

Upwood and the Raveleys Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 12 May 2014. 7:00pm

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

Minutes

Present: Councillors J. Edwards, R. Howe (Chairman), F. Hopkins, J. Noble, J. Paxton A. Perkins G. Shelford, G. Slater, K. Sisman and 9 Registered Electors.

In attendance: Mrs. C. Silverstone (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 13 May 2013:

Councillor Howe reported with regret that the minutes of the previous meeting were unavailable. The Clerk has made considerable attempts to locate the document, and has spoken with the previous Clerk on this matter. Copies of reports presented at the meeting are available and these will be published on the website.

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

The Chairman outlined the achievements of the Parish Council over the last twelve months. Notable successes include:

- the progress of the Community Led Plan
- the development of the portfolio system of councillor responsibilities.
- increased independence of the allotment association from the Parish Council and significant progress in untangling the history of the land and the charities under which they are governed.
- improved management and maintenance of parish grass and hedgerows.
- significant improvements in the financial management of the Parish Council (including a surplus to be carried forward into reserves for the new financial year).

The Chairman recognised the (voluntary) work of the Clerk and noted that "the Council has never been so well supported, nor had such a strong supporting infrastructure which complies with District and Parish rules."

5. To invite Village Representatives to address the Meeting

Reports were received by the following groups and organisations:

Upwood Art Group, presented by Frances Ashfield

Upwood and the Raveleys History Society, prepared by Ian Gaunt, Chairman. Presented by the Clerk.

Meet and Munch, prepared by Mags Dudley. Presented by the Clerk.


Small to Tall, prepared by Steve Grimwade, Chairman. Presented by the Clerk.

St. Peter's Church, prepared by Jean Place, Churchwarden. Presented by the Clerk.

Upwood Table Tennis Club, prepared by David Williams. Presented by the Clerk.

Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotment Association and Community Orchard group, presented by Ali Miles, Chairman.

Upwood Quilters, prepared by Margaret Jones. Presented by the Clerk.



Upwood Primary School, prepared by Mrs S. Whitelaw, Headteacher. Presented by the Clerk.
Upwood Village Hall Management Committee, prepared by Stephen Howes, Chairman. Presented by the Clerk.
Worker's Educational Association, Upwood Branch, prepared by Liz Carter, Secretary. Presented by the Clerk.
Upwood and the Raveleys Website, presented by Doug McLeod
Upwood Ukelele Group, presented by Doug McLeod.
Upwood and the Raveleys Newsletter, presented by David Paine, Chairman.

Report from the District Councillor

Councillor Robin Howe outlined the impact on Parish and District Councils following the removal of government subsidies and grants. He updated parishioners on the financial savings achieved so far and those needing to be achieved in future years. A Strategic Partnership is planned with South Cambridgeshire District Council with a view to sharing resources and combining services.

Councillor Howe assured parishioners of his strenuous opposition to the District Council's proposal that the five parishes of this Ward (the Central Clay Lands) would have a "high" capacity to accept up to 12 wind turbines.

The District Council have accepted that Community Led Planning is an important adjunct to Neighbourhood Planning and it is expected that both practical and financial support will be forthcoming. A meeting of the five Parishes of this Ward will be held on 19 May with a view to sharing knowledge, examining synergies and raising awareness of the benefits of the initiative.

It is expected that improvements to the infrastructure and management of the Secret Garden Party will lead to increased visitor numbers, but with the same or lower noise levels. Matters of security, traffic management and post-event reporting are also being addressed.

Report from County Councillor

Councillor Michael Tew's report emphasised the need for the County Council to reduce costs and increase revenue streams without compromising the delivery of services to the most vulnerable. Council Tax has been increased by 1.99% to maintain the core services.

It is hoped that Upwood and the Raveleys will be upgraded to "Superfast" Broadband by September 2014.

The Cabinet will be dissolved on 13 May 2014 and the Council will operate as five committees.

The "Older People's Programme aims to improve health and social care services within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Councillor Tew's report concluded by reminding parishioners that work to update street lighting is scheduled for June.

6. Financial report from the Clerk to the Council

The Clerk summarised the income and expenditure of 2013/2014 and highlighted notable achievements and benefits to the parish as a result of the Council's expenditure. She noted that a positive meeting had been held with the Internal Auditor and is confident that his report will reflect well on the financial management and operation of the Parish Council at this time.

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

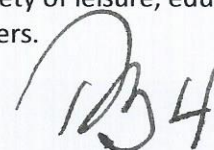
There were no additional matters of interest.

8. Questions for the County and District Councillors

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. This is a "fantastic, vibrant Parish, full of enthusiasm" and we should all be thankful for the variety of leisure, educational and social opportunities available to us and provided for us by so many willing volunteers.



Councillor Howe thanked the Parish Councillors who have overcome the financial difficulties of the past; and have embraced the move to overhaul procedures and practices. As we continue to improve, Councillor Howe noted that he and the Clerk had agreed that the Council should aspire to gaining "Quality Status". Very few councils in the District have achieved this and although further work and energy is required, it is within the reach and capabilities of this Council and would be a fitting turning point in the history of this Parish.

Councillor Howe reflected that Mrs. Sharon Whitelaw, Headteacher of Upwood Primary School had noted in her report, aspirations to improve links with the local community. He added that nurturing and improving community relations would be high on the agenda for the Parish Council in the forthcoming year. He suggested that he would like to see Councillors working with children in the school and for a group of children to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in future years to share their experiences with Parishioners.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Howe', with a large, sweeping initial 'P'.

11 May 2015.

UPWOOD and the Raveleys Parish Council

Chairman's Report May 2014

Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council have met eleven times in official session. It has not been necessary to arrange extraordinary sessions during this year. Financial reviews have been undertaken by the Finance subcommittee on a quarterly basis and site meetings have been held with one or more Councillors wherever a major planning application has been submitted within the parish.

Twenty one planning applications have been reviewed by the Council during the year.

Fiona Hopkins and her team have made steady progress with the Community Led Plan and there has been strong engagement by all members of the project team. The questionnaire is soon to be distributed to residents and the results will be eagerly awaited.

The Chair attempts to restrict the Council meetings to two hours; but this is sometimes difficult to achieve. Requests have gone out to Councillors to read the meeting papers carefully in advance and to bring forward only those points of contention or clarification to the meeting. This will reduce the need to review and discuss documents in detail during the meeting.

The development of the Portfolio system of Councillor responsibilities has helped improve the infrastructure and governance of the Parish and is also helping to shorten the debating time but more can still be done to improve meeting efficiency.

Notable successes include the move to making the Allotment Association independent of the Council along with the work to untangle the history of the land and the charities to which they belong.

Grass verges and hedgerows are better tended than before thanks to the planning and management work of Cllr. Sisman and to the free grass cutting service provided by Mr Don Manchett, who sadly will leave the Parish this year.

Relationships with the Parish newsletter committee, the Village Hall committee and the Church have all improved through the year due to the good work of Councillors although more could still be done to improve links with Upwood County primary school and the residents associations in Fairmead and Farm Close. These will become a priority for the coming year.

Parish finances have shown a notable improvement in the year and the Council is carrying a surplus forward into the new financial year which will bolster reserves. Some of the savings derive from the fact that the new Clerk, Carol Silverstone has worked without pay through the year to comply with appointment rules for Parish Clerks.

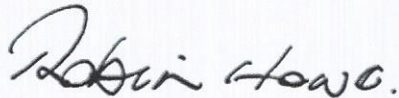
Carol had no prior experience in this post but has shown a tremendous energy and determination not only to learn the complex procedures and financial rules but also

to completely review the administrative and control systems which should govern a parish council.

Thanks to her endeavours the Council has never been so well supported nor had such a strong supporting infrastructure which complies with District and Parish rules.

The year ahead will see the completion of the Community Led Plan and this will lead to a wide range of proposed improvements to our amenities and services.

We now have a Council at full complement which, with our increased collective experience and improving systems and supported as we are by an excellent Clerk can promise to serve the residents of the Parish even better in 2014/15.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robin Howe." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chairman

Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Parish Clerk

From: Geoff Carrington <g.carrington805@btinternet.com>
Sent: 11 May 2014 17:20
To: Upwood & Raveleys Parish Clerk
Subject: FW: Invitation to submit a report for the Annual Parish Meeting. 12 May 2014

Hi Carol,

I forwarded your invitation to Frances Ashfield as the leader of the Upwood Art Group and she has sent me the text below.

I think she meant to send it to you!

Kind regards,

Geoff

From: Frances Ashfield [mailto:franashfield@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 11 May 2014 12:17
To: Geoff Carrington
Subject: Re: Invitation to submit a report for the Annual Parish Meeting. 12 May 2014

Membership continues to increase as the group approaches it's 13th " birthday" This year is the 5th that we have spent a week's holiday painting in Norfolk. We visit the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy every August, guaranteed to boost newcomers' confidence about their own work, and the Fitzwilliam at least once during the year. When the weather allows we paint at various local venues. Hopefully more frequently than last year , a disaster, cold and WET. This year two members showed their work, very successfully with good sales, at Ramsey Mereside and hopefully we will be showing more frequently if possible in the future. We usually have one or 2 shows per year here in the Village Hall and try to coincide with another Village activity such as Open Gardens. New members are always welcome , there are materials available to try for those totally new to painting and drawing, and help and encouragement from members. We meet every Saturday at 9.30am, tea ,coffee and the odd biscuit, or even cake sometimes, provided free of charge. fees are as minimal as Sam our excellent "financial wizard" can make them and all in all it's a very happy and talented .group a pleasure to work with.

FA.

Chairman's Report:

It seems to me that we have had an outstanding year of talks and visits and our programme committee (Paul Charman, Mervyn Harvey, Carol Bilverstone).are to be congratulated on their hard work.

Usually I try to pick out highlights of the year for me but I am finding it very difficult this year. The visit to Windsor, organised by Mary was outstanding. It was quite an adventure when they lowered the roof on the boat to go under a low bridge. The chance to have a leisurely look around the castle was terrific. Thank you Mary!

The visit to Flag Fen and the Must Farm boats was unforgettable and made more interesting by having Chris Carr as our guide. Those boats are amazing. The size of some of them and the work that must have gone into felling the trees and carving the boats with the tools available is mind blowing. This trip was organised by the programme committee, in particular Mervyn Harvey, so thank you all.

We had two talks by Brian Jones, One on John Clare Together with a visit to Clare cottage. Later we had a talk from Brian on 'The Cecil's Burghley House and Grounds'. This will be followed by a visit to Burghley in June. Brian is always both informative and entertaining so it was sad to hear that he is giving up lecturing and moving from the area. In fact the talk on Burghley was his last although he intends to host the tour of the house.

The other talks and visit during the year were of a high standard but those above stick in my mind.

I would like also to thank the officers, Andrew Bilverstone as Vice Chairman, Freda Fotheringham as Secretary and Judith Harvey as Treasurer for their help during the year. Our thanks also go to Julia Evans for organising the tea, coffee and yummy biscuits

MEET AND MUNCH 2013/2104

“Meet and Munch” members have continued to meet on the first Saturday of each month, with the exception of those during January/February 2014 when the Upwood Village Pantomime has use of the Hall and March/April 2014 during the weeks of Lent lunches organised by St Peter’s Church members.

In addition to the 25 or so members, we have a very loyal hard working team of ladies and gentlemen, who organise and prepare the lunches during the winter months and afternoon teas during the Summer time. A meeting is held twice a year to draw up the helper’s rota and make plans for the forth coming sessions.

During the summer months, members enjoy delightful afternoon tea with plenty of chat, between 3.00pm to 4.00pm. With the shorter daylight hours in the winter, we revert to lunchtime when a hot lunch with dessert is served.

With any excuse for a party and wishing to commemorate the Coronation of H M Queen in 1953, Meet and Munch held a celebration lunch on 1st June 2013. The Village Hall was dressed with plenty of “red white and blue” with bunting and flags in evidence, members brought along memorabilia from that day and dressed in Royal style. The helpers served a delicious chicken lunch with a variety of homemade desserts, followed by glasses of bubbly and wine. All before a sing a long concluded a special afternoon.

Meet and Munch is a very social get together, providing an opportunity for members to meet up and welcomes residents of Upwood and Raveley, age 55 plus. Volunteer helpers who are willing to commit to helping with preparations possibly two or three times a year for an hour or two are very welcome. It is an excellent way to get to know new people!

We are looking forward to the forthcoming summer months, commencing on 7th June 2014 with a “June is bursting out all over” lunch party, followed by afternoon teas planned for 5th July 2014, 2nd August 2014 and 6th September 2014.

Mags Dudley 11th May 2014



Parish Council Report 12th May 2014

General

I'd like to thank the staff and committee for all their hard work over the last year. We have been building on the successful first year in the new building by offering Pre-school afternoon session and lunches. Both the Breakfast and After School Clubs are operating well as we continue to offer high quality Childcare Service for our local community.

Lease and User Agreement

We are still in the process of finalising the Lease & User Agreement with the Local Authority and the School Governing Body. We hope to have this completed in the near future.

School

I'm very pleased to say that there has continued to be a good and close working relationship with the school. Every opportunity is taken to build on this relationship as Upwood Small to Tall is seen as a great asset by the school. I would like to thank Sharon Whitelaw, all her staff and the Governing Body for their continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Grimwade'.

Steve Grimwade
Chair of Upwood Small to Tall

At the APCM on the 24th April Anne Marie Cracknell and myself (Jean Place) were elected churchwardens for St Peters for the coming year and on 7th May we were sworn in with the other church wardens of the Benefice, at Ely Cathedral Canon Richard Darmody thanked Gordon Slinn for his work at St Peters, now Gordon was moving on, to be more involved with Revive (this is a fresh-expression satellite of the church, it is a informal service held on Thursday evenings at St. Thomas a Becket) and Gordon will be involved with the work that they do. There was a discussion at the meeting about our way forward and the services that we would have for the future with the resources that we have. It was agreed that we would look at the options put forward by Richard at this meeting, at the next PCC meeting and go back to the members of the church and verify what we had decided. We held a PCC meeting on the 30th April and at that meeting it was decided that from June we would hold services on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of a month. We decided that we needed to get the views of the congregation and we are to meet after the Family Service led by Richard Darmody on the 25th May to finalise our decision. So for the next couple of months you need to look on the church gate or notice board to see what services we are having, they are still at 9.30am.

The church family have received two letters one from Richard outlining the options that he put forward and a letter from Anne Marie and myself asking for help in maintaining and running our church. If you feel that could help in any way, cleaning, flowers, rotas, pew slip and church security etc. then please contact either Anne Marie or me.

Anne Marie Cracknell 01487 812195, Jean Place 01487 813742

Thank You Jean Place

Parish Clerk

From: David Williams <hollyhouse.upwood@tiscali.co.uk>
Sent: 07 May 2014 10:46
To: parishclerk@upwood.org
Subject: annual parish meeting-TT Club

Hi Carol

The Upwood TT Club is doing very well and has a healthy membership of 32 for the Tuesday evening club. A new venture has started on a Wednesday afternoon for players preferring daytime activity. The club also enjoy various tournaments and outings in the summer. The main purpose of the club is to further members enjoyment of table tennis and create a good social atmosphere.

Regards

David Williams

This is the third year of the allotment association and despite some 'interesting' weather over the last couple of years we are progressing with our short, mid and long term plans for the allotments. Of course, our main aim is still to get plot holders actively growing and to stay growing. The BBC 'Great Allotment Challenge' programme - soil that crumbles in your hands, greenhouses, walled garden - doesn't appear to have much in common with our challenges – heavy soil, wind, water (too much/not enough) and abundances of wildlife and weeds! However, by varying the plot sizes to match peoples need/time available, we hope that the allotments can be an enjoyable and manageable activity for everyone.

For many the most noticeable change at the Upwood allotments will be the Meadow Road access, where there is now a barrier gate installed. We are following up funding options to install a similar gate on the Huntingdon road as well as applying to the Woodland Trust for hedging to fix some of the holes in the hedges.

Our next group allotment 'work' day is the 29th June - even if you don't have a plot but would like to join in the activity please come along.

This year we have also started a community orchard within the Upwood allotment area. Following a highly successful planting day we now have 15 local variety apple, gage and plum trees, sponsored by villagers, growing in the orchard area. There is still room for more trees, which we hope to utilise next Spring, and there are plans to plant lavender and rosemary bushes as well as wild flowers in the area. A bench has very kindly been donated by residents of the village and we are working to get it in place as soon as possible. It's very early days but we hope that the orchard is an area that all villagers can enjoy for many years to come.

On the 12th July we are holding a fund raising quiz for the orchard in the village hall - we hope to see you there.

Ali Miles, Liz Carter, Carl Dowdell, Julia Evans (URCAA committee)

Dear Carol,

Please find attached a short report for The Upwood Quilt Group.

We are a membership of 19 members and enjoy our meetings on the last Tuesday of the month.

We meet in the Village Hall at 1.30pm until 4.00pm. The hall is most welcoming to our members with the new heating system. The group are planning some new projects for the coming year.



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 2014 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 in Year 2 and Year 5 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 'The Stars Come out for Christmas'. Residents were also invited to our annual May Day celebration, which focused this year on 'Dances From Around the World'.

St Peter's Church Service

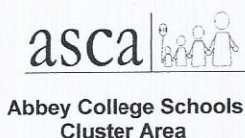
On Monday 16th December, the whole school walked to St Peter's Church in Upwood for a Christmas Service planned by the school. The children performed a variety of songs and poems. We were once again welcomed warmly into the church.

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. This year, the PTA ran their first ever 'Pop and Popcorn' event, which was very well received by the children.



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:

- Operation Smile;
- The Poppy Appeal;
- Sport Relief.

Operation Smile is an International Charity providing free surgery to repair cleft lips and palates for children. As it focuses on improving the lives of young children, this charity was very close to the hearts of all members of our school community. On the final day of the Autumn Term, 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 the charity 'Smile' on this day.

Sport Relief is one of our nation's great fundraising efforts, which brings the entire country together to be physically active and raise money. Informally, parent and carer feedback last academic year suggested that our pupils would benefit from being involved in such a high profile event. Therefore, Upwood Primary School took part in the Sport Relief effort this year, completing a mile long obstacle course in March.

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 had the opportunity to develop their cookery skills in January. Each year group, from Foundation to Year 6, welcomed 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 was 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 made fruit crumbles, bread and pizza and were taught many cookery skills including mixing, kneading and chopping safely. At the end of the session each child was able to eat their cookery project; staff felt that this part of the session was enjoyed the most!

Cricket Masterclass

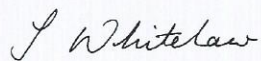
Some pupils from Upwood Primary School met Sports Personalities Charlotte Edwards and Jenny Gunn, Captain and Vice-Captain of the Women's England Cricket Team in September

2013. Six Year 6 girls from Upwood developed their cricket skills with the well-known sports women on Tuesday 24th September in Ramsey.

The session began with some fun warm-up activities that incorporated key skills needed to play cricket successfully. The England stars then provided a personal coaching session for the pupils and they were given tips and advice on how to improve their game. After the session, Charlotte and Jenny spent time with the pupils taking photographs and signing autographs. The children clearly had an amazing afternoon spending time with these two inspirational cricket stars.

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 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 2014

Bookings in 2013 continued to remain strong particularly with the ever increasing popularity of the Table Tennis club which is now running a daytime session and the formation of a new book club. However we regret the loss of the 55+ group which was unfortunately disbanded at the end of last year.

In a similar vein the Pantomime was another huge success with packed houses for each performance. The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe was the 20th Upwood Pantomime and over the years has grown from strength to strength gaining increasing popularity (or should that be notoriety?) and winning a number of regional awards. Unfortunately however a number of the long-standing members of the Pantomime team have decided that after 20 years it is time to stand down. Whilst a Pantomime is a massive undertaking it would be a huge loss if this were the last show as there is so much talent in the village and the shows provide a great deal of enjoyment. Perhaps a few people may be inclined to form an Upwood Drama Society and initially put on some smaller shows and in due course consider re-establishing a pantomime?

Meanwhile outside Arts events have continued to be a popular attraction and have appealed to a wide range of tastes from music based shows to ghost stories! Our thanks again go to Doug McLeod and his team for arranging these.

During the past year we have continued our refurbishment programme with the installation of new fire doors which not only has improved safety, security and insulation but has also reduced draughts.

In 2014 we aim to continue our refurbishment and I am pleased to announce that within the past month we have been awarded a full grant from WREN for the replacement of the ceiling in the front hall which we hope will massively reduce our heatloss. We expect that the grant money will be forthcoming in the next few weeks and that the work will be carried out over the summer months.

As always, costs continue to rise and unfortunately after 3 years it has recently been necessary to raise our hire charges. We have decided to increase the hourly hire rate mainly to cover the background heating costs however our electricity charges have remained unchanged consequently many hirers will see little overall increase as they are likely to spend less on their electricity for heating.

Once again our thanks go to all of our fundraisers who enable us to invest in major projects such as the heating and to the Parish Council who's grant helps 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

REPORT FOR UPWOOD & RAVELEY PARISH COUNCIL A.G.M.

The Upwood WEA branch have had another excellent year with good attendance at both our weekly courses and our two study-days, all held in the village hall. Our autumn daytime course – Adventurous Women – investigated women travellers and writers whilst our current summer evening course – Plant Hunters – is taking students to the ends of the earth in search of rare and unusual plants. Instead of a course in the spring term, we decided to run two separate study days with Chloe Cockerill looking at local East Anglian churches and heraldry all around us.

The programme for next year has just been finalised – keeping to the same format as this last year with 2 cracking 10-week courses in the autumn and summer 2015 with 2 study days in the spring term with a wide range of topics. The courses are always announced at the branch AGM, held at the end of May and advertised in the parish newsletter.

The Workers Education Association is a registered charity and the Upwood branch welcomes everyone, from all walks of life, to come along and try a course. Free places are available for those who qualify with Social Benefits. Refreshments are available and we offer a friendly and safe environment for learning and social enrichment.

Liz Carter – Secretary

Upwood WEA branch

11 Church Lane, UPWOOD, Huntingdon PE26 2QF

Tel. 01487 813008 email liz@backtracks.biz



UPWOOD & THE RAVELEYS WEBSITE

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting – 12th May 2014

The website which serves the villages began as a website to serve the needs of the village hall, but has expanded over the years to cover many of the parish's activities. This year the section on Local Services has been expanded to include contact information on trades people who serve the villages. The webmaster liaises closely with the parish clerk to ensure that recently signed parish council minutes are regularly uploaded and forthcoming events are advertised on the website's homepage. It is linked to the villages' Facebook page and has begun to host information relating to the Community Led Plan.

The website is administered on a voluntary basis by Steve Howes (technician) and Doug McLeod (day to day admin / webmaster). It also relies on parishioners to send in up-to-date information on activities and events in order to keep the website current. Updates are completed on a regular basis according to need and free time available to the webmaster.

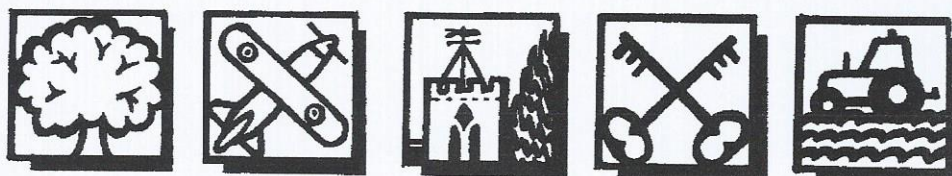
The website organisers are grateful to the Fete Committee who have provided funding for cost of web hosting again this year. Now that the fete committee has been disbanded, however, it is unclear where future funding will come from. Maybe the parish council will be able to help on this matter?

Doug McLeod & Steve Howes
Upwood & The Raveleys Website

Upwood Ukulele Club

This new club started in February 2014 and now has 10 members who have been taking it in turns to host every Thursday evening. The club welcomes new members who may either be existing ukulele players or completely new to the instrument. It is hoped to transfer meetings to the Cross Keys once it opens at the end of May 2014.

Doug McLeod



Upwood & the Raveleys Newsletter

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MONDAY 12 MAY 2014

Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter continues to provide free bi-monthly copies to every house in the parish as well as digital copies for other interested parties. It relies almost entirely upon donations to meet its expenditure, this year receiving funds from the Parish Council, Upwood Fete Committee, and Upwood 55+. With 2 of these 3 donating organisations ceasing to exist the newsletter will be in a precarious financial position within 18 months if the status quo prevails.

The editorial team now consists of three people who work together in compiling and editing each issue. One member of this team assumes the lead editorial role each time. Priority is given to parish events and activities with other more general topics covered when space allows. The editorial team would like to thank regular contributors for meeting copy deadlines as well as informing them when items might be delayed.

The editorial team is supported by a committee which sets overall principles and financial parameters. There is also a dedicated team of deliverers which is coordinated by a committee member.

Some of the new ideas which have been introduced over the last couple of years include:-

- Consistency in format including new style front page
- Dedicated email contact
- Extended "spotlight" articles on parish individuals and groups
- Photographs to provide more visual interest
- Regular Parish Council reports included
- New logo created
- Digital copies made available

The Newsletter AGM will be held on Wednesday 12th June at 7.45pm in the village hall which is open to all parishioners. New committee members would be welcomed.

Doug McLeod
Secretary
Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter Committee

Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

12 May 2014

Financial Report from the Clerk to the Parish Council

In 2013/14 the Parish Council worked with a budget of £20,860 and at the end of the financial year had underspent on that budget by £4,566.42.

Notable expenses and achievements of 2013/14 include the completion of phase one of the tree works to St. Peter's Churchyard; funding of training for the Certificate in Local Council Administration for the new Clerk (this is the Statutory qualification for Clerks and I intend to qualify in the next couple of months); the purchase of a dedicated Parish Council laptop for use by the Clerk; financial support to the newsletter, the village hall and the village fete; the purchase and installation of a barrier gate on the Meadow Road allotments in partnership with Upwood and the Raveleys Community Allotment Association; the upkeep and maintenance of parish grass and hedges; and considerable legal fees to renew the lease of Glebe Paddock for a further 10 years.

Comparing the forecasted budget with the actual amount spent in 2013/2014, there are four notable variances:

- The current Clerk is a volunteer. There has been no expenditure on the Clerk's salary since the resignation of the previous Clerk. This has been a significant saving to the Council.
- It was intended to complete the work on the noticeboards in 2013/2014. The budget for 2014/2015 has been amended in order to carry this proposed expense forward.
- The rent for Glebe Paddock due in October 2013 was not paid as renewal of the lease has taken considerable time. Three rental payments rather than two will therefore be recorded in 2014/2015.
- The Parish Council holds funds on behalf of URCAA. No mechanism for payments to, or in support of URCAA had been included in the budget for 2013/2014. This was rectified towards the end of the financial year and is in place for 2014/2015.

Income for 2013/14 came from a precept of £19739; and a modest income from the rental of allotment plots and farmed land; and from the cemetery.

As we start the new financial year, 2014/2015, the Parish Council carried forward a balance of £23,366 and has a precept of £20,000. The working budget for the year will be £24,210.23.

Plans for the new year include the completion of phases 2, 3 and 4 of the tree works in St. Peter's Churchyard, together with ongoing support to the village hall, the newsletter and continued upkeep of the parish grass and hedges. The Parish Council hopes to complete maintenance and refurbishment works to the noticeboards and has made provision for remuneration for a Parish Clerk with effect from 01 August 2014.

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 positive, the auditor was thorough, and I am confident that his report will reflect well on the financial management and operation of the Parish Council at this time.

Carol Bilverstone
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

12 May 2014

**ANNUAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT
TO UPWOOD and the RAVELEYS PARISH COUNCIL
MAY 2014**

Introduction

2013/14 has been a year of considerable change to Parish and District Councils. The removal of government subsidies and grants to the District councils has meant cuts in funding to the parishes with the corresponding tightening of the belt needed. Parish councils are becoming accustomed to funding services which have traditionally been dealt with by County or District resources and this is placing further pressure upon Parish finances.

Council employees have suffered a year of great turbulence; a large number have involuntarily left their posts while all have been subject to a salary review which has resulted in 50% taking a cut in their annual income.

These measures have been forced upon the Council because of the cuts in funding mentioned above; but it has resulted in a workforce who is not yet fully motivated nor manned to perform their tasks.

This is leading to service delays in the planning and housing departments and extended response times across all sections.

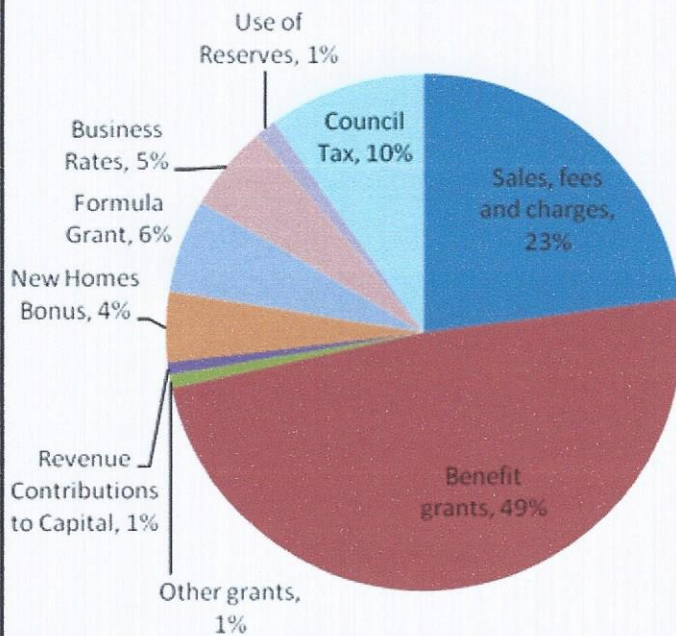
This situation will no doubt improve as the year goes on when management and staff come to grips with the new workload but until then residents may have to endure a reduced level of service.

Financial Update

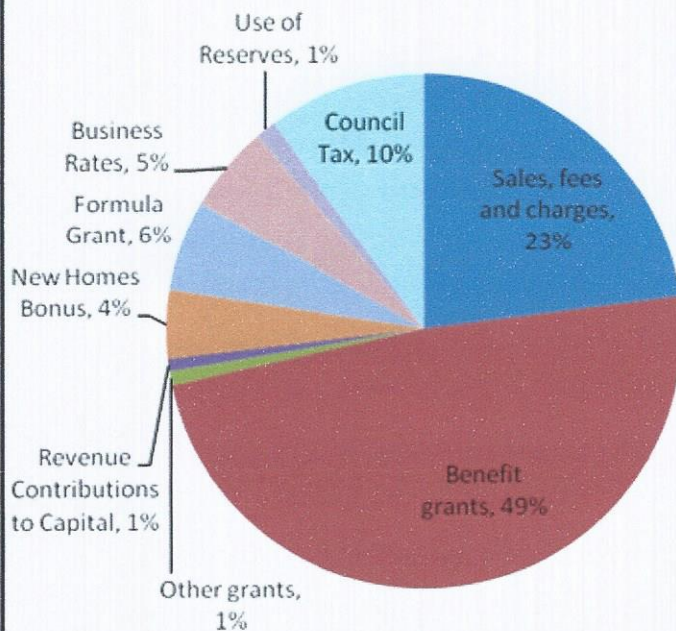
As we have now reached the end of the financial year, it is a good opportunity to focus on what has been achieved and what further savings still need to be made. There will be an under spend of £2.1m against the original 2013/14 budget of £22.8m due to the concerted efforts to find savings and efficiencies. Details of the under spend will be circulated once completed and while this is positive news; however, further cuts in government funding are coming and the Council cannot be complacent. A further £1m must be saved from the current financial year's budget (2014/15) and a further £0.7m during 2015/16 but these aims are likely to be achieved as a result of Facing the Future saving review which has recently been completed.

The pie charts below show how the budget is spent, and where the income comes from.

Budgeted Items of Income 2014/15



Budgeted Items of Income 2014/15



The Council are examining every area of expenditure and every asset it owns to try to release greater efficiencies in an effort to achieve a balance budget in the next two

years and to reduce the burden on tax payers by holding to zero Council Tax increases

Service areas which can yield an economic return, such as the One Leisure group, the Document Centre and the CCTV network, will in future be subject to a more commercial approach, without sacrificing the customer service and quality standards which their customers expect.

Much emphasis is being placed upon sharing services with adjacent authorities such as the recently announced deal to operate Cambridge City's CCTV network through the HDC Control Centre

An example of shared services on a larger scale is the recently announced planned strategic partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). There are many synergies between the two councils. SCDC also have tough savings targets, and like HDC, face further cuts in central government funding. Cabinet members have had a meeting with the Cabinet members from SCDC and have agreed in principle to work more closely together. Initially, the sharing of Building Control service is being planned, with staff from both Building Control teams are now working together to look at what mutual benefits there are from sharing this service.

Services across both councils will be looked at to see what benefits (if any) could be gained by working more closely together. We are also looking at the advantages of joint recruitment and possibly joint appointments. Sharing with SCDC gives the opportunity to have bigger teams and support additional specialists across the two councils. This means that we can help each other on large or under-resourced projects

Renewable Energy Policy

The Council have recently published a draft revision called Wind Energy Development in Huntingdonshire 2014 which aims to assist in the interpretation and application of the location of renewable energy schemes.

There are at present nine separate landscape areas in Huntingdonshire of which five currently have wind farms installed or consented; around 32 large turbines in total.

The proposed SPD defines the capacity of the other areas to accept wind farms and with the exception of the Ouse Valley; all remaining areas could see turbines installed in future.

This means that the landscape region containing the five parishes of this Ward (the Central Clay lands, including Upwood Parish, would have a 'high' capacity to accept up to 12 turbines.

The writer is strenuously opposing these proposals and will argue accordingly in Cabinet meetings.

Consultation ends on 9 May but residents are free to write to me expressing their opinion at any stage in the next month.

Community Led Planning

I am pleased to report that the District Council have now accepted that Community Led Planning will receive more of their support ; both practical and financial in future..

It has now been accepted that the CLP process is an important adjunct to Neighbourhood planning which is the judicial process governed by local referenda.

The preparation of the plan by local people, covering as it does amenities, welfare, recreation and housing enables a more ordered approach to be taken to future planning matters.

The Upwood CLP development process has received excellent support from residents and an active project team has now completed the questionnaire for imminent distribution.

I have organised a meeting on 19 May to which all five parishes are invited with a view to sharing knowledge, examining synergies and generally raising awareness of the benefits of Community Planning.

The meeting will be attended by Jo Lancaster Managing Director of HDC and Kirsten Bennett, Managing Director of Cambridgeshire ACRE, both of whom will speak on the subject.

Secret Garden Party

A meeting was held on 6th May between members of the Secret Garden Party organising team and selected residents from local villages to review the arrangements for this year's event.

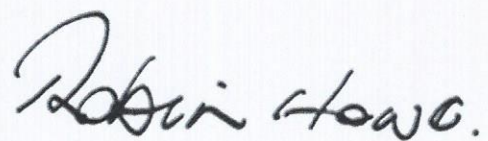
The agenda covered noise management measures, security, traffic management and post-event reporting.

HDC was represented by Richard Hollingsworth Environmental Officer, who explained the monitoring and reporting systems to be installed.

More sound monitoring equipment will be installed to the North of the site this year (Woodwalton and Wennington) as a result of increased complaint levels from residents last year.

The SGP organisers claimed that they will have 10-15% more visitors this year (still within permitted licensing limits) but that noise levels will be the same or lower than last year due to improved attenuation systems and to changed positioning of sound stages.

The festival traffic will not be allowed to use the Sapley road towards the Kings Ripton crossroads but local residents will be issued with car permits to allow for local access as last year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Howe." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Ward Councillor

Upwood and the Raveleys

May 2014

Report by county councillor

Cambridge County Council has made significant steps towards reducing costs and increasing revenue streams over the last 12 months, but as local authorities are faced with an increasingly difficult financial environment the council is now exploring a wide range of options that will make further financial savings. The council's aim is to reduce costs, as far as possible, without compromising the delivery of services to the most vulnerable.

Council Tax

The County Council has increased the council tax by 1.99 percent; the reasons for this rise are to keep the core services i.e. social care for adults and children and the elderly which is an ever increasing cost to the budget which has been cut by 38 million in 2014-2015 it is true it that we have a duty to the Council Tax payer, we also have a duty to the most vulnerable in Cambridgeshire, to do everything we can to maintain those core services.

Broadband Roll out

The superfast broadband rollout is on track, to date 88 new fibre cabinets were live at the end of April 2014, over 19,000 homes and businesses over the county now have access to this service.

Kings Ripton – is now live

Upwood + raverleys – hoped to be upgraded by September 2014

Abbots Ripton - hoped to be upgraded by September 2014

Woodwalton - hoped to be upgraded by September 2014

Cambridge County Council will be changing from May 13 2014

The cabinet will be dissolved on the above date, the running of the council will be ran by a committee system comprising of 5 committees each having an all-party presence of 17 members per committee this should make the decisions more democratic, it will be interesting to see how this pans out in the next few months.

CCG Cambridge and Peterborough,

Are now in the public consultation phase, The Older People's Programme aims to design and buy-in health and social care services for a defined population of older or vulnerable patients within the CCG's area. The aim is to deliver improved patient experience, better community care and reduced unplanned admissions to hospital where these can be safely avoided.

Local Issues

Locally The PFI roll out between the county council and Belfour Beatty is set to go ahead in June you will be seeing white paint with sl on some pavements, I have also given Councillor Slater details of the liaison office that's dealing with parishes, if you get in touch with her she may be able to arrange a public surgery to alleviate any fears people may have. Please keep reporting pot holes on county website.

I will try to keep you informed on any relevant information for your village and if you have any other issues please don't hesitate to contact me at : tew180@gmail.com