

UPWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Monday, 1st March 2010 at Upwell village hall. Commenced at 7.30 pm with Councillor Neil Morgan in the chair.

Attending:

Cllr. Chris Crofts
Cllr. Jill Gooch
Cllr. Andrew Harrison
Cllr. Frank Humm
Cllr. Prue Lester
Cllr. Neil Morgan
Cllr. Roger Mungham
Cllr. David Pope (from 7.48pm)
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 Cllr. Keith Harrison and County Councillor Harry Humphrey.

Cllr. Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting, extending a special thanks to Vivienne Spikings for her attendance. He also extended his personal thanks to the Council for its nomination of him for the Mayors Civic Award For Voluntary Service.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

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

Cllr. Gooch reported that Mr Harper, of Listers Road (present at the meeting) had enquired about the possibility of the Parish Council clearing the dyke at the rear of the properties along Listers Road. The dyke was full of debris from the adjoining orchard and the owner of the orchard had declined to clear it himself. Cllr. Pope informed Mr Harper that the Parish Council could do little in this case but that owners of properties on Listers Road had the right to clear

their half of the ditch. The Clerk offered to write to The Middle Level Commissioners to establish whether there was anything that they could do but Mr Harper was advised that this was in hope rather than in expectation.

6. Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on January 4th 2010

With the following amendment noted and after a proposal by Cllr. Mungham, seconded by Cllr. Andrew Harrison, the minutes of the meeting of February 1st were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

Amendment to item 2. Declarations of Interest. The declaration should have referred to Town Street Renumbering and not Town Street Resurfacing as stated.

Amendment to item 14.c. Gritting of Health Centre car park. The £300 per annum discussed was not necessarily payable for 15 years.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes (information only)

There were no updates to report.

8. To receive the report of the Finance Committee

The March 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 report of the Planning & Transportation Committee

The minutes of the February Planning & Transportation Committee were agreed as a true record.

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

The minutes of the February Environment & Leisure Committee were agreed as a true record following the following amendments:

Item 9.0 War Memorial. The meeting with Andrew Golding had not been agreed at the time of this meeting. Asst. Clerk to amend the minutes to reflect this.

Item 8.0 Village Hall Report. It was reported that the dance held at the hall was in aid of the Playing Field and not the Village Hall Ctte as stated.

Item 6.0 CCTV. The £1500 discussed was not connected in any way to the visit by Carl Weeks of BCKLWN.

The following items were updated:

Item 7.0 Homewatch. Cllr. Lester reported that the new system was due to be launched in April. More information to follow.

Item 17.0 Open Gardens. Cllr Short advised that an advert would be raised for residents to open their gardens this year.

Cllr. Lester asked Council whether an article could be placed in the next newsletter regarding a litter-pick along the banks of the Well Creek.

ACTION: Clerk to action.

Cllr. Andrew Harrison reported that a problem with a tree growing out of a dyke on Parish Council allotment land on Squire's drove could be dealt with and that he would see to its removal.

ACTION: Cllr. Harrison to remove and report back at the next meeting.

11. To receive the Village Halls' reports

Cllr. Morgan provided a verbal report on Upwell Village Hall activities and asked councillors if they could take time to help out at the next committee meeting or by attending hall events.

ACTION: Clerk to remind councillors of all future meetings.

The issue of Lakes End village hall was discussed and the Clerk reported that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction over their hall, despite giving grant money in the past. The Clerk was asked to write and convene a meeting with Lakes End village hall ctte and Cllr. Morgan.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Sam Reynolds.

12. Health and Safety Issues

No matters were reported.

13. 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.

Cllr. Morgan reported on the recent meeting between neighbouring Parish Councils at Welney.

14. Parish Affairs

Item a. Gritting of the Health Centre car park. Cllr. Morgan summarised the history of this item and the Asst. Clerk provided costs for supplying a grit bin but the Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Council's insurers would not cover any claim made against it unless the volunteers carrying out the gritting were specifically trained in the job and in Health and Safety issues and that once gritting began, the area must be gritted every day when a frost was forecast.

This led to a general agreement that the scheme was untenable and led Cllr. Harrison to inform the meeting that he would no longer grit the Methodist Church footbridge, as he had done in previous years.

Item b. Parish Assembly. Cllr. Morgan ran through outline plans for the event and asked for any other ideas to boost attendance..

Item c. Emergency Plan.

The Clerk reported on activities to initiate this activity and asked for volunteers to help put the plan together. Several Councillors offered to help and it was agreed that an outline plan would be available for the Parish Assembly in April.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Cllrs, Harrison, Lester, Hum and Morgan

15. Internal Council Affairs

Item a. Resignation of Cllr. Barnard. The Clerk had previously circulated details of Cllr. Barnard's resignation. Cllr. Morgan summarised the details behind the issue and it was proposed that the matter be "drawn a line under". Council agreed and asked the Clerk to write a letter to Mr Barnard thanking him for his service.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Barnard and initiate a notice of vacancy.

16. Agenda Items For The Next Meeting

No items were put forward.

17. Date and time of the next meeting.

Parish Assembly – Monday, 12th April at 7.00pm

AGM – Tuesday, 4th May 2010 at 7.00pm

Full Council Meeting - Tuesday, 4th May 2010 at 7.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting: _____

Date: _____