










Parish Council Members. Elected May 2018

	Councillor	Portfolio Responsibilities from June 2018	Contact Details
	Jason Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish boundaries, ditches, footpaths, grass & hedges Liaison with Upwood & the Raveleys Community Allotments Association CLP: Housing & Planning 	01487 812266 jedwards62@talktalk.net
	Dan Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Led Plan Member of the youth involvement & engagement working party Liaison with Upwood Primary School 	07960 162994 danhall.upwood@gmail.com
	Robin Howe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman Member of the finance working party CLP: Housing & Planning 	01487 814393 robinhowe@blackfyne.com
	Helen Nel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-Chairman Community Led Plan CLP: Communication Communication & Public Relations Liaison for Great Raveley 	07831 177175 helenmel@gmail.com
	Jean Noble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play facilities Parish aesthetics Health & Safety and risk management Community Speedwatch Coordinator Member of the youth involvement & engagement working party 	01487 814356 nimusmum@gmail.com
	Andrew Perkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Parish Trees Parish land CLP: Housing & Planning 	01487 812826 lynandperks@tiscali.co.uk
	Garth Slater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the finance working party Traffic, highways and road safety Liaison with the local parish forum CLP: Roads & Road Safety 	01487 812006 garth@gpslater.co.uk
	Howard Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the finance working party Liaison with St. Peter's Parochial Church Council Meadow Road Cemetery Liaison with the local parish forum Member of the youth involvement & engagement working party 	01487 711999 hjnsuk@btinternet.com
	Jodie Twose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning & related environmental matters Liaison for Little Raveley; Fairmead, Farm Close; and all outlying areas 	07729 464980 jodietwose@hotmail.com

How do we look after your money?

Parish funds are mainly provided by the district council against annual budget projections prepared by the parish council. These funds are paid for through council tax and are stringently reviewed to minimise annual increases. The finance working party with the clerk/responsible financial officer, meet regularly to review trends in expenditure against the operating budget so that corrective action can be taken early if necessary. Other sources of funding include the Ramsey Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and the Local Highway Initiative. A modest income is derived from the cemetery and from the letting of small parcels of agricultural land. The parish council generates a three-year rolling budget which reflects expenditure identified in the CLP. The parish council strives to obtain best value for all items of expenditure through an agreed tendering process. Parish council finance is strictly governed by national policy and subject to a rigorous internal and external audit process.

How do we look after our community?

We aim to engage with parishioners as effectively as possible. Representing and enhancing the community is central to everything we do. Here are a few community highlights from the past year:-

A children's holiday activity session was successfully trialled in February. These sessions are booked again and will take place weekly during the Summer holidays.

A grant was awarded to the Community Led Plan Communications Group for maintaining the free WIFI service in the village hall; covering the running costs of the parish website; and to support the installation of six "Welcome to Upwood and the Raveleys" parish boundary signs.

The parish council continues to provide financial support to the parish newsletter and the village hall.

Two road safety projects are underway, following successful bids to Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Highway Initiative. The first includes speed reduction between Bury and Upwood. The second will provide us with a mobile electronic speed indicator device for use around the parish. We have an active Community Speedwatch team which works in partnership with the police and provides valuable data to support decision making. Volunteers are always welcome. The more support we have, the more sessions we can provide.

The hawthorn behind the goal on the playing field has been cut back and reduced. New nets for the goal posts have recently been installed.

Following the (re-)election of the parish council, we are delighted that a professional ecologist and youth development specialist have joined the team.

Of course, spectacular failures are a great indicator of innovation and experimentation. We are proud to say that we trialled parish surgeriesto no avail.....so we will draw on this learning as we look for other ways to hear people's views.

It is crucial for rural communities to stay connected beyond the parish boundaries. To this end the parish is represented on the Joint Parish Forum. Councillors and the clerk also regularly attend relevant local and regional conferences and engage in continuing professional development opportunities. This participation keeps us informed on wider local and national issues and gives us a voice across neighbouring parishes.

Your parish councillors are always open to receive feedback on how well we serve our community. Don't hesitate to get in touch – in person, via the website or Facebook.

How do we look after our environment?

One third of the parish council's budget is designated for parish maintenance. The grass is cut 12-14 times per year and the allotments and cemetery hedges are cut twice (in the spring and the autumn). Significant work has been carried out to improve the aesthetic appearance of the churchyard in recent years, and volunteer working parties have enhanced the old part of the cemetery by removing brambles and overgrowing vegetation from gravestones. The business of the council is guided by its biodiversity statement and by the professional expertise of its members which include farmers and an ecologist.

How can you get involved?

1. Have a look at the parish website (www.upwood.org) and "like" our Facebook page.
2. Come to a meeting: The parish council meets at 7:00pm in Upwood Village Hall on the first Monday of each month (the 2nd if the 1st is a bank holiday). It doesn't meet in August.
3. Volunteer: the parish council and the community is grateful for the support of its many volunteers. If you have time or expertise do get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Parish, District, County: Who does what?

Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council: www.upwood.org and find us on Facebook.

For contact telephone numbers and email addresses please see below and over.

Huntingdonshire District Council: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk 01480 388388



For help with bins and waste; planning; leisure; council tax; environmental issues; pest control; noise and nuisance; anti-social behaviour etc.

Cambridgeshire County Council: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk 0345 045 5200

For help with highways and traffic information, bus timetables, libraries etc.

To report a highways fault (potholes, kerbs, verges, flooding, trees and hedges, road markings and signs, public rights of way) please use: www.highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Parish Council Employees

	Carol Bilverstone	Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	01487 812447 parishclerk@upwood.org
	Clive Edwards	Cemetery Officer	



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Report: 2018

What is the point of the Parish Council?

We hear this comment from time to time and we suppose that a great many residents are unaware of the work done by the parish council.

In this report, we hope to explain why the council exists and how it strives to make the lives of residents across Upwood and the Raveleys parish just a little bit better.

The parish council has three main responsibilities:

One, to provide the first point of contact for residents who need help or information on any matter connected with planning; the local environment; roads and transport; rights of way; or even disputes with other residents. To help it keep track, the parish council maintains a website presence (www.upwood.org) which holds records of meetings and events, policies and images which provide residents with a comprehensive source of information for all purposes.

Secondly, to develop and operate policies which ensure the local environment is a safe and pleasant place to live or visit. This extends to the management of grassed areas, open spaces, play areas, the churchyard and the cemetery, among many more!

Thirdly, to manage the financial affairs of the parish council to ensure that services and parish maintenance are properly funded while making provision for future projects such as the replacement of the play equipment or provision for additional burial land.

The council comprises nine elected or co-opted residents plus a clerk who is also the responsible financial officer; and a cemetery officer. All are regulated by a strict code of conduct and financial governance and take their responsibilities very seriously.

All councillors have special responsibilities or portfolios, to ensure there is someone personally responsible for all key matters; such as planning, environment, finance etc. (please see the back page).

One big responsibility the parish council has is to undertake the development of plans which define the future shape of the parish. How many homes will be built in this and adjacent parishes? How can we protect our country land from developers? What infrastructure changes must we campaign for? What amenities will require upgrading? What are the budgetary consequences of these things?

Most of these questions are addressed by the Community Led Plan which resulted in a comprehensive list of projects defined by residents through a questionnaire process.

The current CLP was completed in 2015 and we are due to refresh the plan in the next year so look out for information on the subject.

We hope we have answered our own question in this document and the reader may now better understand that there is a point in the parish council; it's there to serve our residents!