



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Mrs Carol Bilverstone. Kilimanjaro, 9 Meadow Road, Upwood, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE26 2QJ
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A meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council was held on Monday 01 February 2021 at 7.00pm. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 04 April 2020 enabling local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) until May 2021. This meeting took place via “Zoom Meetings”.

Present: Councillors G. Bonnett Kolakowska, J. Burgess, J. Edwards, R. Howe (Chairman), N. Maddocks, R. Mashford, A. Perkins.

In Attendance: Mrs. C. Bilverstone (Clerk), Councillor G. Bull (Huntingdonshire District Council), Councillor T. Rogers (Cambridgeshire County Council) and two members of the public.

Minutes

122-02/21 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Councillor Chattaway: Work Commitment

123-02/21 To consider applications for one casual vacancy. No applications had been received.

124-02/21 To receive declarations of interest.

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary and other interests in items on the agenda as required by Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations of interest.

125-02/21 To receive and approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 04 January 2021.

The minutes of the meeting of the meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council held on 04 January 2021 had been circulated in advance following the informal approval of the chairman. Councillor Burgess proposed that the minutes be approved. Councillor Perkins seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

126-02/21 Public participation.

To allow up to 10 minutes (2 minutes per person) for any members of the public and councillors declaring the existence and nature of a prejudicial interest to address the meeting in relation to the business on this agenda. There was no public participation.

127-02/21 To receive reports from county and district councillors.

127-02/21.1 To receive a response to correspondence forwarded from parishioners with ongoing concerns for flooding on High Street.

Councillor Rogers confirmed that Cambridgeshire County Council Highways has ordered a road closure and excavation to determine the cause of the issue.

127-02/21.2 Further to item 120-01/21 to review the district council’s response regarding the provision of litter bins along the path between Farm Close and Fairmead.

This matter was raised at the last meeting. Councillor Bull agreed to ascertain the results of the monitoring which was due to be carried out by the district council in January 2020.

Councillor Rogers noted that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to divert officers from other duties. He was pleased to report that the county is up to date with the vaccination programme.

The county council is preparing to set its precept. £30 million will be set aside over five years for highway maintenance and improvements: £20 million for footpaths; £3 million for flood attenuation; and £2 million for the restoration and improvement of the B1050 (Bar Hill to Somersham). The county council portion of the council tax will increase by 3% with 1% of this allocated to adult care.

Members were reminded that the work to footpath no. 4 (leading from Bentley Close towards Upwood Meadows) is due to be completed by 27 February 2021.

128-02/21 Notification of planning items.

128-02/21.1 To consider a response to BPHA Ltd. regarding notification of its intention to apply for planning permission to build 28 new homes at Farm Close.

The parish council received notification from BPHA Ltd. on 21 January 2021 of the proposed development of 28 new homes at Farm Close. The proposal includes 40% affordable homes but if the application is successful, the association will apply for a grant to convert the scheme to 100% affordable housing, with a mix of rental and shared ownership homes, including 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom houses and two 2-bedroom bungalows “designed to meet housing need”. The correspondence notes that BPHA residents had been consulted by telephone; ideas had been shared regarding activities which could take place in a community space nearby; and “discussions with residents had been positive”.

Councillors expressed concern that the correspondence from BPHA Ltd. is completely inaccurate. Farm Close residents actually received notification of this proposal on Friday 29 January. All agreed that the approach to residents has been presumptuous in its manner and particularly badly handled. The parish council has received 17 letters of objection representing the concerns of 15 households. Two particularly poignant letters had been received from children.

In summary the correspondence outlines concerns for:

- the erosion of green spaces and the impact on wildlife;
- the loss of a safe open area for children’s play and community recreation;
- an inevitable exacerbation of serious flooding which has recently impacted several homes;
- increased traffic congestion and the inherent issues of road safety in relation to the school and with regard to access to Huntingdon Road;
- insufficient supporting infrastructure in the local community which is already struggling with ever increasing volume of traffic;
- a lack of school places and compromised access to healthcare.

Councillors agreed unanimously with the concerns of the residents. All agreed that with 250 of the 750 homes already designated as affordable and scheduled to be built as part of the RAF Upwood, Tunkers Lane and Valiant Square developments; plus four already allocated as part of the Church Lane development, there appears little justification for further provision at Farm Close. The chairman confirmed that affordable homes do not generate Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) so any promise of a windfall to benefit the community is disingenuous. He also noted that the aggregated impact of individual developments is not considered by planners and is therefore deceptive. The volume of traffic arising from 1600 new homes (with no supporting improvements to the road network) in Ramsey and Bury will already impact hugely on Upwood and the Raveleys and the surrounding villages and these concerns have been well documented.

Councillors also agreed that BPHA Ltd. has historically been less than cooperative with the parish council’s attempts to work in partnership for the benefit of the community, and general maintenance and aesthetic issues such as its responsibility for the boundary fence and ditch have long been neglected.

Councillors expressed frustration with national and local planning policy whereby significant development sites (including two in Bury) which are not identified in the Local Plan to 2036 are being approved.

The clerk agreed to forward the redacted correspondence from residents to Councillor Bull (Huntingdonshire District Council) as evidence of the depth of opposition to this proposal; and in relation to the district council’s attempt to formulate its role alongside other agencies in response to emergency incidents. (Householders who have been impacted by the recent floods are invited to contact him at: graham.bull@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

All agreed that the parish council would make representation to strenuously oppose the proposed planning application should it be submitted.

128-02/21.2 20/02583/HHFUL | First floor side extension and single storey rear extension including changes to the finishes | 112 Huntingdon Road Upwood. PE26 2QQ

This planning application seeks to modernise and extend the living accommodation of this existing 4-bedroom home with a modest single storey, full width extension to the rear; and a first-floor extension above and within

the footprint of the existing garage which would be converted to living space. The property benefits from a generous garden and the proposed extension would not impact the property to land ratio.

The application proposes modernising the exterior by rendering the existing (and extended) brickwork and updating the cladding. The bulk of the first-floor extension would be mitigated with a hipped roof.

The current street scene along Huntingdon Road is a mix of house types, sizes and aesthetic compositions. Properties include a large, rendered thatch, large brick properties, modern rendered two-storey properties, and semi-detached brick bungalows. The proposed design and materials would serve to enhance the existing street scene. The site is outside the conservation area but adjacent to a grade two listed property, Tower Windmill. The proposed extension is over 30m from the windmill and given the generous plot, it would have minimal impact, if any. Given that the proposed rear extension is modest, and the first-floor extension will sit within the current footprint, there will be negligible impact on the ecology or wildlife.

Councillor Burgess proposed that the parish council supports this application. Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

129-02/21 Finance

129-02/21.1 To approve accounts for payment: 01 February 2021:

| Reference | Description | Payee | Amount |
|------------|---|---------------------------------|----------|
| SO | Clerk/RFO Salary. January 2021 | Mrs C. Silverstone | £1034.68 |
| SO | Clerk/RFO Salary PAYE/NI | HMRC | £50.42 |
| SO | Employer National Insurance January 2021 | HMRC | £56.61 |
| DD | Employee & Employer Pension Contribution | SALVUS Master Trust | £114.22 |
| DD | Pension Administration Fee | SALVUS Master Trust | £24.00 |
| 799650578 | Clerk's Expenses: Working from Home Allowance, printing costs (January) | Mrs C. Silverstone | £11.75 |
| Debit Card | Monthly Fee. | Unity Trust Bank | £3.00 |
| Debit Card | Anti-Slip Tape (for Bentley Close Play Area) | Unity Trust Bank / Amazon.co.uk | £25.18 |
| Debit Card | Mobile Phone Monthly Top-Up | Unity Trust Bank / Tesco.com | £7.50 |
| 8502075 | Councillor Training (R. Mashford) | CAPALC | £75.00 |
| 21.01.21 | Removal of trees/scrub. Glebe Paddock | Fenland Tree Care | £540.00 |
| 736653810 | Membership Renewal | Cambridgeshire Acre | £57.00 |

The chairman proposed that the accounts be approved for payment. Councillor Burgess seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. The chairman agreed to sign the list of payments on the agenda; Councillor Burgess and Councillor Perkins agreed to sign each of the invoices and authorise the online payments. The chairman agreed to sign the bank reconciliation and Councillor Perkins agreed to countersign this. (All documentation was signed and returned to the clerk after the meeting).

129-02/21.2 To note income received: 04 January 2021. None received.

129-02/21.3 To consider the purchase of "Local Council Administration" ("The Clerk's Bible") 12th Edition at £119.00 + £4.80 postage; and the sale of the 11th edition on ebay.

The chairman confirmed that this is an essential reference and proposed that the parish council authorises the purchase of the 12th edition and the sale of the 11th. Councillor Perkins seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

130-02/21 Traffic, Highways & Road Safety

130-02/21.1 To review data gathered from the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) during January 2021.

SID 1 was located on Huntingdon Road opposite the Ailwine Road junction monitoring traffic approaching from Bury. 11,801 vehicles were recorded (considerably less than normal due to lockdown). Of these 941 registered speeds in violation of the 40 mph limit; 781 registered speeds between 41 and 45 mph; 160 between 46 and 50 mph; 25 between 51 and 54 mph; and 5 in excess of 55 mph. The highest recorded speed was 63 mph.

SID 2 was located by the allotments on Huntingdon Road monitoring traffic approaching from the Raveleys. 30,771 vehicles were recorded (considerably less than normal due to lockdown). Of these 3,334 registered speeds in violation of the 40 mph limit. 2,454 registered speeds between 41 and 45 mph; 643 between 46 and 50 mph; 165 between 51 and 54 mph; and 71 in excess of 55 mph. The highest recorded speed was 84 mph.

10.8% of all vehicles recorded travelling along Huntingdon Road during January were travelling at speeds in excess of the 40 mph limit, an increase of 1% when compared to the data gathered in December 2020.

130-02/21.2 To receive an update from the Speed Management Working Party.

The speed management working party had not had the opportunity to meet. However, Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska provided an update which has also been shared via the parish council's facebook page. In summary:

- The parish council is very concerned about the volume of traffic which will arise from the 1600 new homes planned for Ramsey and Bury, meaning that traffic calming measures will become critical. The SID (Speed Indicator Device) data is instrumental to arguing this case to the district and county councils. Bury Parish Council and Ramsey Town Council have invested in SIDs and this forms part of a wider coalition to help understand the overall issues in the area, not just this parish.
- The parish council is collating data gathered by the SIDs and actively sharing these to raise awareness of traffic volume and speeding violations. The SIDs have been utilised for some time and two have now been positioned in set locations to gather fundamental data in support of a speed reduction application for Huntingdon Road. A third SID has been purchased and this will be mobilised across the parish. Finally, a designated SID post has been re-positioned opposite Farm Close to capture data by the school and record the speed of traffic approaching from Bury.
- 15% of all vehicles travelling on Huntingdon Road exceed the 40 mph limit. In a normal (non-lockdown month) over 60,000 vehicles are recorded travelling in each direction i.e., the law is broken by motorists 18,000 times per month in this location alone.
- To raise awareness, the parish council has recently purchased wheelie bin stickers which will be issued to residents who are located on the main "problem roads". "Please drive carefully through our village" signs will be located across the parish at village entrances and on safe verges. In addition, "slow down" signs will be attached to lamp posts.
- Cambridgeshire County Council has recently confirmed that the traffic calming works in Great Raveley will commence on 01 March 2021.
- The parish council cannot control traffic volume, but it can try to influence the way vehicles travel through our community to ensure safety for all. The parish council would welcome feedback from residents to support the strategies outlined above.

130-02/21.3 To consider the purpose & positioning of the railings along the path between High Street and Bentley Close with a view to facilitating unimpeded wheelchair access.

Councillors agreed that the railings serve to remind pedestrians of their approach to the High Street. They may slow a running child; impede cyclists; and prevent vehicular access. However, they are problematic for wheelchair users; those with mobility scooters; and those with children's buggies. Councillor Edwards proposed that one of the railings be removed in the first instance with a view to enabling access without compromising safety. Councillor Burgess seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. Councillor Edwards volunteered to carry out the work.

131-02/21 Community

131-02/21.1 To consider a review of the Community Led Plan (completed in 2015 and last reviewed in 2018).

The chairman suggested that much has changed since the community led plan was prepared, particularly in terms of planning and development. He suggested that a robust planning and development policy, representative of residents' wishes, would serve to guide decision making although it would not have a legal status. He reminded members that the CLP was a huge undertaking and although led and supported by the parish council, its success was reliant on volunteers from within the community. The chairman asked councillors to consider the feasibility of reviewing the plan in its entirety, or in part for discussion at the next meeting.

132-02/21 Correspondence and Communications.

132-02/21.1 A request from a parishioner for clarification regarding the positioning of the speed indicator devices. Please see item 130-02/21.2.

133-02/21 To receive verbal reports from parish councillors on matters arising from their portfolio responsibilities and matters for future consideration. No decisions can be made under this item.

The chairman confirmed that Councillor Mashford has agreed to undertake research into the provision of local services and activities for young people. She has also offered to actively seek funding opportunities in support of all areas of the parish council's business.

134-02/21 **Date of next meeting:** 01 March 2021 at 7:00pm.

Close of meeting: 8:25pm