

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual Parish Assembly, duly convened on Tuesday, 14th April 2009
at Upwell village hall. Commenced at 7.00 pm with
Councillor Neil Morgan in the chair.

Attending:

Cllr. David Barnard
Cllr. Jill Gooch
Cllr. Andrew Harrison
Cllr. Keith Harrison
Cllr. Prue Lester
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. Roger Mungham
Cllr. Chris Robinson
Cllr. Sylvie Short

County Councillor – Harry Humphrey
Clerk – Kate Cobley
Assistant Clerk - Kate Bennett

1. Attendance

A number of members of the public were present.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Pope, Crofts, Humm and Borough Councillor Spikings.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were made.

4. Proof of Notice

The Clerk reported that the notice of assembly had been posted on the Parish notice boards and in every shop in Upwell and Three Holes a week prior to the meeting in addition to being advertised in the Parish Newsletter and detailed in a Press Release printed by the Fenland Citizen on April 8th.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on April 14th 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting had been agreed and signed at a Full Council meeting on May 12th 2008.

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

No matters were discussed.

7. Report of the Chairman.

Cllr. Morgan presented the Chairman's report for 2009, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting and was made available to members of the public. He drew attention to the Council's activities promoting the new Home Watch scheme and local interest groups, such as 'Walk Upwell', and its continuing work on community engagement. He thanked the councillors and clerks for their efforts over the past year and looked forward to the coming twelve months.

8. Report from the Borough Council

The Borough Councillor was not in attendance and no report had been prepared by the Borough Council for the Parish to hear.

9. Report of the County Council

County Councillor Humphrey gave a verbal report on the work of Norfolk County Council, in which he highlighted:

Strategic Ambitions For Norfolk to

- be: an inspirational place with a clear sense of identity
- have: a vibrant, strong and sustainable economy
- and: aspirational people with high levels of attainment and skills

Funding

Norfolk County Council had suffered from 'grant damping' of £24.3 million and £32 million was currently tied up in failed Icelandic banks. Whilst a good portion of this money is hoped to be recovered, the impact of these two issues is a concern to the County Council.

Performance

Norfolk County Council was judged to be a four star, excellent, authority with effective leadership, delivering strong outcomes for local people. Its Children's and Adults Social Services both received good inspection results and schools in Norfolk are steadily improving.

Credit Crunch

Due to the current economic climate, the County Council has made an extra £125,000 available to Citizens Advice Bureaux in the region to provide additional Debt Advisers. It is also making £500,000 available to help Norfolk businesses and is providing debt and money advice services on its website.

Safety

Following a major review, £330,000 of new money has been made available for improving fire cover in rural areas this coming year and speed limits throughout the County have been reviewed and, where necessary, amended. A pilot scheme at Marshland Primary School, restricting speed limits to 20mph during school movement times has been evaluated and may be rolled out across the County.

Upwell

Gritting on local roads had been an issue this winter. It has been confirmed that St Peters Road, Low Side, Small Lode and Townley Close will all be included in the gritting routes next winter.

10. Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to question the Council on any of the issues discussed or to put forward comments and the following items were noted:

Parish Council Newsletter The Council was congratulated on the production of its newsletter but an inaccuracy in an item on the village hall was noted from the latest version.

Mud on Roads A member of the public asked about the current legislation and procedures for dealing with mud on the roads left by the large number of agricultural vehicles in the area. County Councillor Humphrey responded and advised that both the Police and Highways should be involved where it was felt that mud could cause an accident. Farmers had a duty to clean any stretch of highway where their vehicles left mud but it was recognised that this was not always practical or possible.

The meeting closed and councillors and public moved into the main hall where a selection of local interest groups and organisations had set up information displays and stalls.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____