

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 7th January 2013 at 7.00.pm.

Present: Councillors R Howe (Chairman); F Hopkins; J Noble; G Shelford & K Sisman.

In attendance: Claire Tunnicliffe, (Parish Clerk).

149/01-13 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bryce; Kirkby, Paxton & Perkins.

150/01-13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members had before them a request of dispensation for determination of the precept for the financial year 2013 / 2014. The dispensation granted by the Parish Clerk would allow Members to participate and vote at meetings of the Council when agreeing the precept.

It was then **RESOLVED** for Members to sign the dispensation register.

151/01-13 VACANT COUNCILLOR POSITION

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Hopkins to the meeting and informed Members that Mrs Hopkins had registered an interest in the vacant Councillor position. Mrs Hopkins then gave a brief history of her personal and professional life. The Chairman thanked Mrs Hopkins and asked her to leave the room while Members considered the application. After a short discussion it was

RESOLVED to appoint Mrs Hopkins as a co-opted Member to Upwood & the Raveleys Parish Council.

Clerk's Note: Mrs F Hopkins signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' in the presence of the Parish Clerk at this point of the meeting.

152/01-13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

153/01-13 MINUTES

Copies of the minutes of Upwood & the Raveleys Parish Council meeting held on 3rd December 2012 had been circulated in advance of the meeting, following their informal approval by the Chairman.

Councillor Sisman requested on page 2, paragraph 4, under item 137/12-12, the word 'right' was changed to 'responsibility' which was changed by the Clerk with the agreement of those present. It was then proposed, seconded and

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

154/01-13 PARISH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

154/01-13.1 Councillor Shelford presented an update following a meeting she had attended with Councillors Bryce and Howe on 11th December 2012, a copy of which is attached for Members information only.

With regards to the Parish Plan it was agreed that an advertising drive was needed to recruit local residents of all ages to help develop the plan. Councillors would individually contact those people they thought would be

interested in taking part and that information would be placed in the Village Newsletter. It would be important to stress the plan would help define the future development of the parish in terms of house building, policy on wind turbines and gypsy and traveller sites amongst other topics.

154/01-13.2 BENTLEY CLOSE PLAY AREA

Members were advised that RoSPA would be in Cambridgeshire in April when they would carry out a timetable of unaccompanied playground inspections. The cost of inspection would be £65.00 and would include a written and photographic report and risk assessment. To request an inspection at any other time of the year would cost £218.00. A Member requested that enquires should be made to request that a Councillor and the Clerk be present during the inspection. After a short discussion it was

RESOLVED to request an April inspection

154/01-13.3 LAND AT UPWOOD STORAGE DEPOT

The Chairman informed Members that he had received no firm confirmation if a buyer had been found for the land. A short discussion followed regarding speculative buyers.

154/01-13.4 HIGHWAYS IN THE PARISH

Members were asked to consider a way forward in addressing the issues of the Highways in the Parish presented by Councillor Sisman at the last meeting. It was agreed that the roads needed to be upgraded and that there was a lack of street lighting in some areas of the parish. It was suggested that Shailesh Vara MP should be invited to visit the parish to see the problems for himself.

A discussion then followed regarding flooding in the area, in particular Farm Close and the area by the car park next to the school. During the cold weather the areas had frozen over creating hazardous icy conditions. A Member stated that it seemed that nobody was willing to take responsibility and that pressure should be put on Muir Housing and Bedford Pilgrim Housing Association to address the flooding issues.

155/01-13 PLANNING

Members next considered the following planning application;

155/01-13.1 Planning application 1201778REP:

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

It was

RESOLVED to recommend **APPROVAL**

155/01-13.2 PLANNING ITEMS RECEIVED SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA

There were none.

156/01-13 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor Lucas informed Members that since the Local Joint Area Committees had disbanded the County Council had adopted a policy in that the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure would deal with traffic-related matters and should be contacted directly with any issues, objections of decisions etc, with a copy sent to Councillor Lucas.

The Chairman then thanked Councillor Lucas for his report.

157/01-13 ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman proposed that the subject of the allotments should be deferred and it was

RESOLVED to do so.

158/01-13 COMMUNITY PAY BACK SERVICE

Members were asked to consider the use of the Community Pay Back Services for projects in the Parish such as cleaning out the ditches. The Clerk advised that the service had been used by Huntingdon and St Neots Town Councils; the team would be supervised and would be of no cost to the Council. It was

RESOLVED to contact the Pay Back Service Team to arrange a site visit and discuss in further detail.

159/01-13 FINANCE

Members were advised of the Bank Reconciliation Statement that showed a total of amount of £24,061.54, un-presented cheques of £1,608.37 and income not yet recognised at £1,098.00. It was

RESOLVED to note the report with thanks.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

159/01-13.1	Cheque No 101323: Payment to Parish Clerk for wages (December) and travel reimbursement.	£433.05
159/01-13.2	Cheque No 101324: Membership to Cambridgeshire ACRE	£120.00
159/01-13.3	Cheque No 101325. Membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks	£120.00

It was **RESOLVED** to approve payment.

Clerk's note – The Cheques could not be signed as a there was only one signatory present at the meeting. The Cheques would be signed outside the meeting and the cheque book returned to the Clerk.

159/01-13.4 ESTIMATES, INCOME & PRECEPT 2013/2014

Members were informed that Huntingdonshire District Council would be operating a new calculation on the taxable households in band D as a result of new Government legislation that had come into force at the end of 2012. There had been a reduction in taxable households in band D in the Parish for 2013/2104 which the District Council proposed to negate with a grant.

Based on the Council's estimates of income and expenditure which had allowed for additional grass cutting, tree maintenance costs and the purchase of two new notice boards, plus a reserve for community projects and legal fees, the Chairman advised that the precept needed to be raised from £15,000 to £20,860 (£1121 of which would be grant). This would equate to an increase in the precept to 39% which would equate to a rise of 0.94% to the band D tax payer in Upwood & the Raveleys.

Members then looked at towns and parishes which were similar to the band D tax base of Upwood & the Raveleys and noted that the Councils precept for

2012/2013 had been lower. It was also agreed that in order to support the additional maintenance in the village an increase would be required.

The Chairman also explained that a higher precept would allow for greater protection against future capping of the precept.

As the documents before Members were only in draft format the Chairman advised Members to consider the proposals which he hoped would formally be adopted at the next Parish Council meeting.

160/01-13 TELEPHONE BOX

The Chairman informed Members that he had recently spent some time tidying out the telephone box which had become very untidy with residents leaving large quantities of books. A second hand book case had been purchased which had helped tidy up inside and some of the books had also been taken away and would be returned at a later date. It was agreed that regular checks were required and that it would be ideal to have a rolling list of Councillors who would be able to undertake regular inspection. It was

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Hopkins for the month of January to carry out regular spot checks.

161/01-13 CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

No comments were made on e-mails that had been sent to Councillors from the Clerk.

163/13-01 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The Chairman stated that he would like to redefine the responsibilities of the portfolio holders and perhaps look to include additional responsibilities in the new financial year.

As the appointed Highways Warden, Councillor Sisman stated that he would be spending some time looking in closer detail the impact of flooding in the parish.

164/13-01 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

4th February 2013, The Village Hall, The High Street, Upwood, 7.00pm

Chairman_____

Date_____