

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 9th February 2009 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. David Pope
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. Roger Mungham
Cllr. Chris Robinson
Cllr. Sylvie Short
Cllr. Ros Shorting

Borough Councillor Vivienne Spikings

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Asst. Clerk – Kate Bennett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Harry Humphrey and Cllr Lester.

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 one attended Council Surgery this month.

5. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on December 8th 2008

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only)

- Item 4.0 Report from council surgery – anti-social behaviour on Townley Close.**
The Clerk informed the meeting that she had written to the Practice Manager at Upwell Health Centre and was awaiting a reply. She had also contacted Sgt. Gary Zoller at Downham Market Police Station about the situation. He had responded with information about a special meeting regarding Upwell, which Cllr. Shorting had more information about. Borough Cllr Spiking offered to help deal with such incidents in the future (as the car park is Borough Council property).
- Item 6.0 Report from the Planning & Transportation Committee.** Cllr. Short asked about the progress with the permanent signage planned for the parish with regard to the Speed Watch project. The Assistant Clrk reported that final designs are awaited from Norfolk County Council's Highway's department.
- Item 14. Local Government Reorganisation.** Cllr. Crofts reported that the Secretary of State had given the Boundary Committee For England & Wales until July to complete its submission regarding unitary status in Norfolk. This was due to a number of legal challenges that had been made against the legitimacy of the proposal.

7. To receive the report of the Finance Committee

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

Cllr. Crofts asked the Clerk to ensure that any expenditure that was re-chargeable to the village hall or playing field committees was clearly marked.

Cllr. Andrew Harrison reported that the costs of a dog waste bin for school road had been received (£82 +VAT) and that confirmation of its positioning was awaited from the school.

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

No Planning Committee meeting was held in January so there was no report this month.

Cllr. Andrew Harrison reported on a meeting with the Borough Conservation Officer regarding the extension of the current conservation area in Upwell. There was a general discussion about this and it was agreed that an article should be prepared for the forthcoming newsletter with detailed information, asking for comments from residents. It was also agreed that Councillors would make their own contributions as to this issue before the newsletter was published – in order to make sure valid points were included.

ACTION: Clerk to prepare newsletter article.

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

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

Item 17.b. Allotments. Cllr. Pope asked about the decision regarding the agricultural allotment vacancy at Three Holes. There was a discussion about the agreed tenancies and the Clerk informed the meeting that contracts had been drawn up and sent out.

Item 7.b. Speed Watch. Cllr. Harrison asked about the legal implications of photographs being taken by the Speed Watch team. Cllr. Humm informed the meeting that photographs were only being taken of the team at work for publicity purposes and no vehicles details were captured.

Item 17.a Garden Allotments. Cllr. Shorting informed the meeting that Community Service Teams will clear the land of rubbish and trim overhanging trees. A tractor and trailer will be provided to remove the debris. Cllr. Robinson added that Mr Jamie Brighty had offered to plough, strim and power-harrow the land to prepare it for use.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Brighty and express the Council's thanks in anticipation.

10. To receive the Village Halls' reports

Cllr. Morgan reported on activities at Upwell village hall including the recent pantomime and the upcoming AGM.

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.

A quotation had been received from EDF Energy regarding new street lights for Lakes End. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Finance Committee was recommending two new lights, one opposite Innisfree and one outside Meadowside – at a combined capital cost of £1313 +VAT.

The meeting recommended that membership of the CPRE (campaign for the protection of rural England) be referred to the Finance Committee.

ACTION: Clerk to add to Finance Agenda.

12. Health and Safety Issues.

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

13. Parish Affairs

Item a. Garden Allotments. This item had been discussed earlier. The Clerk asked members whether non-residents of the parish could be allocated allotments, there was general agreement that this was preferable to allotments being left empty. It was also clarified that livestock would not be allowed on allotments.

- Item b. Street Lights For Lakes End.** The cost had been discussed as part of the Correspondence item on the agenda. There was a general discussion about the provision of lighting in Lakes End and the exact location of the lights. The meeting agreed that this work should be undertaken and asked the Clerk to progress the project.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the affected residencies prior to placing any order.

- Item c. Town Street House Numbering.** The Clerk circulated information about the process which would be undertaken if a house numbering scheme for Town Street, Upwell were to take place. There was some discussion as to its necessity and historic reactions to such a suggestion. It was suggested that the proposal be included in the forthcoming newsletter and responses invited from residents. Borough Councillor Vivienne Spiking offered to progress the scheme in liaison with the Clerk.

Proposal: To instigate a house numbering scheme for Town Street, Upwell.

Proposed By: Cllr. Gooch

Seconded By: Cllr. Humm

For – 10

Against – 0

Abstentions -2

The vote was carried in favour of progressing with this scheme.

ACTION: Clerk to prepare newsletter item.

ACTION: Clerk to write a formal request to the Borough Council to initiate further action.

- Item d. Gritting Routes.** The Assistant Clerk reported on information received from Norfolk County Council Highways department that neither St. Peter's Road nor Small Lode had ever been more than a priority 3 route for gritting and that gritters would only treat those roads "after periods of prolonged frost". The Assistant Clerk was asked to reply refuting this. Borough Councillor Spiking informed the meeting that she had spoken to Martin Edwards (NCC Highways) regarding this issue and that he had advised her that the issue would be revisited for next winter but no further change could be expected this year. He advised that Townley Close would be gritted. It was suggested that County Councillor Humphrey be asked to get involved with this issue.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to reply to NCC Highways and liaise with County Councillor Humphrey with regard to his help in resolving the dispute.

14. Internal Council Affairs

There were no matters for discussion this month.

Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Online Planning E-Consultation Scheme demo.
 - There was some discussion about this and it was agreed that this should not take place prior to the next meeting as planned but should be held on a separate date and Councillors from Emneth and Outwell should be invited.
- Parish Assembly

15. Date and time of the next meeting.

Monday, 9th March 2009. Commencing at 7.30pm at Upwell village hall.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____