
Upwell Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Upwell Parish Council, Monday 9th September 2024, 7pm

Committee Members: Cllr Aston (Chair), Cllr Gooch, Cllr A Harrison, Cllr Shorting, Cllr K Harrison, Cllr Lester, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Carr, Cllr Judd, Cllr Fairbrother (Vice Chair).

Those Present: Cllr Aston, Cllr Lester, Cllr Shorting, Cllr K Harrison, Cllr A Harrison, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Carr, Cllr Fairbrother, Cllr Gooch, Cllr Judd, BCllr Spikings, BCllr Rose (arrived at 19.10pm), M Hilton Clerk.

Public: one

Apologies: CCllr Dawson.

MINUTES

1. Welcome & opening remarks.

2. **To consider and approve apologies for absence:** these were approved.

3. **To declare any conflicts and pecuniary interests on any items on this month's agenda:** none declared

4. **To approve the Minutes from the last meeting:** these were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Public Forum (ten minutes only):

- BCllr Spikings explained how she had spent her grant money this year, she receives £1000 and this has now been spent in full.
- There are Energy Efficiency Measures for Community Buildings (West Norfolk) sessions available. BCllr Spikings will send over the details.
- The Mayor's Design Awards are relaunching and you can now nominate for the event.
- The Gypsy and Traveller planning consultation: this will now go to the inspector; another consultation period will take place and a final decision will be made in December 2024. The plots have been reduced from 50 to 28. Cllr Carr asked if the gypsy sites could then be sold for building plots? BCllr Spikings said there are lots of changes happening with planning regulations, and new policies are still coming in so she could not comment.
- BCllr Spikings said that the Borough Council had been actively working on their local plan.

6. To discuss and consider the Action Log from previous meetings:

- Takeover of the cemetery from the Borough Council: waiting on the Environmental Agency survey of the site. BCllr Spikings said she will contact the Borough Council on the Parish Council's behalf. Cllrs Aston and Fairbrother are currently applying for planning permission on the allotment site to use as cemetery land.
- Top of Pius Drove barriers/ signage: still no update from Highways on this. It was discussed if the Parish Council could purchase these themselves and install them?
- Footpath opposite Three Holes Village Hall: no update
- Finish the trod between Croft Road and Back Drove. No update
- Repairs to footbridge opposite Rav's Fish and Chips: no further update.
- In a recent email CCllr Dawson said the parish must lower their expectations of what Highways can achieve!

7. **To discuss the riverbank cutting:** Cllr Harrison circulated a report on the matter. This was from January's meeting with the MLC (Middle Level Commissioners) which has been circulated before. Cllr Gooch wants the Council to convene with the MLC and has written a letter to them. Cllr Gooch will send this letter to the Clerk to circulate. She would like the Council to consider paying for an early cut. Cllr A. Harrison said the daffodils and nesting season would need to be taken into consideration. Cllr Judd said that MLC do cut three times a year in Friday Bridge/Elm. He will forward a list of areas onto Cllr Harrison for him to see. This item to be added on the agenda for October's meeting.

Clerk to the Council; Melanie Hilton (CiLCA Qualified). Mobile; 07368 420237 Email; upwellpc@gmail.com

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Cllr Shorting said she had heard the boat near the shop is soon to be removed.

8. Reports from individual Councillors, Council Groups and Clerk

i. To approve Planning applications decisions: *Cllr Harrison*

- Planning Application Consultation 4/01342/F. Extension and alterations to dwelling and construction of garage and garden room at 28 Dovecote Road Upwell Wisbech PE14 9HB. Upwell Planning Group supports this application.
- Planning Application Consultation 24/01392/F. Formation of new access including culverting of a drain 141 School Road Upwell Wisbech PE14 9ES. The Upwell Planning Group support this application in principle, under condition that the Middle Level Commission is consulted (it is a MLC Board Drain), and the appropriate water vole survey is undertaken prior to construction.
- Planning Application Consultation 24/01458/RM. (SELF BUILD) RESERVED MATTERS APPLICATION FOR: Approval is sought for the means of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for 2 dwellings at 11 and 15 Green Road Upwell Wisbech PE14 9HS The Upwell Council Planning Group supports this application.
- Planning Application Consultation 24/01291/F. Conversion of agricultural building to 2 dwellings to include demolition of part of building and erection of 2 garages and demolition of an agricultural building at Buildings north of The Willows Mumbys Drove Three Holes. The Upwell Council Planning Group continue to support this application and acknowledge correspondence & concerns from occupants of The Willows. No objection to proposed revision.

The Council approved the decisions made.

i. To discuss clearing the allotments at Stonehouse Road: Cllr Harrison said there are several vacant plots. There have recently been three forced evictions due to not keeping the plots clean and tidy. This has caused a lot of arduous work for Cllr Harrison; Cllr K Harrison and Community Services have helped him. Still more work is required. There are currently three people potentially interested in taking on the cleared plots. An advert will be placed in the next edition of the magazine. Cllr Aston thanked Cllrs Harrison and Harrison and Community Services for their hard work.

ii. To discuss current online petition for speed measures in regard to Town Street: this will be discussed later in the hope CCllr Dawson will be attending the meeting.

iii. To discuss magazine revamp: Cllrs Fairbrother, Aston and Lester meet next week on Friday 20th September to discuss.

iv. To discuss Upwell Village Hall: Cllr Shorting said there is not an emergency contact number for the hall. Cllr Aston said this should be discussed the hall committee meeting. Cllr Shorting circulated a report on upgrades to the village hall.

v. To note reports from Cemetery, allotment, finance and Low Side land Working Groups.

- Cllr Shorting's had circulated a report on the Cemetery. Nurture have been working hard on rectifying issues. The paths at the cemetery have cracked in places, but until the issues of taking over the cemetery permanently have been sorted, no further monies will be spent. Cllr Judd said that rabbits are digging up the cremation area. The Clerk will report to All Pests Controlled. Cllr Carr said the fence needs repainting and an area of fencing has rotted. Again it was agreed not to spend any more monies on the cemetery until the decision has been made regarding taking over the cemetery from the Borough Council.
- Finance, Low Side Land: nothing to report.

8 To note any Health and Safety issues: an electricity pole has been hit at the top of Pius Drove. Cllr Robinson will report this to UK Power Networks. He will also send the Clerk the pole number for her to also report.

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9 Finance

i. **To note payments made since last meeting:** these were noted.

Payments for September 2024 Authorisation					
Payee	Goods/Services	VAT	TOTAL	DD/EP <small>electronic payment / direct debit</small>	Supplier/Service
Melanie Hilton expenses	62.93	2.85	65.78	EP	HMRC allowance for home working, mileage Lakes End VH, paper and stamps
Salaries	2649.66	0.00	2649.66		
Melanie Hilton				EP	100 Hours, Clerk 4 hours cemetery, 10 hours village hall
Charlotte Hilton				EP	28.5 Village Hall cleaner hours
HMRC	639.19	0.00	639.19	EP	Month 5
Nest Pension Scheme	115.63	0.00	115.63	DD	Clerks pension
Tim Dewdney				EP	33 Groundsman Hours
Kelvin Judd				EP	9 hours garden cemetery
Andrew Harrison	50.00	0.00	50.00	EP	Clearance of garden allotment plot 16
Nurture	768.63	153.73	922.36	EP	Cemetery grass cutting
Jason Best	600.00	0.00	600.00	EP	Painting and decorating the disabled toilet (CIL grant)
JAS	950.00	190.00	1140.00	EP	Electrical work for Village Hall (CIL grant)
Fixings and plastics centre	1014.18	202.84	1217.02	EP	Fascia at the back of Upwell Village Hall (CIL grant)
ASB	30.00	0.00	30.00	EP	Window Cleaning Bus stops
GEZE	6005.00	1201.00	7206.00	EP	Sliding glass doors Village Hall (CIL)
Cozens	108.00	21.60	129.60	SO	Street Light Maintenance
WAVE	15.90	0.00	15.90	DD	Water for Cemetery
Veolia	199.60	39.92	239.52	DD	Waste disposal
SSE	309.78	20.86	330.64	DD	Street Light Energy
SSE	267.88	13.39	281.27	DD	Street Light Energy
TOTAL	13,786.38	1,846.19	15,632.57		

- ii. **To note income and expenditure balances reconciled from the previous month:** these were noted.
- iii. **To note income and expenditure balances reconciled for the Village Hall account:** these were noted.
- iv. **To discuss quotes for repairs to waterside railings (if received)** . Cllr Fairbrother has received two quotes; these will be circulated. Cllr Gooch has contact details for a third contractor and will send the details to Cllr Fairbrother. Further discussion at October's meeting.
 - Cllr Lester has found a vole surveyor should we need one.

8ii. Cllr Aston brought up the petition regarding speeding cars on Town Street. (Cllr Dawson had not arrived at the meeting). BCllr Spikings said many parishioners were not happy about the petition. The road is an A road with streetlights if it were downgraded to a class B road there would be no streetlights on a busy stretch of road. As none of the parishioners who started the petition had attended the meeting it was decided to have no further discussion on the matter.

10 To propose any items for the next agenda: please advise the Clerk at least a week before the next meeting date.

- Remembrance Sunday and War Memorial
- Xmas Lights

11 To note the date of the next parish council meeting – To note the date of the next meeting – 14th October at 7pm at Three Holes Village Hall.

12 Close: the meeting closed at 20.03pm

Signed by the Chair **Date**

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