Committee.

The report of the March Planning & Transportation Committee meeting had previously been circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Andrew Harrison, seconded by Cllr. Robinson, the report was accepted.

Item 3.0 Declarations of Interest. Cllr. Barnard asked whether a full report was necessary, as requested. The Planning Committee replied that they were unhappy that Cllr. Morgan spoke for Cllr. Barnard at the last meeting. It was agreed that the matter was now settled.

Item 8.0 Enforcement Procedures. Cllr. Gooch noted that the new procedures put in place by BCKLWN to deal with complaints related to planning applications was not appropriate (individuals or individual councillors reporting a complaint to the Borough Council via a new form) and that any such complaints received should come through Council. Cllr Crofts offered to clarify the situation and report back.

ACTION: Cllr. Crofts to investigate and report back at next Full Council.

9. Report from the Environment & Leisure Committee.

The report of the March Environment & Leisure Committee meeting had previously been circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Humm, seconded by Cllr. Short, the report was accepted.

Item 6.0 Home Watch. Cllr. Humm reported that the Home Watch scheme had operated well last Sunday after an incident in the village.

Item 10.0 Summer Fete. It was noted that the date for this event was July and not June as had been discussed at the meeting.

10. Report from the Village Halls.

A report from Upwell had previously been circulated.

Cllr. Barnard raised the issue of the planned change of licence holder at Upwell village hall. There was a general discussion about the issue during which Cllr. Morgan advised the meeting that the Council follows the principles of best value and that this was the reason behind the proposed change. There was some discussion about possible alternative solutions but no agreement was reached and Cllr. Morgan advised the meeting that this matter was for the Village Hall Committee to decide upon.

11. 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.

Item a Traffic Petition. In relation to a petition sent to the Council by local MP Christopher Fraser, Cllr. Humphrey reported that there was currently a pilot scheme running in Marshland St. James where flashing signs were being used to slow vehicle speeds to 20mph outside schools (during certain hours of the day). It was agreed that the P&T Committee should handle the petition.

ACTION: Clerk to pass petition to P&T for action.

Item b Resignation of Paula Hainey – Finance Officer.

The Clerk read out an email received from Paula Hainey tendering her resignation from the post with immediate effect. The Chairman advised that the Finance Committee should oversee the appointment of a new R.F.O.

Item c Complaints about traffic. There were two complaints about the amount of HGV traffic using Town Street and the potential damage to property. There was a discussion about the issue, including the fact that the wrong part of Town Street appeared to have been resurfaced recently.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways for help in this matter.
ACTION: Cllr. Humphrey to investigate road resurfacing issue.

12. Health and Safety Issues.

There was nothing to report this month.

13. Internal Council issues.

Item a Web Site. The Clerk reported that the Council Website has now been updated in full and asked for members of the Council to supply more information with regard to event details and local news.

Item b Sub-Group Reports. Reports from the Leisure and Open Gardens groups had previously been received and circulated. Cllr. Morgan gave a verbal report about recent Home Watch developments.

14. Parish Affairs.

Item a Town Street Railings. Cllr. Morgan reported that an email had been received from Graham Simpson at BCKLWN regarding the options for replacing the railings. All works would have to be carried out at Upwell Parish Council's costs. There was a general discussion about the situation and it was agreed that this issue be discussed at both the Planning &

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Transportation Committee meeting and at the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting and reports should be made back to the next Full Council meeting with ideas on how to proceed.

ACTION: Asst. Clerk to add to both Committee's agendas.

ACTION: Cllr. Barnard to investigate Middle Level Commissioners stance on the situation.

Item b Report on NCC unitary authority meeting. Cllr. Morgan reported on a recent meeting between the Boundary Committee, Norfolk County Council and local Parish Councils, attended by himself and the Clerk. He outlined the suggested proposals for the unitary authority and secondary tiers of organisation. There was some discussion about the possible and probable outcomes and Cllr. Humphrey advised the meeting that the status quo would only remain if no unitary authority can be produced.

15. Agenda items for the next meeting.

Cllr. Barnard to report from Middle Level Users Group meeting.

Town Street Railings

Cllr. Crofts report on planning complaints procedures

16. Date and time of the next meeting.

Monday, 12th May 2008. Commencing at 7.30pm at Upwell village hall. Preceded by the AGM at 7.00pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____