

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 5th July 2010 at Upwell village hall. Commenced at 7.30 pm with Councillor Neil Morgan in the chair.

Attending:

Cllr. Brian Carr
Cllr. Chris Crofts
Cllr. Andrew Harrison
Cllr. Keith Harrison
Cllr. Frank Humm
Cllr. Prue Lester
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. Sylvie Short
Cllr. Ros Shorting

Clerk – Kate Cobley
Asst. Clerk – Kate Bennett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mungham, Pope and Robinson in addition to Borough Councillor Vivienne Spikings and County Councillor Harry Humphrey.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Public Forum

Mrs Yusuf of Small Lode, Upwell, attended the meeting and asked council to consider renting part of the 4.5 acre field off Low Side (owned by the Parish Council) to her for use as a garden. She explained that the tenants of the land do not farm the 'corner' she is discussing because of its shape and size and the area is congested with weeds and rubbish. Cllr. Crofts offered to investigate the possibility of changing the use of this land from agricultural to domestic curtilage with the Borough Council before reporting back to council and Mrs Yusuf.

ACTION: Cllr. Crofts to investigate and report back.

4. Police Report

No Police presence was available this month.

5. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7th June 2010

Following a proposal by Cllr. Andrew Harrison, seconded by Cllr. Shorting, the minutes of the meeting of 7th June were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only)

No matters were discussed.

7. To receive the report of the Finance Committee

The July 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.

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

Following a proposal by Cllr. Shorting, seconded by Cllr. Andrew Harrison, the minutes of the June meeting of the Planning & Transportation committee were agreed.

Item 6.c Proposal for potential sites for affordable housing scheme. Cllr. Crofts noted his surprise at the decision of the committee not to put forward a note of interest in the investigations into a possible affordable housing scheme for Upwell/Outwell. Cllr. Andrew Harrison responded on behalf of the P&T committee, outlining the problems that (up to) 15 homes could cause for the village, including the effect on the health centre and school, which are both overstretched at the moment. There was a discussion about this issue and it was agreed that it should be returned to the P&T Ctte for further discussion and that full council should be kept informed of developments.

ACTION: Clerk to write to BCKLWN to investigate why families from outside of the village have been relocated here in the past and what the reasons were behind the rejection of previous sites proposed for such a scheme.

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

Following the amendment below and a proposal by Cllr. Humm, seconded by Cllr. Short, the minutes of the June meeting of the Environment & Leisure committee were agreed.

Item 7.a Home Watch. Cllr. Humm informed the meeting that this discussion had referred to the Speed Watch scheme, not the Home Watch scheme and that it was County wide, not country wide.

Item 16.a Re-siting of bench to Small Lode. Cllr. Harrison advised that he would not be carrying out this work and Cllr. Morgan advised the meeting that Cllr. Carr had volunteered to carry it out.

Cllr. Humm gave a brief report on a recent meeting regarding the Home Watch scheme which had taken place at Downham Market earlier during the day..

Cllr. Morgan reported that the village sign has now been refurbished and is back in place. He thanked Cllrs Lester and Harrison for their kind efforts in repairing and repainting the sign.

Cllr Morgan reported on the recent successful Open Gardens day and associated events.

10. To receive the Village Halls' reports

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

11. Health and Safety Issues

No issues were reported or discussed this month.

12. 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.

13. Parish Affairs

Item a. Litter Clearance. The previously proposed article had not been placed in the recent newsletter and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Cllrs. Lester and Humm to prepare an item for the September issue. Cllrs Lester and Humm would also take the issue back to the E&L committee for further discussions.

ACTION: Clerk to action.

Item b. Town Street Railings. This item was deferred as Cllr Gooch was not present.

Item c. Affordable Housing Scheme. This item was discussed earlier during item 6.

Item d. Community Wildlife Funding Scheme. Cllr. Andrew Harrison reported to council on the funding scheme available for creating wildlife areas open to the local community. A site opposite the village school was proposed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would put together a working group to help obtain funding and develop the site – in partnership with the school.

- Item e. Up & Out Running Club – use of village hall toilets.** The Clerk bought this request to council and members heard that this local women's running club wanted to be able to use the village hall toilets (if necessary) on a Tuesday evening before setting off. The club had previously been offered use of the pavilion toilets for £5 per week but as the members do not pay any subs it was felt that a £20 per month charge was not sustainable for them. Council members did not think that the hall should be used as a casual public convenience when open and the request was denied.

ACTION: Clerk to reply to the club.

- Item f. Low Side Allotment Land.** The Clerk reported that she had had two expressions of interest in the land, one of which was from a current tenant on Parish Council land elsewhere in the village. A proposal was put forward to meet with this tenant to discuss terms with a view to letting the land out with immediate effect.

14. Internal Council Affairs

No items were discussed this month.

15. Agenda Items For The Next Meeting

- Town Street Railings (Cllr. Gooch).
- Affordable Housing proposal (report from P&T Ctte)

16. Date and time of the next meeting.

The next full meeting of the council will take place on Monday, 2nd August 2010 at 7.30pm in Upwell village hall.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____