

Upwood and the Raveleys Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 11 May 2015. 8:00pm

Upwood Village Hall, High Street, Upwood, PE26 2QE

Minutes

Present: Councillors J. Edwards, R. Howe (Chairman), F. Hopkins, H. Huskinson, J. Noble, J. Paxton A. Perkins, R. Singleton, G. Slater and five Registered Electors.

In attendance: Mrs. C. Bilverstone (Parish Clerk).

1. Welcome by Councillor Robin Howe

Councillor Howe welcomed parishioners to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Michael Tew. His attendance was required at another meeting.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2014:

Copies of the minutes and the reports of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2014 had been circulated in advance following their informal approval by the chairman. Councillor Noble proposed acceptance of the minutes. Councillor Paxton seconded the proposal. All present were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. The chairman signed the minutes.

4. Report from the Chairman of Upwood & the Raveleys Parish Council

Please find attached.

5. To invite Village Representatives to address the Meeting

Reports were received by the following groups and organisations:

Meet and Munch, prepared by Jan Howe, Coordinator. Presented by the clerk.

St. Peter's Church, prepared by Anne-Marie Cracknell and Jean Place, Churchwardens. Presented by the Clerk.

St. Peter's Handbell Ringers, prepared by Anne-Marie Cracknell and presented by the clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotment Association and Community Orchard Group, prepared by Alison Miles, Chairman. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood Cricket Club, prepared by Neil Tuffin and presented by the clerk.

Upwood Primary School, prepared by Mrs S. Whitelaw, Headteacher. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Local History Group, prepared by Ian Gaunt, Chairman. Presented by the clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Newsletter, presented by David Paine, Chairman.

Upwood Ukulele Group, prepared by Doug McCleod and presented by the clerk.

Upwood Village Hall Management Committee, prepared & presented by Stephen Howes, Chairman.

6. Financial report from the Clerk to the Council

Please find attached.

7. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

A parishioner asked for clarification on the progress of the Community Led Plan and expressed concern that it appears to be taking excessive time to complete. The chairman agreed that although it has been difficult to keep the momentum, the plan is on track and that working parties are currently being established to address three key areas identified through the results of the questionnaire (Roads & Road Safety; Communication;

and Housing & Planning). He also confirmed that the community led plan team are all voluntary and it is not easy to insist that volunteers adhere to strict time restrictions. Councillor Hopkins, CLP Coordinator added that the elections have caused some delay as councillors were not certain if they would maintain their positions; she has also had increased professional commitments and has therefore been unable to commit to the same level over the past few months. An event will be held during the summer and parishioners are encouraged to join the working parties.

Another parishioner asked for an update following the overflowing sewer in the High Street. Councillor Slater confirmed Anglian Water deem the sewer sufficient to cope but that they continue to inspect on a regular basis.

8. Questions for the County and District Councillors

Please find attached written reports from Councillor Michael Tew (County Councillor) and Councillor Robin Howe (District Councillor). There were no questions.

9. Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman concluded by thanking those who had taken the time to prepare reports for this meeting. He noted that one cannot help but marvel at the diversity of all that happens here. This meeting has been a celebration of achievement and recognition of the commitment of so many people who help to make this such a positive and vibrant community.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Please visit www.upwood.org to view the reports.

9 May 2016 - RBEH

UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY 2015

I would like to start by offering the thanks of the parish council to Keith Sisman and Gill Shelford both of whom have recently left us.

Keith added his unique brand of humour and personality to everything he did for the parish. His unwavering commitment to road safety has raised the awareness of the problem of speed and safety across the parish and beyond and his contribution will be sorely missed.

Gill added her quiet and determined style to council proceedings and made a valuable contribution to the organisation of the cemetery and to the general appearance of the village which she patrolled so assiduously every day. Once more my thanks on behalf of the Council to both Gill and Keith.

In their place we welcome two new Councillors, Hayley Huskinson and Robin Singleton.

As owner of The Cross Keys pub Hayley has a unique opportunity to engage with parish residents whom she meets every day in her bars and restaurant. We expect this to open up a new communication channel to and from the Parish Council about feelings, suggestions and complaints concerning parish life and we expect Hayley to make a great contribution to the council whilst raising the profile of the pub among parish residents.

Robin Singleton has had a distinguished career in the Royal Air Force achieving the rank of Wing Commander and finally Officer Commanding Administration Wing for RAF Linton on Ouse and brings a huge amount of management and organisational ability to the council which, added to her strong personality and willingness to get the job done will make her a great asset to the Parish Council.

Welcome again to Hayley and Robin!

Looking back over 2014/15 the key challenges which we faced as a Council were as follows:

- Development of the Community Led Plan
- The Balfour Beatty lighting project
- The further reduction in District Council funding and County Council support.
- The formation of the Allotment Trusteeship.

Dealing with each of these in turn; the CLP team did a great job in developing a comprehensive questionnaire and distributing it to all the residents in the parish. The results were analysed in the autumn and it was decided that a number of key areas identified in the study required more detailed investigation, namely roads and road safety, housing and planning issues and communications. The working parties formed to address these three areas have not yet met and accordingly the CLP consultation planned for June may have to be delayed.

The lighting project was completed according to the plan presented by the county council but the results of this supposed improvement project have been deeply disappointing to many residents. The removal of one in four lighting standards and their replacement with allegedly brighter, low energy alternatives has left many parts of the parish in relative darkness requiring that residents carry torches at night! Those residents who have problems with the location of lighting beside their property have been met with implacable resistance to alter locations by the County Council. This has been a divisive and generally unsuccessful project.

The Parish Council has strengthened its financial position despite the reduced contributions from the District Council. The reserves, previously depleted by mis-appropriation in 2010, have now have been fully restored and the parish has one of its strongest financial positions in years. This has been achieved in spite of a planned increase in grass, hedge and ditch maintenance across the parish designed to improve appearance and safety for residents. In an effort to improve communication with parishioners, the noticeboards are undergoing a replacement for refurbishment programme and this has incurred additional cost.

The total spend at the end of the financial year fell below budget by several thousand pounds due mainly to delayed completions projects and these funds have gone into reserves.

Finally the allotment association was successfully launched as a trusteeship with its own independent management and governance system. The allotments are now thriving under this new regime.

Looking ahead to 2015/16 and beyond the main challenge Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council will face will be the potential traffic problems arising from the huge housing developments planned for Wyton and Alconbury. Closer to home, we have the challenge of around 600 houses planned for Upwood airfield and the impact on our already heavily trafficked local roads. Concerns expressed by residents through the Community Led Plan, relating to speeding and road safety will need to become a priority for this council in future.

Finally I would like to express my thanks for the hard work and support given by all councillors during the previous year and to our Clerk, Carol Bilverstone who has brought increased professional standards, great engagement with residents and a tenacious desire to untangle difficult governance and land use issues for the benefit of the Parish.

So, we begin this new term with strong finances, a highly professional group of Councillors and a clear vision of the way we would like Upwood and the Raveleys to look in the future.

Robin Howe
Parish Council Chairman
Upwood and the Raveleys

Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting. 11 May 2015

Financial Report from the Clerk to the Parish Council

In 2014/15 the Parish Council worked with a budget of £24,350 and at the end of the financial year it had underspent by £4,000. Comparing the forecasted budget with actual expenditure in 2014/15, there are three notable variances:

- The parish clerk continued to work on a voluntary basis until August 2014, saving the council £1000.
- £1500 was budgeted for the renovation of noticeboards but this work was achieved at a cost of only £500.
- £2,000 had been budgeted for phase two of the tree works in St. Peter's Churchyard. This work has since been completed but payment will be made in 2015/16.

Other notable expenses and achievements include financial support to the village hall and the parish newsletter; two continued professional development courses for the parish clerk (a course in Cemetery Management and Legal Compliance; and a Regional Conference, both of which have already benefitted the day to day management of council business); further investment in the upkeep and maintenance of parish grass and hedges; and the purchase and installation of a litter bin on Ailwine Road.

The 2013/14 Audit brought two financial irregularities to the clerk's attention:

Firstly that the parish council had for many years financially supported the maintenance of St. Peter's Churchyard yet it had not legally accepted responsibility. Correct procedures are now in place and maintenance of the churchyard has been formally adopted.

Secondly, that as registered charities, the allotments should have been managed independently of parish council funds. Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotments Association (URCAA) now have full operational and financial responsibility for the allotment sites under the strategic management of serving parish councillors who form the body of trustees. Not only has this relationship proved beneficial in terms of its legal and financial compliance, it has given URCAA far greater autonomy. Renewed enthusiasm for the development of the allotments sites with the introduction of a community orchard and seating area is beginning to benefit the wider community.

The parish council has moved its finances to Unity Trust Bank who offer an account specifically to meet the needs of local councils. All councillors have access to the accounts online enabling increased transparency; electronic payments are routinely made thus decreasing postage and stationery costs; the council is earning double the rate of interest; and the bank offers a very efficient service. This was a bold move for a traditional institution but I think all would agree that it has been positive in every respect,

The parish council earns interest at a rate of 6p per quarter from an investment of £13.17 in 2½% Consolidated Stock made in 1937. This had been a bit of a mystery until a scrap of paper was found purely by chance (whilst researching the history of the allotments!) in the archives at Huntingdon Library. The government have recently announced the redemption of 2½% Consolidated Stock effective from July 2015.

I met with the Internal Auditor last week and hoped to be in a position to share his report. However, this has not been received at the time of writing. The meeting was very positive. The auditor was thorough and recognised the meticulous efforts made throughout the last twelve months to bring the financial management of the parish council to a position where it is fully compliant with all legal and financial regulations.

Carol Silverstone

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

11 May 2015

Meet and Munch. 2015

Meet and Munch is a village based club, run by volunteers, to provide an opportunity for older members of the community to meet up once a month. A tasty lunch is provided during the winter and afternoon tea is served during the summer.

June is a special month where a party lunch is provided. The Village Hall is decorated and gives everyone an opportunity to bring out their special hats (even top hats!). The theme this time is "The Sun has got his hat on" Let's hope it has!

Meetings take place on the first Saturday of the month and members are sent a list of the dates and times. There are currently 17 volunteers and 24 members. Members enjoy these events very much and are always very appreciative.

Anyone who is over 55 is eligible to become a member of this very friendly group. More details are available from the Co-ordinator Jan Howe.

Churchwarden Report 2015

We, the churchwardens of St. Peter's, greatly appreciate all the hard work that many people in the community do to look after the church.

Since our last APCM (April 2014), 10 children have been baptized at Sunday morning Services, we have also had 5 funerals and 3 memorial services at St. Peter's.

We have 46 people in the electoral roll.

St. Peter's is well led by Canon Richard Darmody and Reverend Gita Bond.

We have 3 services a month and they are advertised by posters in the notice board outside church, in the village newsletter and in the Link Magazine. The services may change in the future and it is always advisable to check the notice board.

The fabric of the church is quite sound. Over the past year we have had work done to the North Aisle roof and the bell tower. These are jobs that had been requested by the architect in her Quinquennial report. We are hoping this coming year to have the guttering and down pipes (known as water furniture) replaced. We appreciate the work on the trees in the churchyard carried out by the Parish Council.

We had a well-attended Carol Service and Midnight Service and a nearly-full church at Easter.

"Open the Book" which is supported by St. Peter's goes into Upwood school every week, reading and miming Bible stories for the children. The school has also visited us with some lovely services at Harvest and Christmas.

It is good to see that our community in Upwood is supporting St. Peter's events, willing to help in many different ways and enjoying them with friends, like at Harvest or the Christmas festival, at the Pancake morning which was extremely well-attended especially by children in the community, and at the Lent Lunches providing a frugal meal in a friendly environment.

We will have a very special event on 16th May to commemorate the victory of WW2 with the "Now & Then Hobby show.

St Peter participates in giving to the Trussell Trust Food Bank operating in Ramsey St. Thomas a Becket, helping many people in great need and also has supported has several charities.

'We are willing to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ'

Thank you.

Anne Marie Cracknell and Jean Place

St Peter's Handbell Ringers Report 2015

St Peter's Handbell Ringers meet every Monday evening in St. Peter's Church, Upwood. Our team currently consist of 8 players from Upwood and the surrounding villages and are always willing to recruit and welcome new musicians.

This year, result to our long fundraising programme and the generosity of St Peter's Church, we have been able to purchase new handbell boxes purpose designed to protect the bells which were on display at the Christmas tree festival.

In December 2014, we played at Wistow to help raise money for Cancer research and also at the Christmas tree festival.

We have several dates in our diary secured for this year to play handbell music for various events like in the 16th May event "Now & Then hobby show" in the village hall. Also, this year the children from Upwood school played the Chimes during their Christmas play and the school has borrowed the chime-set for a little longer. The Abbey College learning difficulty department will use them shortly. Finally, RAF Alconbury Library has invited us to show their children how to play the chimes in the summer and the handbells will be displayed.

We are as much as possible available to play for St Peter's Church and the community if required. (01487 812195)

**Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotment Association (URCAA) – report for
Parish Council 110515**

The Allotment Association has had a busy year and is now looking forward (with all our fingers crossed) to a good growing season.

We have now officially taken over the day-to-day running of the Upwood and Raveleys allotments from the Allotment Trustees and have amended our constitution to represent this. We have already made substantial progress with our short to long term plans and are pleased to report nearly full occupancy of available plots. We will continue to push to encourage new plot holders to join us and are committed to providing a range of plot options – something to suit everyone!

Early this year we held our AGM and were pleased to increase the committee with a dedicated Member to represent the Raveleys site.

Work highlights:

- Successful bid to the Huntingdon Community Chest with resulting finance for a second security gate at the Upwood site (installed), bench for the orchard (installed) and water tanks (ongoing)
- Successful bid to the Woodland Trust for hedging and 400 whips planted early this year to strengthen the hedge on the Upwood site. We have now put in a bid for more hedging to extend the hedge along the Huntingdon Road.
- Litter pick of the ditches around the Upwood allotment site to clean the area so that the Parish Council could proceed with the ditch clearing. (We are also using the Community plot to hold the organic material removed from the ditches).
- The orchard survived a wet winter thanks to the subsoiling work that was done and, thanks to some very clever tractor work, and volunteers with rakes, we now have a level surface again. We have already built two large raised beds and planted them with lavender, so hopefully everyone will be able to spend a little time to sit and enjoy the orchard this summer.

Our next goal is to open some of the Upwood allotments and the Orchard on the 21st June as part of the Open Gardens. We hope to see you there.

**Alison Miles
Chair of URCAA
110515**



Captain Resigns

The new season got off to a bit of a rocky start with the unexpected resignation of newly appointed 1st Captain Chris Newton. Chris has now moved to play for Warboys. Mitch Newman has stepped up to 1st Team captain from his role as skipper of the 2nds. Adam Dean has kindly offered his services and will be fulfilling the job as 2nd team captain.

Teams

The club currently fields teams in:

1st Team playing in Hunts League Division 4

2nd Team playing in Hunts League Division 5

Under 9 – Softball

Under 11 – eight a side

Under 13 – eleven a side

Junior Coaching

Following the successful pre-season training indoors for the Under 9 and Under 11 training will now move outside from Monday 27th April. U9 and Under 11 will be from 5-30pm to 6-30 pm. Under 13 and Under 15 will be from 6-30 pm to 7-30 pm. Cost will be £10 for the whole year.

There will be games against other clubs but there will be an additional charge for these.

We currently have lots of juniors in the U9 and U11 sections which is marvellous but a less in the older age groups.

New Netting

Last year the practice netting developed mystery holes in it (bigger than they should be). New netting has been bought and installed. Either rabbits or hares are suspected of the damage so the club has purchased some non-lethal rabbit deterrents to see if that helps. Time will tell if they work!

Fun Day

We held a funday on Monday 4th May with child/parent games, bouncy castle and BBQ. The weather was very good for the time of year, a great time was had by the 50 or so people who attended and the club raised some much needed funds

Ground Lease

We are now very hopeful that the club should be getting a long term lease once the sale/rental of the farmland which we play on has gone through. This will go a long way to securing the long term future of the club and should allow us to access more areas of funding.

Thanks

The club would like to thank three local companies for supporting the club over the last year or two. Thomas Morris kindly donated some caps last year. The indoor nets were paid for by a local businessman. Local cake maker Giraffe Cakes will be donating their time do some teas.

New Members

Finally, we are always looking for new members from U9 to veteran adults – particularly older juniors or adults who can play on Saturdays or Sundays. If interested or you think you can support the club in anyway visit www.upwood.play-cricket.com – any help will be gratefully received.

Best Wishes Neil Tuffin UCC

UPWOOD HUNTINGDON CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE26 2QA

TELEPHONE 01487 813510 FAX 01487 812019

EMAIL office@upwood.cambs.sch.uk

MRS S WHITELAW B(Ed) M.A.

HEAD TEACHER

Annual Parish Meeting 2015 Report

Upwood Primary School is a community school striving to forge strong links with the local and wider community. It is the school's vision to maintain and develop these links.

Links With Our Community Which We Value

Manor House

Our strong links with Manor House have been maintained this year as we once again collected toiletries for the residents during October. Pupils delivered the items to the residents after visiting St Peter's Church for a 'Harvest Festival' of their own. Residents also came to Upwood Primary School to watch the children perform their Dress Rehearsal of 'Around the World at Christmas'. Residents are also invited to our annual May Day Celebration, which focuses again this year on 'Dances From Around the World'. Our Year 5 pupils will be visiting Manor House for 'Seed Planting Day' in June and our Year 1 pupils will be talking to the residents about their weddings, as part of their Religious Education studies, this term.

St Peter's Church Service

On Monday 15th December, the whole school walked to St Peter's Church in Upwood for a Christmas Service planned by the school. The children performed a variety of songs and poems. We were once again welcomed warmly into the church.

Open the Book

Each Thursday, trained members from St Peter's Church visit Upwood Primary to deliver an assembly called 'Open the Book'. The members use a variety of engaging techniques to deliver stories from the Bible. Our pupils look forward to the assembly each week and we would like to thank the trained members for their continued support.

PTA

We are extremely fortunate at Upwood to have a very high degree of involvement and commitment from our community. The PTA organisation is actively involved in a full programme of educational, social and fund raising activities, for both children and adults, from which the school benefits greatly.

Charity Work

We believe our pupils gain a great deal from taking part in fundraising events for both our school and national/international charities, as it develops empathy towards others, a sense of community and an understanding of the wider world. We agreed to support the following three charities for this academic year:

- The NSPCC;
- The Poppy Appeal;
- Comic Relief.

The NSPCC focuses on improving the lives of young children and was therefore a charity we were keen to support. We fundraised for this charity in the Autumn Term, by doing a sponsored physical challenge!

Comic Relief is one of our nation's great fundraising efforts, which brings the entire country together raising money for a common cause. On 13th March, children were asked to come to school in something that would make someone smile! A wide range of bright and colourful costumes were seen in school. Families made a contribution to Comic Relief on this day.

We also continued to support the Poppy Appeal. Children were asked to make a voluntary contribution to an appeal box, in exchange for a Poppy pin. Staff felt that it was important to continue with this fundraising event, as it has such great significance in our nation's history.

Special Events

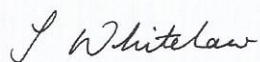
Catering Workshops

Upwood Primary School pupils will have the opportunity to develop their cookery skills again in May. Each year group, from Foundation to Year 6, will welcome Carole Youngman and her team ('Cooks on the Move') from Cambridgeshire Catering Service into their classes. Staff at Upwood Primary School consider cookery to be a key part of the curriculum, as it develops independence in later life and can foster an interest in healthy eating. Overall, the aim of the workshops is to give the children a greater understanding of where food comes from and how to create a tasty dish from scratch using healthy ingredients.

With the 'Cooks on the Move' the children will be making fruit crumbles, bread and pizza and will be taught many cookery skills including mixing, kneading and chopping safely. At the end of the session, each child will be able to eat their cookery project.

Lastly...a Thank You

As another successful and eventful academic year draws to a close, we would like to thank all those residents of Upwood Village who support us in our endeavours.



Mrs S Whitelaw
Head Teacher

Upwood and the Raveleys Local History Group

The local history group meets in the Upwood Village Hall on the third Wednesday of alternate months (January, March, May, July, September and November). We also organise visits to places of interest either locally or more distant.

We have talks on a wide range of topics. For example 'The Cecil's Burghley House and Garden and 'A group Photograph, Before; Now and In-between' that traced the fate of all of the soldiers in a group photograph from the first World War. Others have included 'Cambridgeshire in World Wars 1&2', 'the Ermine Street Excavations', A talk on local (Upwood) history and 'Arthur Maddison; Early Photographer' (who was based in Huntingdon),

Visits have included a trip to Flag Fen to see the 'Must Farm Boats' being conserved, a visit to Burghley House and a trip to Wrest Park..

Future meetings include 'Great Meals in Literature', 'History of the Pathfinder Force', 'History of Ramsey Abbey' and an update on the Must Farm Boats.

We are developing two projects. One is an attempt to show what the villages were like in the early 20th Century (1910) and the other is to prepare a time-line of events in the area. To complete these projects we need assistance and information from members of the community. The sort of information that we are looking for is when was your house built (even if it is modern), what shops were there in the villages or where were there pubs? So any information can be included.

The cost for an annual membership of the History Group is £10 but visitors are welcome to individual meetings at a cost of £3. For further information please contact Ian Gaunt (01487 710702

Upwood & the Raveleys Newsletter

Report to Parish Meeting 11th May 2015

After thirteen years and 77 issues, Upwood and the Raveleys Newsletter continues to go from strength to strength.

The Newsletter is delivered to 538 households in the five areas of the Parish, Upwood, Great Raveley, Little Raveley, Farm Close and Fairmead. It carries information on what is happening in the villages, reports on the success of recent events and items of general interest and entertainment. Increased technical skills of the production team have also brought photographic illustration into most editions. From the feedback we get, it is clear that the Newsletter is valued by its recipients.

The value of the newsletter comes initially from the dedicated work of the editorial team, and our thanks go to Paul Charman, Judith Harvey and Pauline Mcleod.

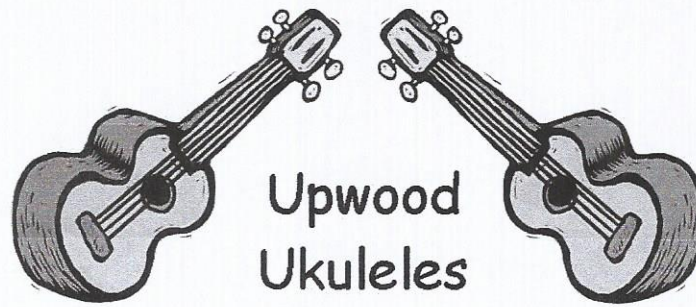
The Committee is grateful for those who contribute to the content of the Newsletter, those who help by delivering it and others who help in other ways. Special mention should also be made of our printer, Robert Maclelland at Micromark, who has generously produced our newsletter all these years without increasing his costs.

The Newsletter is dependant for its survival on the donation of funds and I would particularly like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their generous contribution. Although the loss of the annual fete means that its generous donation in the past is no longer available, nevertheless the 55plus group donated £500 in the last financial year which helped enormously. This means that funding for a year's issues is secure. Also as well as the intrepid volunteers who faithfully deliver the newsletters round the parish every alternate month we now have another band of volunteers who are delivering the Ramsey and Warboys Informer around Upwood Village every month. The paper said they couldn't get a deliverer for the village itself so we have organised a group of volunteers to deliver copies each month. The volunteers have all kindly agreed to donate their pay of 3p a copy to the parish newsletter. This will bring in an extra £90 over the course of a year.

We have also moved further into the digital age. People can request a digital copy of the newsletter now. Copies are sent to people in France and Cornwall as well as going to local political representatives and the Huntingdon Archives.

I have this evening learned that Mrs. Gill Shelford lost her seat on this council last week. We are especially sorry, as Gill was our link between the newsletter and the Parish Council. She provided the editorial team with concise reports on the council's activities. Our thanks therefore to Gill for her help.

David Paine



Upwood Ukuleles was formed in February 2014. Several people responded to an initial article placed in the parish newsletter and weekly meetings began in members' houses with the emphasis on helping each other to play the "uke". The membership has since expanded to 13 players who play the whole range of ukuleles from soprano to bass. We now also meet once a month in the village hall.

With the accent on having fun and making music together, requests to perform in public came as a surprise (and more than a small amount of terror to some players!!) but having got over initial stage fright the UpU's have gone from strength to strength, playing at a variety of events ranging from WIs to Day Centres. A highlight was being asked to perform on Radio Cambridgeshire just before Christmas 2014.

Upwood Ukuleles do not charge a performance fee as such but do request a suitable donation to their designated charity, Magpas, in lieu of a fee. To date the group has raised over £350 for Magpas.

For more information and booking contact Doug McLeod: pndmcleod@btinternet.com / 01487 814114 / 07709 930398



UPWOOD VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 2015

Bookings for 2014 have remained steady and most weekday evenings have at least one event running. Whilst we do have some daytime bookings we are keen to encourage more hirings during the day. It was also pleasing to read the feedback from the Community Led Plan survey which indicated that people were generally happy that the Hall adequately served the village.

2014 also saw some major improvements to the fabric of the hall as part of our ongoing refurbishment of this old building. At the time of my 2013/14 report we had just been awarded a grant for the replacement of the ceiling in the front hall and this work was carried out over the summer, at the same time we also took the opportunity to redecorate the hall throughout.

I am sure that you will agree, the new ceiling is a huge improvement on the original draughty wooden boards and has made the room much brighter and fresher looking. Hopefully with the improved insulation it also feels a lot warmer and this will be reflected in savings to our energy bills.

We have also made some repairs to the outside of the building following problems with drainage and guttering which had caused some dampness to appear inside the hall. It also became evident that much of the external brickwork is in need of repointing, the worst of it has now been repaired but it is likely that before too long we may need to carry out more extensive, long term repairs.

Over the years a number of people had commented that the chairs in the hall were heavy and difficult to stack. Many of these chairs were around 10 years old and suffering some damage so we have replaced 52 of them with more modern lightweight ones. Twelve of these chairs have been purchased with arms following comments from a number of users that these would help them to stand up. We were fortunate also to be able to offset some of this cost with the sale of several of the older chairs.

As well as our usual regular bookings, outside Arts events have continued to draw large audiences with many people coming from outside the county to see popular groups. One group even mentioned their appearance at Upwood Village Hall in a BBC Radio2 interview! Our thanks again go to Doug McLeod and his team for organising these.

Once again we would like to thank all of our fundraisers who enable us to invest in major refurbishment projects and to the Parish Council who's grant has helped us to cover our insurance costs.

Last but not least, my sincere thanks go to the Village Hall committee and its trustees whose tireless efforts continue to ensure that the hall remains a valuable community resource.

Stephen Howes
Chairman,
Upwood Village Hall Management Committee

Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall
Bank Balances as at 28 February 2015

Current Account (No 609369280)

Balance	£409.31	
Less unpresented cheques	£288.00	£121.31
Plus outstanding payments		£68.30

Business Premium Account (No 80905143)	£11,289.19
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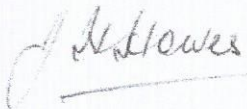
Fund Raising Account	£12,651.70
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Petty Cash	£0.86
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£24,131.36

I hereby certify that the income and expenses accounts and balance sheets for Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall for the year ending 28 February 2015 are a true record according to the information provided.

Signed



J.H.Howes

Date 10.4.15

Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall

28th February 2015

Income

Keable/Whiles Ticket Sales	£	876.00
" " Raffle proceeds	£	151.40
" " Bar proceeds	£	25.00
Mischa Ticket Sales	£	752.00
" Raffle Proceeds	£	137.00
Roberts/MsFits/St Agnes Ticket Sale	£	3,438.00
" " " Raffle	£	306.00
New Ropes/Knightley Ticket Sales	£	2,304.00
" " Raffle	£	123.50
Interest	£	47.83
Expenditure over income	£	4,551.64

£ 12,712.37

Expenditure

Keeble Perf Fee	£	400.00
Chris Kelly perf Fee	£	600.00
U.V.H	£	48.85
Wren Third Party Cont	£	1,562.88
Instrument mics and stands	£	249.92
Mischa perf fee	£	400.00
UVH Elec & Hall Hire	£	40.25
Refreshments etc Mischa	£	75.00
Ramsey Arts Fest 50% profit	£	142.37
Roberts/Lakeman Perf Fee	£	584.00
Extras for Roof Project	£	568.32
Decorating	£	1,280.00
" Supplies	£	156.40
Various Expenses	£	117.74
UVH Elect & Hall Hire	£	42.20
MsFits Perf Fee	£	475.00
" Elect & Hall hire	£	39.60
New Charis	£	3,176.64
St. Agness Perf fee	£	1,900.00
" Elect & Hall Hire	£	53.20
Band Perf Fee	£	800.00

£ 12,712.37

OK Howe
10.4.15

Upwood and The Raveleys Village Hall

28th February 2015

Income

Deposits	£ 550.00
One-off users	£ 601.44
Art Group	£ 669.67
History Group	£ 88.91
Home to Home	£ 176.61
Parish Council	£ 374.23
St Peters Church	£ 252.79
Quilting Group	£ 187.88
Brownies	£ 240.00
Table Tennis	£ 1,911.01
WEA	£ 424.32
Book Club	£ 137.88
Performing Arts	£ 266.20
Misc. Donations	£ 40.20
55+ Donation	£ 636.00
Parish Council Grant	£ 1,200.00
Sale of Chairs	£ 90.00

£ 7,847.14

Expenditure

Refunds	£ 229.35
Rates	£ 241.00
Water Rates	£ 307.12
Cleaner	£ 1,103.40
Repairs & Maint	£ 351.64
Electricity	£ 590.72
Insurance	£ 900.79
Consumables	£ 53.22
Sundry Expenses	£ 153.93

Income over Expenditure £ 3,915.97

£ 7,847.14

John Howes
10.4.15

Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting. 11 May 2015

Financial Report from the Clerk to the Parish Council

In 2014/15 the Parish Council worked with a budget of £24,350 and at the end of the financial year it had underspent by £4,000. Comparing the forecasted budget with actual expenditure in 2014/15, there are three notable variances:

- The parish clerk continued to work on a voluntary basis until August 2014, saving the council £1000.
- £1500 was budgeted for the renovation of noticeboards but this work was achieved at a cost of only £500.
- £2,000 had been budgeted for phase two of the tree works in St. Peter's Churchyard. This work has since been completed but payment will be made in 2015/16.

Other notable expenses and achievements include financial support to the village hall and the parish newsletter; two continued professional development courses for the parish clerk (a course in Cemetery Management and Legal Compliance; and a Regional Conference, both of which have already benefitted the day to day management of council business); further investment in the upkeep and maintenance of parish grass and hedges; and the purchase and installation of a litter bin on Ailwine Road.

The 2013/14 Audit brought two financial irregularities to the clerk's attention:

Firstly that the parish council had for many years financially supported the maintenance of St. Peter's Churchyard yet it had not legally accepted responsibility. Correct procedures are now in place and maintenance of the churchyard has been formally adopted.

Secondly, that as registered charities, the allotments should have been managed independently of parish council funds. Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotments Association (URCAA) now have full operational and financial responsibility for the allotment sites under the strategic management of serving parish councillors who form the body of trustees. Not only has this relationship proved beneficial in terms of its legal and financial compliance, it has given URCAA far greater autonomy. Renewed enthusiasm for the development of the allotments sites with the introduction of a community orchard and seating area is beginning to benefit the wider community.

The parish council has moved its finances to Unity Trust Bank who offer an account specifically to meet the needs of local councils. All councillors have access to the accounts online enabling increased transparency; electronic payments are routinely made thus decreasing postage and stationery costs; the council is earning double the rate of interest; and the bank offers a very efficient service. This was a bold move for a traditional institution but I think all would agree that it has been positive in every respect,

The parish council earns interest at a rate of 6p per quarter from an investment of £13.17 in 2½% Consolidated Stock made in 1937. This had been a bit of a mystery until a scrap of paper was found purely by chance (whilst researching the history of the allotments!) in the archives at Huntingdon Library. The government have recently announced the redemption of 2½% Consolidated Stock effective from July 2015.

I met with the Internal Auditor last week and hoped to be in a position to share his report. However, this has not been received at the time of writing. The meeting was very positive. The auditor was thorough and recognised the meticulous efforts made throughout the last twelve months to bring the financial management of the parish council to a position where it is fully compliant with all legal and financial regulations.

Carol Bilverstone

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

11 May 2015

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

PARISH of UPWOOD and the RAVELEYS

Budget and Financial Sustainability

The Council has reduced operating expenditure over the last four years by over £4 million per annum, representing around 12% of the total budget. This has been achieved through a combination of internal efficiencies, increased revenues and through the sharing of services with adjacent councils.

The council has been able to prepare a balanced budget for 2015, the first in living memory and has committed to becoming self-financing so it does not rely on central government finance. Despite these improvements in the councils financial status the budget will still have to reduce costs by a further 37.6% (£8.2m) by 2019/20 to £13.6m. A number of activities are underway to help achieve this including a series of Lean reviews across the service supported by Phase 2 of Zero Based Budgeting which aims to scrutinise all aspects of council expenditure whilst maintaining or improving the delivery of services.

2016/16 Corporate Plan

District Council has developed a new vision for the Huntingdonshire district which will determine how policies will be delivered and developed in future and is based upon the following principles

The Vision

The Council wants to continue to improve the quality of life for the people of Huntingdonshire and work towards sustainable economic growth whilst providing value for money services.

Strategic Priorities and Objectives

The Corporate Plan for 2015 - 2016 will focus on four main objectives:

- A development of a strong local economy
- The enabling of sustainable growth
- Effective working with our communities
- Ensuring the Council is customer focused and service led.

Dealing with each of these in turn:

A strong local economy.

The Council wants to make Huntingdonshire a better place to live, work and invest.

The objectives are to:

- Accelerate business growth and investment
- Remove infrastructure barriers to growth
- Develop a flexible and skilled local workforce

Enabling sustainable growth

To deliver new and appropriate housing with minimum impact on our environment.

Objectives are to:

- Improve the supply of new and affordable housing to meet future needs
- Develop sustainable growth opportunities in and around our market towns
- Enhance our built and green environment

Working with our communities.

The Council wants our communities to thrive and get involved with local decision making.

Objectives are to:

- Create safer, stronger and more resilient communities
- Improve health and well-being
- Empower local communities

Ensuring the Council is customer focused and service led.

- To continue to deliver value for money services.

- To become more business-like and efficient in the way services are delivered.
- Ensure customer engagement drives service priorities and improvement

Need for affordable housing

A number of factors, including rising house prices and significant demand for rented accommodation in the district, have led to a high level of need for new affordable housing. There are approximately 2,200 households on the Council's housing register and the Council has a strategic priority to enable more affordable homes to be built. Opportunities to build new affordable homes are pro-actively sought on new development sites, providing more than 10 dwellings a planned in total.

In addition, the enabling team are working hard with housing associations to bringing forward affordable homes in rural villages. Nineteen new affordable homes are about to commence in Warboys. Other schemes are in progress, or proposed, in Brington, Earith, Colne, Bluntisham and other areas. In 2014 162 new affordable homes were completed and have been let to local people.

Disabled Facilities Grants

As a result of the ageing population and other factors, there is a high demand for adaptations to people's homes. Disabled Facilities Grants fund adaptations such as stairlifts and level access showers. They are awarded upon the specialist advice of an Occupational Therapist, and last year 207 Disabled Facilities Grants were awarded. These will enable older or disabled people to live independently in their own homes for longer, preventing the need for more expensive health or social care services.

Leisure and Health

Tour of Cambridgeshire (ToC) Cycling Event 6/7 June

This mass participation event is coming to our district in June. ToC is looking to attract 10,000 riders from the UK and around the world. This event is part of a worldwide series of qualifying events for the 2015 UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) World Amateur Road Championship for Cyclists. ToC consists of two days of cycle sport on closed roads. [On 6 June](#) a Time Trial will be held on a smaller circuit in the north of the district around the Folksworth area. [On 7 June](#) a Gran Fondo (mass participation road race) will be held across Huntingdonshire and Fenland starting and finishing at Peterborough Arena. More information regarding the event and maps of the route is available at www.tourofcambridgeshire.com.

Littering from vehicles

The council is planning to attack the dreadful problem of littering across the district.

All Council Staff and Members can now report incidents of littering from vehicles via the use of new Litter Reporting Card which can be kept in the car in case offenders are spotted while driving. Reporting cards have been placed in all pool cars and Council vehicles for this purpose. The reports may result in the person who litters being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75. So far 19 FPNs have been issued in the last 12 months and numbers are expected to rise sharply as this scheme takes hold.

Robin Howe

Ward Councillor

Upwood and the Raveleys.

May 2015

Upwood Parish Council

Monday, 11th May 2015

I would like just to say congratulations to all elected councillors, who give up their time voluntary and serve the residents of the parish to the best of their ability under difficult circumstances, I would also like to congratulate Councillor Robin Howe on getting elected to the District Council for a second term, and I know he serves the ward with passion and professionalism.

The County Council have had a very tough year to get a balanced budget and reach savings of 31 million pound, the committee system is working well and hard decisions have had to be taken, the committee system is evolving and work is in progress it has been decided at full council that committees be reduced to 13 members from 17 which should make the system more manageable. The county council are trying to introduce new revenue streams including the lease of the central library's 3rd floor in Cambridge, which is being discussed in June, and forming a legal company that is available to the public, Castle Court has been vacated and all departments have now moved into Shire Hall, the county council however voted for an increase in council tax of 1.99%. Due to continued austerity measures Parish councils throughout ward are urged to work together and to co-operate and workout the impact that housing developments will have on the local infrastructure, i.e. schools, roads, GP surgeries, local transport especially from the Wyton on the hill, and Upwood developments, all parish councils in the locality have provisionally agreed to hold meetings to discuss how we can move forward on these issues and still reach the vision for the local area. The highways committee will soon be in consultation as the contract with Atkins is near its expiry date and new tenders sought, As the budgets are squeezed ever tighter it is envisaged that more and more will have to be taken on by the parish councils or volunteer orientated programmes, the care network and the county are working together to try and increase the local navigator programme to help the most vulnerable in the area, and will keep the parish council informed on these issues.

Funding has been difficult to find but we managed to patch some of the worst potholes which still need to be reported through the Cambridge county council website as well as lighting columns that are not working, thoughts are now needed for this year's Lhib so evidence can be gathered and ideas submitted to the parish council, speeding and parking is the main topic in all the villages at the police forums and Sgt street is aware of the situation, However this needs to be continually monitored as development in the locality grows. The next contentious issue that effects the villages is turning the street lights off from midnight to 5am in the morning, however parish and district councils will be consulted by county officers on this matter. Time banking is increasing throughout the county and has been having some great success bringing communities together and also delivering community projects. Charging on the park and ride sites at St. Ives and Longstanton will begin on the 14th May 2015, the charge will be £1.00 for a stay of up to 18 hours.

Applications are now opened to Upwood community projects and must be in by 2nd September for a share of £8,000 pounds which is allocated to this locality, more details can be found on the website mentioned below.

It has been noted that the county council is poor at engaging with the public, this year it is intended to rectify this with new initiatives being discussed at a higher level and a champion of communities being appointed on how to achieve this. Locally I have set up a twitter page, and blog so that local issues can be mentioned and residents kept informed, the url for this is: miketew.blogspot.co.uk, this has a comments page where residents can leave a message.

County Councillor Michael Tew