

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 12th January 2008 at Upwell village hall. Commenced at 7.20 pm with Councillor Neil Morgan in the chair.

Attending:

Cllr. David Barnard
Cllr. Chris Crofts
Cllr. Jill Gooch
Cllr. Keith Harrison
Cllr. David Pope
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. Roger Mungham
Cllr. Chris Robinson
Cllr. Sylvie Short

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Asst. Clerk – Kate Bennett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Harry Humphrey, Borough Councillor Vivienne Spikings and Cllrs Humm, Andrew Harrison, Shorting and 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

A resident of Townley Close, Upwell spoke to Cllr Short with concerns about growing intimidation by a group of youths driving cars around the street and the Health Centre car park late at night. Cllr. Short reported the details to the meeting and there was a discussion as to the appropriate action.

It was agreed that a repetition of the dispersal order, covering Townley Close and the village hall/playing field car park last year, would be an ideal solution but there were concerns that it was unlikely to be reissued. Cllr. Morgan informed the meeting that there was to be a meeting regarding Upwell's problems by the SNT on February 13th and that he would attend this. The Clerk was tasked with writing to the local Police to see if extra attention to Townley Close/Upwell could be paid in the meantime and to write to the Practice Manager of the Health Centre to discuss the possibility of extending their CCTV system.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Practice Manager at Upwell Health Centre re CCTV system.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Gary Zoller – Norfolk Constabulary re extra patrols.

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

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only)

Item 9.7.b. Speed Watch. Cllr. Short asked why signs warning drivers of the impending speed watch area were necessary. The meeting heard that this was for legal and health and safety reasons.

7. To receive the report of the Finance Committee

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

Cllr. Morgan reported to the meeting on the outcome of a further meeting of the Finance Committee which had taken place immediately prior to the Full Council meeting. This was to discuss the budget provision for 2009/10. The outcome of this meeting was that the Committee was recommending that a 0% increase was made on the precept this year as increased costs could be absorbed from the Council's reserves. A formal resolution was then proposed:

Proposal: To accept a 0% increase in the precept for the forthcoming financial year.

Proposed By: Cllr. Crofts

Seconded By: Cllr. Gooch

Agreed unanimously by a show of hands.

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

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

Cllr. Barnard reported that the physical state of a wall bordering the footpath near the footbridge across the Well Creek at the Methodist Chapel was causing some concern.

ACTION: Asst. Clerk to write to property owner.

Cllr. Crofts reported that the physical condition of the roads accessing Crouches along Mudds Drove and out to Nordelph was causing concern.

ACTION: Asst. Clerk to write to NCC Highways.

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

No Environment & Leisure Committee meeting was held in December so there was no report this month.

Cllr. Short offered the meeting an update on the 'Walk Upwell' group activities and provided the Clerk with information to be placed on the website.

ACTION: Clerk to action.

10. To receive the Village Halls' reports

Cllr. Morgan reported on activities at Upwell village hall. There was concern that a recent security review had recommended the installation of a monitored alarm system and new security doors, and that failure to provide these would result in the venue losing its licence. The Village Hall Management Committee had already met and discussed the possibility of splitting the cost of the upgrade with the Parish Council (owners of the building) 50/50. There was general agreement amongst Councillors that this should happen as there was no desire to see the village hall lose its licence (and thereby lose valuable revenue from functions). Estimates for a new alarm system had been gathered and a final figure in the region of £2500 was expected. Cllr. Morgan also informed the meeting that estimates for refurbishing the toilets had been received and grants were being sought to fund this exercise.

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.

There was discussion about a letter received from Mr Kok regarding residents of Scholars Way, Upwell, tipping garden refuse over the fence into the field he rents from the Council. This letter was in response to residents' complaints about pumpkins being dumped on the field. As the Parish Council is the landowner in this case, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to residents of Scholars way reminding them not to throw garden refuse over the fences.

12. Health and Safety Issues.

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

13. Parish Affairs

Item a. Garden Allotments. Cllr. Pope reported that paperwork from the Borough Council finalising the lease of land at the rear of the cemetery was imminent and a rent of £120 per year was expected. There was then a general discussion about how to proceed. It was agreed that the issue would be raised at the next Environment & Leisure Committee meeting on January 21st with regard to drawing up a plan of action.

ACTION: Asst. Clerk to add to E&L agenda.

Item b. Street Lights For Lakes End. The Assistant Clerk reported that MBH were still awaiting figures from E-on before they could quote. This item was agreed to be ongoing on the agenda.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next Full Council agenda.

- Item c. Gritting Routes.** The Clerk circulated the new gritting route details. There was a discussion as to roads which should be on the list. The Asst. Clerk informed the meeting that she was in contact with NCC Highways regarding the issue and was awaiting a response.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next Full Council agenda.

- Item d. River Moorings.** Cllr. Morgan informed the meeting that a number of narrow boats, currently moored at March, were likely to moor on the Well Creek in Upwell. Cllr. Barnard provided background information and Cllr. Mungham informed the meeting that the Well Creek Trust and the Middle Level Commissioners had agreed to restrict moorings between the two road bridges in Upwell and outside of the village boundaries. This would make many more new moorings unlikely.

- Item e. Town Street Numbering.** Cllr. Gooch reported to the meeting on information she had received about the possible numbering of houses along Town Street, Upwell. This was to improve access for delivery services and emergency services. The proposal would only be carried forward following a consultation process with residents. There was a discussion about the subject and a general feeling that the matter should be pursued.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate and add to next Full Council agenda.

14. Internal Council Affairs

- Item a. Budget 2009/10.** Cllr Morgan reiterated the earlier proposal to keep the precept at its 2008/09 level and absorb extra costs through the Council's existing reserves.

- Item b. Proposed Local Government Reorganisation –Consider a response to the Secretary of State.** Cllr. Morgan suggested that the Clerk write to the Secretary of State directly using the contents of previous letters on the subject. There was general agreement.

ACTION: Clerk to action.

15. Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Garden Allotments
- Street Lights At Lakes End
- Town Street Numbering Scheme
- Gritting Routes

16. Date and time of the next meeting.

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____