

## UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at Upwell village hall. Commenced at 7.30 pm with Councillor Neil Morgan in the chair.

**Attending:**

Borough Cllr. Spikings  
County Cllr. Humphreys  
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. David Pope  
Cllr. Sylvie Short  
Cllr. Ros Shorting  
Cllr. Chris Robinson

Asst. Clerk – Kate Bennett

---

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Roger Mungham and Kate Cobley (Clerk).

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**3. Public Forum**

No members of the public attended.

**4. Report from Council Surgery**

Kate Blake attended the Council Surgery and spoke with Cllr. Morgan regarding a possible Community Car Scheme for Emneth, Upwell, Outwell, Welney, Lakes End & Three Holes. She was wondering if anything similar already existed in our area and, if not, she would like to pursue her idea. After discussion it was determined that although Norfolk County Council run a number of schemes in Norfolk and we knew of a scheme called West Norfolk Community Transport, Dial-a-Bus and F.A.C.T.(Fenland Area Community Transport) we do not have such an operation in our Parish and she is therefore welcome to pursue this project.

**5. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

On a proposal by Cllr. Jill Gooch, seconded by Cllr. Andrew Harrison, the minutes were agreed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman upon the Clerk's return from holiday.

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

**Item 2**            **Declarations of Interest.** This paragraph to be amended to read 'Cllrs. Mungham and Barnard declared a general interest in item 13.a Well Creek Bank Management' (the word "Crofts" to be removed).

**Item 6. 13.a**    **War Memorial.** The word 'led' on line 3 to be removed.

**ACTION:** Clerk

**Item 6. 14.d**    **Tree Protection Orders.** Cllr Lester advised that she is still awaiting the list of TPO's.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Pope

**7. To receive the report of the Planning & Transportation Committee**

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

**Item 7.j.**            **Confirmation of frontage of 2 properties along New Road, Upwell.** Cllr. Pope asked why this enquiry was being made by the Planning & Transportation Committee and advised Council that some years ago Highways realigned this corner of road, a hedge was taken out and a small amount of verge was used when realigning the road. This leaves only about 12" of land from the trees to the edge of the road which Highways own. Cllr. Shorting advised that she had received a complaint from a parishioner that children were being reprimanded when walking on this area of land which is why enquiries were being made about ownership etc.

**ACTION:** Planning & Transportation Committee

**8. To receive the report of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

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

Cllr. Crofts apologised for not sending his apologies to the last meeting.

**Item 7.0. Speed Watch.** Cllr. Humm advised that a nuisance motorcyclist reported at the last Environment & Leisure Committee meeting travelling at excessive speeds along New Road has now been recorded twice during Speed Watch exercises.

**Item 11.0 Cemetery.** Borough Cllr. Spikings advised that she is still working hard to try and improve the appearance of the cemetery. The BCKLWN have had one day there to try and make improvements but Borough Cllr. Spikings is still not happy with its appearance. She is endeavouring to obtain a schedule of works from them to try and determine what we can expect from them in the future.

**ACTION:** Borough Cllr. Spikings

**Item 13.0 Garden Allotments.** Clerk to contact Sharon Fettes at BCKLWN for clarification on colours and wording for the signs for the garden allotments.

**ACTION:** Clerk

**Item 15.0 Relocation of dog waste bins and their usage.** Cllr. Pope asked for clarification on where the dog waste bin from the school was to be resited. It was confirmed that this would go to either the Methodist Footbridge or to the top of the footpath that runs between School Road and Baptist Road at the Baptist Road end (as requested by a parishioner). Borough Cllr. Spikings requested information on the amount of dog waste bins we currently have in the parish, the cost of them and the cost to us for the emptying of them by the Borough.

**ACTION:** Asst. Clerk

**9. To receive the Village Halls' reports**

Cllr. Morgan gave a verbal report, updating councillors on events for the forthcoming months including a quiz, a demonstration of ceramic painting, a car treasure hunt, a craft fair and an evening with Peter Carter.

**10. Health and Safety Issues.**

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

11. Parish Affairs

**Item a. Garden Allotment Report.** The Clerk had prepared a report to update all councillors on the current situation with the garden allotments. Cllr. Crofts requested clarification from the Clerk on when the tenants are invoiced – is it twice a year, April and October? Cllr. Keith Harrison advised that he has now strimmed an area at the top and bottom of the allotments and so there is now room for 2 more allotments. Cllr. Andrew Harrison suggested that we no longer require permanent staking of the allotments as fences are now in place. Cllr. Crofts suggested an annual Allotment Competition for neatness and tidiness etc., to be judged in July/August. Cllr. Morgan wished to thank the Clerk for a comprehensive report.

**ACTION:** Clerk

Cllr. Pope reported at this stage of the meeting of a willow tree in the corner of Mr. Kok's field with a bough broken off, lodged up against the trunk – potential hazard.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Pope to make further investigations

**Item b. Car Parking/Sales & Scrap Yard at Three Holes.** Following the concerns raised to Council last month with the increasingly worsening problem of cars/vans/trailers being parked on the road/verges/layby at Three Holes and the added complication of car sales taking place from the garages and a scrap yard operating between the two garage premises, various agencies have been contacted to try and allay concerns from residents about pollution, fire risks and safety on the main road due to the blockages.

Mr. Trotman of Waterways Garage has confirmed that although he owns the verge opposite his garage, the cars parked here do not belong to him. This verge does NOT belong to Highways as previously thought.

Norfolk Fire & Rescue have confirmed that with regard to fire safety legislation, the scrap yard owned by Mr. Hempson is fully compliant.

The Environment Agency have asked for Mr. Hempson's address so that they can get in touch regarding registration. The Asst. Clerk to forward these details on.

NCC Highways advised the Asst. Clerk that they had previously spoken with the owner of the cars parked on the verge but had not been successful in getting them removed.

It was suggested that the Police should get involved regarding the parking of the vehicles on the verge. If the vehicles have neither, tax, MOT or insurance then they should be towed away.

**ACTION:** Clerk & Asst. Clerk to action.

**Item c. Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting.** The recent CAG meeting did not attract high numbers of people. The crime statistics were distributed for the last few weeks and as the situation in Upwell has recently improved the Police will be concentrating their efforts in other areas over the next few weeks. County Cllr. Humphreys offered to send Cllr. Morgan the relevant 'link' for the on-line reports from SNT for inclusion in the Newsletter.

**Item d. Report on progress with Town Street resurfacing petition.** This exercise has been put on-hold for the time being. The section of Town Street in question has recently been surface dressed by NCC Highways. County Cllr. Humphreys has requested that the 'Testing Vehicle' from NCC Highways pays a visit to assess its condition now that it has been surface dressed. This vehicle should give some idea how even the road actually is and how much vibration etc. there is – results awaited. Council generally felt that the condition of the road was still not suitable and that the work recently done had not improved the situation at all as the road is still extremely bumpy. This section of Town Street needs resurfacing not just surface dressing, surface dressing merely seals the road and stops water getting in where as resurfacing involves planing up the road, taking the current surface completely off and resurfacing.

**ACTION:** County Cllr. Humphreys

**Item e. Dyke Clearance at Health Centre.** It has been advised that part of this area encompasses a 'managed landscape site' but it was agreed that the section of dyke from where the reeds finish, to the part of the dyke at the exit of the car park can be cleared as soon as possible by the Community Pay Back Team, it is envisaged that this is little more than 1 hour's work. The section of dyke with the reeds in (which encompasses the managed landscape site) should be cleaned out by BCKLWN in the wintertime when little damage can be done to neighbouring flora and fauna.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Shorting

**12. Internal Council Affairs**

There were none.

**13. Agenda Items For The Next Meeting**

- Update on Three Holes Scrap Yard/Car Parking/Sales
- Progress of Dyke Clearance at Health Centre
- Results of Testing Vehicle along Town Street

**14. Date and time of the next meeting.**

Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Commencing at 7.30pm at Upwell village hall.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_