

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 4th January 2010 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 (from 7.38pm)
Cllr. Andrew Harrison
Cllr. Frank Humm
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. Roger Mungham
Cllr. David Pope
Cllr. Chris Robinson
Cllr. Sylvie Short
Cllr. Ros Shorting

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Asst. Clerk – Kate Bennett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Lester, Cllr. Keith Harrison, Borough Cllr. Vivienne Spikings and County Councillor Harry Humphrey.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Short and Crofts declared a personal interest in item 12. Town Street Numbering and Resurfacing.

3. Public Forum

No members of the public attended the meeting this month.

4. Police Report

PCSO Steve Ross was unable to attend this month so there was no report.

5. Report from Council Surgery

No one attended surgery this month.

6. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on December 7th 2009

An amendment to the minutes was agreed:-

Item 16.e *(to be added to the end of this item in the minutes)* Cllr. Harrison asked the Clerk to investigate a Freedom of Information Act request to establish who had made the initial complaint to the Borough Council.

Cllr. Harison called for Cllr. Barnard to make available the emails he alleged had been sent 'outside of the council' inappropriately.

Following this amendment, on a proposal by Cllr. Shorting, seconded by Cllr. Humm, the minutes of the meeting of December 7th were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only)

The Clerk was asked to chase up Alistair Beales at the Borough Council regarding the proposed meeting regarding Upwell cemetery and churchyard.

8. To receive the report of the Finance Committee

The January meeting of the Finance Committee had taken place immediately prior to the full Council meeting so no minutes were available. Cllr. Morgan ran through the contents of the meeting and advised members that minutes would be available shortly.

9. To receive the Village Halls' reports

Cllr. Morgan gave a verbal report on activities at Upwell village hall and Cllr. Humm gave a report on activities at Three Holes village hall.

Cllr. Gooch arrived at the meeting.

10. Health and Safety Issues

Cllr Humm reported that the car park at Upwell Health Centre was treacherous in the recent icy weather and asked whether it could be gritted. Cllr. Harrison informed the meeting that the Borough Council had already been approached and that Norfolk County Council was costing the work for the Borough Council at Kings Lynn – a result was awaited.

ACTION: Asst. Clerk to chase up and report back at the next meeting.

Cllr. Humm also reported that he had been approached and asked whether the Council could provide a grit/salt bin at the junction of New Road/Green Road/Tointons Road.

ACTION: Asst. Clerk to investigate and report back at the next meeting.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk drew members attention to a number of items received and reminded them to look at the correspondence file for information about training and meetings.

- **Local Government Reorganisation:** The meeting discussed sending a further letter to the Secretary of State restating the Council's objection to the proposed changes.
- **Consultation on Part-Night Lighting:** The information was passed to the Environment & Leisure Ctte
- **Norfolk police Authority Budget Meeting:** Cllr. Humm agreed to attend.
- **Invitation to regional transport strategy meeting;** The information was passed to P&T for discussion.
- **Joint meeting of Parish Councils at Welney:** Cllr. Humm and others agreed to attend (depending on the date).
- **Letter from Mr Horsley regarding Town Street Numbering:** The Clerk was asked to respond.

ACTION: The Clerk was tasked with responding to the first and final items on this list.

12. Parish Affairs

- Item a. Town Street Resurfacing Petition.** The meeting heard that the Post Office now had the petition and that the letters for Town Street residents would be distributed by Cllrs Lester and Harrison over the next few days.
- Item b. Town Street Numbering .** This item had been discussed in response to Mr Horsley's letter (under correspondence). The Clerk was instructed to respond to this letter and let the Borough Council have information about the number of respondents.
- Item c. Best kept Garden Allotment Competition.** Cllr. Crofts asked the meeting whether it thought that such a competition would be a good idea and would encourage allotment tenants. There was a discussion and it was agreed that the allotment committee should meet an organise this.

13. Internal Council Affairs

Item a. Freedom of Information Act request. Cllr. Morgan asked the meeting whether it wished to pursue this as a corporate activity or whether Cllr. Andrew Harrison should decide to take it on as a personal matter.

The issue was discussed at some length and councillors were reminded once again not to pursue matters anonymously or as individuals if it pertained to Council business.

The following proposal was put forward:

Proposal: To drop the issue of making a Freedom of Information Act request to the Borough Council to establish who made the initial enquiry regarding the change of use at Waterways Garage. AND To remind councillors not to act as individuals on matters that are raised in Council or which could reasonably be seen as Council issues rather than personal issues.

Amendment: To formally reprimand any councillor who acts as an individual on matters that could reasonably be judged as corporate council issues.

Proposed By: Cllr. Crofts

Seconded By: Cllr. Pope

A vote was carried out by a show of hands :-

For	6 votes
Against	3 votes
Abstentions	1 vote

The proposal was carried.

Item b. Report from the submission of evidence from Cllr. Barnard. Cllr Barnard had not produced evidence so no discussion could take place. He undertook to produce this evidence at the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr. Barnard to produce email evidence at the next full council meeting on 1st February.

14. Agenda Items For The Next Meeting

- 2010/11 Budget
- Report from P&T Cttee on Local Development Framework

15. Date and time of the next meeting.

Monday, 1st February 2010. Commencing at 7.30pm at Upwell village hall.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____