



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

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A meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council was held on Monday 05 February at 7.00pm at Upwood Village Hall.

Present: Councillors J. Edwards (from item 124-02/18), R. Howe (Chairman), H. Nel, J. Noble, J. Paxton, A. Perkins, G. Slater, H. Smith, M. Tew.

In Attendance: Mrs. C. Bilverstone (Clerk), County Councillor T. Rogers and 3 members of the public.

Minutes

- 120-02/18 To receive and approve apologies for absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
- 121-02/18 To receive declarations of interest.**
Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.
Councillor Paxton declared an interest in the planning application for Church Lane (item 126-02/18.1).
- 122-02/18 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.
- 123-02/18 To receive and approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 08 January 2018.**
The minutes of the meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council held on 08 January 2018 had been circulated in advance following their informal approval by the chairman. Councillor Smith proposed acceptance of the minutes. Councillor Paxton seconded the proposal. All who had been present at the meeting were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. The chairman signed the minutes.
- 124-02/18 To receive reports from county and district councillors.**
Councillor Edwards joined the meeting.
Councillor Rogers confirmed that an increase of 4.99% to Cambridgeshire County Council's council tax has been endorsed by all four political parties and is likely to be ratified on 06 February. 2% of this increase reflects an increased demand for adult and children's social care.
Councillor Howe reflected on the commercial investment strategies of Huntingdonshire District Council. Significant savings continue to be made by outsourcing and sharing activities where possible. "One Leisure" and the outsourcing of CCTV and reprographics services have been particularly successful enterprises. The district remains under pressure to build new homes yet government grants for this purpose are being withdrawn. 65% of the district council's budget covers staff salaries. Further to re-structuring and a pay freeze for the majority of employees, the district council intends to invest 2% of its council tax budget into payroll to redress this. The district council budget has reduced from £23 million in 2012/13 to £17.2 million in 2018/19.
- 125-02/18 Matters arising or carried forward from the previous meeting.**
125-02/18.1 To review a proposal for maintenance work to the boundaries of Glebe Paddock.

Councillor Edwards and Councillor Noble presented a comprehensive plan for the sympathetic maintenance of the boundaries of Glebe Paddock. Councillor Smith suggested that the presence of brambles, blackthorn and hawthorn on a playing field is not conducive to successful ball games and recommended that more radical action is required. Councillor Paxton suggested that the council considers the purchase of nets for the goal posts. All agreed that this would be a good compromise and Councillor Noble agreed to source suitable nets for consideration at the next meeting.

Councillor Edwards and Councillor Noble suggested that work to the boundaries could be carried out by volunteers. Councillors agreed that members of the public had been willing to assist with similar work in the cemetery. Councillor Edwards agreed to coordinate a working party. Details are to be confirmed.

126-02/18 Notification of planning items.

126-02/18.1 18/00021/S73 | Variation of Condition 2 from 15/00049/FUL - plot 2, alterations to windows on external elevations, internal layout amendments and single garage to double garage. | Farm Buildings Church Farm Church Lane, Upwood.

Councillors agreed that these were minor variations and in keeping with the design of the property. Councillor Perkins proposed that the parish council supports this application. Councillor Tew seconded the proposal. Councillor Paxton abstained from voting. All others were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

127-02/18 Finance

127-02/18.1 To approve accounts for payment: 05 February 2018.

Date	Ref. No.	Payee	Description	Amount
05.02.18	871965039	Mrs C. Silverstone	Clerk/RFO Salary. January 2018	707.38
			Expenses: Working from home allowance.	10.00
05.02.18	970442026	HMRC	PAYE/NI	8.87
05.02.18	DD	SALVUS Master Trust	Employee + Employer Pension Contributions. January 2018	75.40
05.02.18	227205293	Upwood Village Hall	Telephone & Broadband Costs Nov 2017 – Nov 2019 re. Ramsey Wind Farm Community Development Fund	672.00
05.02.18	948827443	Mr S. Howes	Parish web hosting & domain costs re. Ramsey Wind Farm Community Development Fund	98.12

Councillor Noble proposed that the accounts be approved for payment. Councillor Nel seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. The chairman signed the list of payments on the agenda and he also signed the bank reconciliation. Councillor Edwards countersigned the bank reconciliation. The finance working party will meet to review the forecast of expenditure to the end of this financial year and report back at the next meeting

127-02/18.2 To note income received: 05 February 2018:

Date	Ref. No.	Payee	Description	Amount
29.01.18	BACS	Grantscape	Pre-payment from the Ramsey Wind Farm Community Development Fund to enhance communication networks across the parish.	2000.00

127-02/18.3 To acknowledge the district council's confirmation of the parish council's 2018/2019 precept at £25,000.

128-02/18 Traffic, Highways & Road Safety

128-02/18.1 To receive an update from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding Local Highway Initiative plans (2017/2018) for traffic calming on Ramsey Road.

Confirmation has been received that the work is now scheduled for February or March as it needs to be done when the weather is warmer and drier. The parish council had budgeted for this project for the financial year 2017/2018 but payment is now likely to be made during the financial year 2018/2019.

- 128-02/18.2 To receive an update on the parish council's application to the Local Highway Initiative 2018/2019 for a speed indicator device (SID).
Councillor Slater and Councillor Tew attended the Huntingdonshire Local Highway Improvement Panel to represent this application and the parish council is now waiting for the results.
- 129-02/18 Public Involvement & Engagement**
- 129-02/18.1 To review proposals from Huntingdonshire District Council for the provision of its "Active Lifestyles" activity programme for young people.
Fliers to promote this summer activity programme have been distributed to every home with the parish newsletter. One Leisure has offered a free taster session which will take place on Friday 16 February from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Fliers for this event will be posted on the parish council's Facebook page and shared with other local social media sites. The clerk will email details to the schools and Councillor Noble will ensure that children waiting for the school bus are aware of the opportunity. Activities will take place in Glebe Paddock and/or the village hall depending on the weather. The parish council will cover the cost of the village hall and Councillor Paxton and Councillor Smith agreed to coordinate access to the village hall for this event.
- 129-02/018.2 To consider the formation of a working party to address youth involvement and engagement strategies in response to the results of the Community Led Plan and in preparation for the creation of a new councillor portfolio responsibility after the forthcoming election.
The chairman invited Mr Dan Hall, local resident and Youth Work and Community Development Professional to take the lead on this initiative. He agreed. Councillor Noble and Councillor Smith will work with Mr Hall to form a working party which will report back to the parish council with its ideas and strategies for promoting youth involvement and engagement.
- 129-02/18.3 To review the success and impact of the monthly parish council surgeries.
A "surgery" has been held on the second Saturday of each month since September and it was agreed that the success and impact of this initiative should be assessed after six months. No interest has been shown by members of the public and no one has attended any of the five sessions. Councillors agreed that it had been a worthwhile exercise but that it would be discontinued with immediate effect. Councillors considered that the lack of attendance could well be because both the clerk and several councillors are actively involved in the community, they are well known and readily accessible to parishioners which would negate the need to attend a specific event. The chairman thanked councillors Nel, Smith and Tew for their commitment to this initiative.
- 130-02/18 Parish Land**
- 130-02/18.1 To review ongoing correspondence with DLA Piper UK LLP regarding its intention to claim for adverse possession of the legal title of the parcel of land which hosts operational equipment belonging to National Grid Gas PLC at Charter's Spinney.
Further to the previous meeting, the clerk is in continuing debate with DLA Piper UK LLP.
- 131-02/18 Correspondence and Communications**
- 131-02/18.1 Correspondence with The Harlequin Group regarding clearance of the ditch following installation of the mobile phone mast.
- 131-02/18.2 A recommendation from a parishioner that everyone should read Cambridgeshire County Council's "The Little Book of Big Scams". Please see:
https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/consumer-protection/CCC_LBOBS_Third%20Edition_ONLINE.pdf?inline=true
- 131-02/18.3 Correspondence from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership offering funding for biodiversity projects.
- 132-02/18 To receive verbal reports from Parish Councillors on matters arising from their portfolio responsibilities.**
No decisions can be made under this item.
Councillor Smith expressed concern for a large pothole and the general degradation of the road by the school. Councillor Slater agreed to take photographs and to report this on Cambridgeshire County Council's "Report It" website. The chairman asked that County Councillor Rogers be kept informed as this section of road is in particularly poor condition and should really be re-surfaced.

Councillor Paxton noted that manhole covers on High Street are sinking. Councillor Slater confirmed that he has reported this to Anglian Water on more than one occasion.

Members were reminded that matters pertaining to highways may be reported directly on Cambridgeshire County Council's "Report It" site: <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Councillor Perkins reported that he and Councillor Edwards have carried out remedial work to re-hang the gate to St. Peter's Church. It was resolved in item 72-10/17.4 that Mr Davis be contracted to repair and realign the gates. This work will be completed in the spring.

Councillor Tew reported that he has completed a "Housing Needs Assessment" survey with the intention of having it delivered to every household in the parish. He agreed to forward it to the clerk for presentation at the next meeting.

Councillor Noble asked for an update on the stabilisation of the old section of wall in St. Peter's Churchyard. Councillor Perkins confirmed that work would be completed in the spring.

133-02/18 **Matters for future consideration.** *No decisions can be made under this item.*

134-02/18 **Date of next meeting:** 05 March 2018, Upwood Village Hall, 7:00pm.

Close of meeting: 8:20pm