

UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Upwood & The Raveleys Parish Council was held at Upwood Village Hall, High Street, Upwood, PE26 2QE, on Monday 3rd December 2012 at 7.00pm.

Present: C Bryce; J Noble; J Paxton (Vice Chair as Chair); A Perkins; G Shelford & K Sisman.

In attendance: Claire Tunncliffe, (Parish Clerk) & sixteen members of the public.

135/12-12 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors R Howe; J Kirkby & County Councillor Victor Lucas DL.

136/12-12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bryce declared a personal interest in planning item 1201730FUL by reason of being a resident of Great Raveley close to the property. Councillor Bryce remained at the meeting during the consideration of the application but took no part in the discussion.

Councillor Shelford declared a personal interest in the item 143/12-12 as family members were allotment holders.

137/12-12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman receiving an indication that Mr Robinson, a member of the public, and Councillor Sisman wished to address the meeting proposed to adjourn and it was

RESOLVED to do so.

Councillor Sisman advised those present that he would be giving a three minute presentation on the highways through the Parish which he would like to record for his personal record. As there were no objections this was permitted.

Councillor Sisman began by stating that the Government were encouraging house building to boost the economy which puts an extra strain on infrastructure. The roads through Upwood and the Parish were nothing more than old farm tracks which had been tarmacked to create modern roads used by drivers to avoid congestion, such as the A141, Warboys to Huntingdon road.

Councillor Sisman stated that if the Council wish to upgrade these roads they must fund the improvements themselves. Last year the Council applied to Cambridgeshire County Council to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph in Little Raveley but were unsuccessful in their bid.

Councillor Sisman went on to give further examples of roads in the Parish used a "rat run" such as Long Holme in Upwood, a 40mph zone with no street lights or traffic calming measures; the problem at Holme B660 which created vehicles to use Ramsey Heights, Upwood, Great Raveley and Wood Walton using the Wood Walton via duct.

As part of Speed Watch team, Councillor Sisman informed Members that he had recorded vehicles being driven up to 60 mph in both Great Raveley Upwood these were unacceptable speeds when children were being

encouraged to walk to school through the Parish or waiting for the school bus.

Councillor Sisman identified that the Council lacked the thousands of pounds required to make the roads safe in the Parish but were required to take excess traffic from expensive and failed road improvements. The problem had also been added to by the sale of Fairmead and Farm Close by the Ministry of Defence which had added to the additional traffic but had not brought any additional monies into the Parish to contribute to road safety.

Councillor Sisman informed Members that he had lived in the Parish for a number of years and believed that the local authorities had refused to invest money into the area leaving the Parish to stagnate.

Councillor Sisman then proposed that the Council invited Shailesh Vara MP to the Parish to witness the problems on the local highways and to help find a solution. The Government would like the district to build additional housing in the area but it should be the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure that the infrastructure is in place and the roads are made safe.

The Chairman then asked Mr Robinson to present his comments.

Mr Robinson informed Members that he wished to address the Council on his proposed planning application for two dwellings on the site adjacent to Highfield on Raveley Road, Great Raveley.

The planning application had not yet been submitted but would likely be submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council's for consideration in January 2013. Mr Robinson stated that he had no intention of adding any more properties than the two on the land.

Mr Robinson advised that the proposed site in the middle of the village would adjoin residential properties on either side and on the opposite side of the road which would all still have views of the countryside. The proposed properties would reinforce the linear character of the village and would make for a better enclosure of the village, making it a more attractive place.

Members heard that the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment published by Huntingdonshire District Council (2010) highlighted a need for an additional 3500 dwellings in Huntingdonshire.

Mr Robinson accepted that the buildings would increase the flow of traffic to the village but stated that the growth of Upwood and Alconbury would create a large increase in local traffic through the village. Members heard that Mr Robison had contacted Cambridgeshire County Council to discuss proposed traffic calming measures..

Next, Mr Robinson acknowledged that one of the main difficulties would be with sewage on the site but stated that this issue would be addressed.

A Councillor asked Mr Robinson if he was not granted planning permission by Huntingdonshire District Council would he put back the site to how it was. Mr Robinson confirmed that the harras fencing would be taken down but believed that the permission would be given for the build to go ahead.

The Chairman asked the members of the public if they had further questions to Mr Robinson but there were none. The Chairman thanked Councillor Sisman and Mr Robinson for their comments and it was

RESOLVED to reconvene.

138/12-12 MINUTES

Copies of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th November had been circulated in advance of the meeting, following their informal approval by the Chairman.

Councillors highlighted three clerical errors to the Clerk which were amended at the meeting and it was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that these were a correct record and they were duly signed the Chairman.

139/12-12 VACANT COUNCILLOR POSITION

Members were advised that Mrs Fiona Hopkins had registered an interest in the vacant position. Mrs Hopkins would be attending the next meeting of the Parish Council on 7th January when Members would hold a vote. If the vote should be a majority, Ms Hopkins would be eligible to take part in the meeting after signing of the 'Declaration of Office.

140/12-12 MATTERS ARISING OR CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST OR PREVIOUS MEETING

See items 140/12-12.1 to 140/12-12.6

140/12-12.1 PARISH PLAN WORKING PARTY

No report was given as there had not been an opportunity for Members to meet. Councillor Noble informed Members that the plan should also include the subject of 'green energy' which was discussed at the Great Fen Community Forum meeting.

It was

RESOLVED to meet before the next Parish Council meeting on 7th January 2012.

140/12-12.2 INSPECTION OF PLAY AREA AT BENTELY CLOSE

Members were advised that following an inspection of the play area by Wicksteed, a review had been undertaken by Councillors Shelford and Sisman. Councillor Shelford presented a report to Council, a copy of which is attached to the original minutes of this meeting.

The report gave details of a previous inspection carried out in 2011 and the findings of the current inspection in 2012. Councillor Shelford recommended to Members that an independent inspection should be undertaken by an organisation such as RoSPA before considering if the work from the Wicksteed inspection should be undertaken. It was

RESOLVED to contact RoSPA for further details.

Councillor Shelford asked the Clerk if she could find out how the setting up of the play area was created and if funds for maintenance had been secured and to investigate if inspections prior to 2011 had been carried out and who had organised and paid for these inspections. It was then

RESOLVED to thank for Councillor Shelford for her report.

140/12-12.3 **INSPECTION OF AREA BETWEEN THE CLOSED AND OPEN CEMETERY**

Councillor Simsan reported to Members that he had met with Councillor Perkins to inspect the area between the closed and open cemetery and that the ditch needed to be cleaned out and that the brambles needed to be cut back, in general the area required tidying up. It was

RESOLVED to obtain a quotation for the work to be undertaken and presented to Council for their consideration.

140/12-12.4 **FUTURE GRASS CUTTING COSTS**

This item was not discussed as would be considered under the estimates and income for 2013/14.

140/12-12.5 **PROPOSED LAND SALE AT UPWOOD COMMON DEPOT**

No report was given in the absence of Councillor Howe.

140/12-12.6 **MAGPAS FUNDING REQUEST**

The Parish Clerk informed Members that additional information had been requested concerning the Magpas Helimedix team and would be presented at the meeting.

141/12-12 PLANNING

Members next considered the following planning applications;

141/12-12.1 Planning application **1201730FUL:**

Highfield Raveley Road Great Raveley Huntingdon PE28 2Q - Extension to dwelling to form annexe. It was

RESOLVED to recommend **APPROVAL**

141/12-12.2 Planning application **120176TREE:**

Fairmead Park Ramsey Road Upwood – Works to trees.

Members considered the works necessary in the interest of the continued health of the trees. It was therefore

RESOLVED to recommend **APPROVAL**

141/12-12.3 Planning application **1201778REP:**

Pightle Raveley Road Great Raveley Huntingdon PE28 2QX - Replacement of Planning Permission 0901605FUL for erection of two storey front extension.

As the plans for application 091605FUL were unavailable for viewing, Members asked for a postponement and did not discuss this item

141/12-12.4 PLANNING ITEMS RECEIVED SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA

There were none

142/12-12 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

None were received.

143/12-12 ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Bryce informed Members that he had attended the Allotments AGM. The Association now had a total of sixteen members. The following proposals had been considered by the Association;

- A community orchard should be developed on one of the plots
- Allowed to rent out half / quarter plots.
- A communal plot be created.

Members next discussed the allotment hedge and who should be responsible for the continued maintenance of the hedge. It was

RESOLVED that this should be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

144/12-12 GREAT FEN COMMUNITY FOURM

Councillor Noble informed Members of a meeting that she had attended of the Great Fen Community Forum which covered a range of topics from green energy, climate change impact, rising water levels to public health issues.

Members heard of potential business opportunities that could be gained in the Parish from the Great Fen project, such as bed & breakfast, as a large number of visitors would be attracted to the area. As the landscape developed there would be an opportunity to explore miles of walking and cycling routes linking local communities.

Next Councillor Noble gave details of forth coming events in December and suggested that the organisation could give a presentation in the village or be invited to future meetings. It was

RESOLVED to note Councillor Nobles presentation with thanks.

145/12-12 FINANCE

The following accounts were approved for payment;

Cheque No 101318: Payment to Parish Clerk for wages (November) and travel reimbursement.	£419.45
Cheque No 101319: Payment to Mr Edwards (Quarterly Salary).	£63.24
Cheque No 101320: Payment to Mr Davis for cutting of hedge on allotment and Huntingdon Road.	£375.00
Cheque No 101321: Payment to HMRC (Mr Edwards)	£15.80
Cheque No 101322: Payment to Councillor Sisman for reimbursement of two wheelbarrows.	£60.98

It was **RESOLVED** to approve payment and the cheques were duly signed.

145/12-12.3 Members were next asked to consider the estimates and incomes for 2013/14 for services which are the responsibility of the Council with a view to accepting a final version and agreeing the Precept for the new financial year.

A member raised a query with the proposed budget for Glebe Paddock rental as it seemed to be unnecessarily high for a twelve month period. In the absence of Councillor Howe it was

RESOLVED to postpone the approval of the budget until the January meeting.

146/12-12 CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

No matters were raised.

147/12-12 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Members considered the following items;

- Broken Mirror at Royal Oak Close (agreed not the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- Parish Plan
- Councillor Sisman's Highway Report
- Reviewing of the small holding on Long Holme Road – 0.8 hectares
- Drainage on the playing fields.
- Site of the Cross Keys Public House, Upwood

148/12-12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

7TH January 2013, Upwood Village Hall, 7.00pm

CLOSE OF MEETING – 8.55pm

CHAIRMAN