

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 13th October 2008 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. Keith Harrison
Cllr. Frank Humm
Cllr. Prue Lester
Cllr. David Pope
Cllr. Roger Mungham
Cllr. Chris Robinson
Cllr. Sylvie Short
Cllr. Ros Shorting

County Councillor Harry Humphrey

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Asst. Clerk – Kate Bennett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Morgan and Borough Councillor Spikings.

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 September 8th 2008

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only)

Item 6.12.b Cost of highways work. Cllr Humphrey advised the meeting that he is still awaiting this information from Martin Edmonds at NCC but is expecting an answer soon and will call tomorrow to chase.

Cllr. Barnard also asked Cllr Humphrey to investigate the situation behind the current drainage work on Town Street, Upwell. There were concerns that the work had had to be carried out twice due to incorrect plans being used initially and that some gullies appeared to be below water level in places. There was also concern about oil/diesel pollution being carried straight into the river from the road.

Cllr. Humphrey offered to discuss this situation with The Middle Level Commissioners and report back.

Cllr. Andrew Harrison also pointed out that the Planning Committee had been lobbying for improved drainage on Town Street for some time and after a joint site visit the location of drainage gullies was discussed. The current work appears to have 'missed' some causing concerns about drainage for those areas. Cllr. Andrew Harrison also pointed out that the road surface was supposed to be planed and completely resurfaced after the work had been carried out and yet only heavy patching is actually being carried out.

Cllr. Humphrey proposed that a site visit be carried out with Martin Edwards of NCC to investigate the situation.

ACTION: Cllr. Humphrey to investigate issues and report back.

7. To receive the report of the Finance Committee

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

8. To receive the report of the Planning & Transportation Committee

The report of the September P&T meeting had been previously circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Lester, seconded by Cllr. Shorting, the Planning and Transportation report was accepted.

There were a number of items discussed generally, including the situation regarding flood signs at Welney Wash. Cllr. Andrew Harrison reported on the map and flood watch procedure and there was a discussion about the location of signs and the protocol for letting Highways know when they need to be opened/closed. The meeting agreed that improved communication between the Environment Agency and NCC Highways is the key to resolving the issue.

Item a. Sewage Treatment Works At Tipps End. There was concern that the Council had not received plans for the proposed treatment works. Cllr. Humm reported on his attendance at meetings regarding the proposed development and on his visit to a similar site at Holkham and reassured members that there was no smell from this type of treatment works. Cllr. Pope advised the meeting that he had contacted both NCC and BCKLWN regarding the plans and that the Parish Council should soon receive a set for consideration.

9. To receive the report of the Environment & Leisure Committee

The report of the September Environment and Leisure meeting had been previously circulated. On a proposal by Cllr. Short, seconded by Cllr. Lester, the Environment and Leisure report was accepted.

Cllr. Crofts asked the members whether the two police bikes currently stored at Cllr. Lester's property were being used. The answer was no and Cllr. Humm reported that the Police in Downham Market were so busy tackling anti-social behaviour in the town that there were no resources left for the villages at the moment. The meeting recorded its disquiet about this news.

Cllr. Andrew Harrison asked the meeting if anyone had concerns about the removal of three large conifers along to road edge of the memorial garden in Upwell. Members all agreed that this was necessary and Cllr. Pope proposed that the trees be replaced with more appropriate specimens. The meeting agreed unanimously.

10. To receive the Village Halls' reports

Cllr. Humm reported on activities at Three Holes village hall and playing field and Cllr. Andrew Harrison reported on activities at Upwell.

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 Middle Level Commissioners. The Clerk read out a reply to the Parish Council's letter of 14th August, regarding to poor state of the banks following a recent cut. There was a discussion about the letter and the current situation but no further action was proposed.

Item 6 Street Light Request for Lakes End. The Clerk read out a request for a street light on Cock Fen Road in Lakes End. There was a discussion about the practicality and cost of erecting a street light in the desired location and Cllr. Andrew Harrison suggested that a reply be drafted inviting the residents to meet with a Councillor and discuss the request in more detail – look at possible sites etc. The project could then be costed and passed back to Finance and Full Council for further discussion.

12. Health and Safety Issues.

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

Cllr. Barnard reported that the planned risk assessment had not yet been carried out due to work commitments.

13. Parish Affairs

Item a. Garden Allotments. The Clerk reported that a final figure had still not been received from the Borough Council regarding the rental of land at the rear of St. Peter's Road Cemetery for garden allotments. The Borough Council had indicated that the land would be made available to rent at a nominal fee and was awaiting the outcome of a committee meeting before formalising the details. It was proposed that the Clerk should write to all those who had enquired about allotments to ascertain actual interest and an article was proposed for the next newsletter to generate more interest if required.

ACTION: Cllr. Humphrey to investigate issues and report back.

14. Internal Council Affairs

Item a. Nominations for the Mayors Civic Awards For Voluntary Service. Cllr. Shorting suggested Mrs Beryl Boyce as a Cub group leader for over 30 years and Mr and Mrs Cuss for their voluntary work. There was a discussion and it was agreed that the Clerk would put forward both parties and that Cllr. Shorting would supply details of their work for the local community.

Proposal: To nominate both Mrs Beryl Boyce and Mr and Mrs A. Cuss for the Mayors Award For Voluntary Service.

Proposed By: David Pope
Seconded By: Frank Humm

All agreed unanimously by a show of hands.

ACTION: Clerk to complete applications
ACTION: Cllr. Shorting to complete information for Clerk.

15. Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Christmas Inter-Council Event
- Christmas Lights Competition
- Garden Allotments

16. Date and time of the next meeting.

Monday, 10th November 2008. Commencing at 7.30pm at Upwell village hall.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____