

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 11th August 2008 at Lakes End 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. Keith Harrison
Cllr. Frank Humm
Cllr. Prue Lester
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. David Pope
Cllr. Chris Robinson
Cllr. Sylvie Short
Cllr. Ros Shorting

Clerk – Kate Cobley

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Andrew Harrison, Cllr. Mungham, Borough Councillor Spikings and County Councillor Humphrey.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Public Forum

No members of the Public chose to address the Council.

4. Report from Council Surgery

No members of the Public attended surgery this month.

5. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on July 14th 2008

On a proposal by Cllr. Barnard, seconded by Cllr. Pope, the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only)

Item 12.b Performance of NCC Highways. Cllr. Pope asked whether any communication had been received from County Councillor Humphrey, who had been asked to investigate the performance of NCC Highways contractors. This was due to the poor quality of work that had recently been

carried out around the village. The Clerk advised that nothing had been heard and was asked to chase up a response.

ACTION: Clerk to contact County Councillor Humphrey.

Item 14.c Recycling Facilities. Cllr. Crofts advised the meeting that he had checked to see what plans the Borough Council had for extending the range of items which would be collected via the green bin scheme. He reported that there were no plans to extend the scheme at present although there was the possibility that food waste would be considered for collection at some point.

7. Report of the Finance Committee.

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

8. Report from the Planning Committee.

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

Item 5.0 Minutes. The P&T Committee had discussed the idea of sending out the minutes directly after the committee meeting, rather than waiting for the month end meeting pack as it was felt that there was too much paperwork to read in one go before each Full Council meeting. This was brought before the full Council for a decision as it would also apply to the E&L Committee minutes.

Proposal: To send out the draft minutes of both the Environment and Leisure and Planning and Transportation Committee meetings as soon as they have been prepared by the Assistant Clerk. This supersedes the current method of sending out all meeting minutes in a single pack of information one week prior to the Full Council meeting.

Proposed By: David Barnard

Seconded By: Frank Humm

Agreed unanimously by a show of hands.

Item 9.0 BT Phone Box Removal. It was noted that although the Council had no objection to BT's plans to remove a number of phone boxes throughout the villages, the plans had been put before the Development Control Board at BCKLWN and had been refused, so the boxes would remain.

9. Report from the Environment & Leisure Committee.

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

Item 6.0 Policing. Cllr. Shorting advised the meeting of recent activities of a number of youths in the playing field area and of attempts to tackle the problem by local police.

Item 13.0 Open Gardens. Cllr. Pope expressed his disappointment at the amount of money raised by this year's Open Gardens scheme. He acknowledged the huge effort that Cllr. Short and the team had put into making the scheme a success but expressed surprise that more money had not been raised. He asked whether the Parish Council could do more next time to support and promote the event. Cllr. Short responded. She reported that the organising team was quite happy with the amount raised this year but would be taking the lessons learned forward to the next event in two year's time with a view to improving on this year's figures.

10. Report from the Village Halls.

A report from Upwell had previously been circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Barnard seconded by Cllr. Humm, the report was accepted

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 Allotments. A further letter had been received asking for a garden allotment. The issue of allotment provision was discussed and the Clerk advised that an area of land off Scholars way, currently tenanted, was due to come up for contract renewal in the next two months, should the Council wish to consider its use for such a scheme. There was further discussion and it was proposed that the issue be debated fully at the next Environment and Leisure Committee meeting in September.

ACTION: Clerk to advise Assistant Clerk of E&L agenda item.

Item b Cycling on Footpaths. A letter had been received from Mr or Mrs S. Wilson in Upwell in response to the recent newsletter article regarding the danger of cycling on footpaths. It was proposed that letters be published in the forthcoming newsletter.08/28

12. Health and Safety Issues.

There were no Health and Safety issues to report this month.

Cllr. Morgan asked for volunteers to carry out the Risk Assessment for the Village Hall in Upwell. Cllrs. Barnard and Humm offered to help.

ACTION: Cllrs, Barnard and Humm to organise a visit to the village hall to carry out the inspection.

13. **Parish Affairs.**

Item a **Home Watch.** Cllr. Morgan reported on current Home Watch numbers and advised that the scheme would remain as a Council run activity until more co-ordinators had been found, at which point it would transfer control to the scheme administrator.

Item b **Community Speed Watch.** Cllr. Humm reported that the scheme is running well and co-operation with Outwell is being considered as they are looking to take part in the scheme too. Cllr. Humm was asked to find out whether those people caught speeding by the team had received their warning letters.

ACTION: Cllr. Humm to investigate.

Item c **Riverbank Cut.** Cllr. Pope raised the issue of the recent cut of the riverbank through Upwell. The quality of work had been so poor that the root system of much of the lower banks had been damaged and consequently, recent bad weather had caused slippage of the banks into the river. There had been a large amount of damage done to boards around moorings and a large amount of rubbish had been left on the banks and not collected. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Middle Level Commissioners (who are responsible for the cutting of the banks) detailing the problems and asking for appropriate action to be taken to repair the damage.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Middle Level Commissioners.

Item d **Chicken Run.** Cllr. Pope raised the issue of young people playing 'chicken' across New Road (A1101). The practice had been reported to the Police but as the children are also using and abusing the war memorial it was felt that the issue should be raised at Full Council for awareness and comment. It was agreed that little could be done other than report problems to the Police as they occur, highlight the issue in the forthcoming newsletter and reapply for the Dispersal Order.

Item e **Maintenance of Churchyard and Cemetery.** Cllr. Pope reported on recent discussions with BCKLWN regarding proposed work to maintain the churchyard and cemetery in Upwell.

Item f **Unitary Status.** There were reports from the Clerk, Cllr. Lester and Cllr. Pope regarding a number of meetings recently held about the proposed reorganisation of Norfolk's local government structure. It was agreed that the issue should be debated fully and that it should be an agenda item at the next meeting. The Parish Council needs to respond to the proposals before the 26th September.

ACTION: Clerk to provide all Councillors with more information and add as an agenda item at the next Full Council meeting.

Item g **Mill Rigg.** Cllr. Barnard reported that the situation regarding the footpath along Mill Rigg was still not resolved. Mr Smith, the landowner was still disputing the matter and was threatening to “hold the Parish Council responsible” if the County Council forced him to unlock or remove the gates. Cllr. Morgan reminded the meeting that the Parish Council was in no way responsible for the issue and had no intention of pursuing the matter of the gates as long as the footpath at the side of them remained open. It was also suggested that the Parish Council would be happy to repair and maintain the path at the side of the gates, which was falling away in parts. It was suggested that the Clerk discuss the issue with Mr Mills: Rights of Way Officer at Norfolk County Council.

ACTION: Clerk to contact David Mills at NCC.

14. Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Quality of Highways work
- Unitary Status

15. Date and time of the next meeting.

Monday, 8th September 2008. Commencing at 6.45pm at Upwell village hall.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____