



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

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A meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council was held on Monday 01 November 2021 at 7.00pm in Upwood Village Hall.

Present: Councillors D. Awit, J. Burgess (Vice Chairman), J. Edwards, N. Maddocks, A. Perkins.

In Attendance: Mrs. C. Silverstone (Clerk), Councillor M. Haines (Huntingdonshire District Council) and no members of the public.

Minutes

62-11/21 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Councillor G. Bonnett-Kolakowska, Councillor R. Howe & Councillor R. Mashford: Personal.

Councillor G. Bull (District Councillor) & Councillor S. Corney (Cambridgeshire County Council): Attendance required at other meetings.

63-11/21 To receive declarations of interest.

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011. There were no declarations of interest.

64-11/21 To receive and approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 04 October 2021.

The minutes of the meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council held on 04 October 2021 had been circulated in advance following the informal approval of the vice-chairman. Councillor Perkins proposed that the minutes be approved. Councillor Awit seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

65-11/21 To consider applications for one casual vacancy. No applications had been received.

66-11/21 Public participation.

To allow up to 10 minutes (2 minutes per person) for any members of the public and councillors declaring the existence and nature of a prejudicial interest to address the meeting in relation to the business on this agenda. There was no public participation.

67-11/21 To receive reports from county and district councillors.

Further to complaints from residents and several failed attempts by the parish council, Councillor Haines noted that he has approached the district council to request the installation of two dog-waste bins, one at either end of the path between Farm Close and Fairmead.

68-11/21 Notification of planning items.

68-11/21.1 21/00572/FUL | Application for full planning permission for demolition of existing redundant buildings and infrastructure and residential development of 321 dwellings with associated highways, infrastructure and open space | Upwood Hill House and part of RAF Upwood (deferred from minute ref.: 154-04/21.1 & 10-05/21.2). This application remains in abeyance.

68-11/21.2 21/02139/FUL | Erection of 28 dwellings and associated infrastructure and works including new pick-up and drop-off spaces and footpath provision | Informal open space east of 47 Farm Close Upwood. Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) Ltd. had previously advised of its intention to develop this land and initial plans were reviewed by the parish council in February 2021 (minute reference: 128-02/21.1).

At the time of the initial consultation, the parish council received 17 letters of objection representing the concerns of 15 households. Two particularly poignant letters had been received from children.

In summary the correspondence outlined concerns for:

- the erosion of green spaces and the impact on wildlife;
- the loss of a safe open area for children's play and community recreation;
- an inevitable exacerbation of serious flooding which had recently impacted several homes;
- increased traffic congestion and the inherent issues of road safety in relation to the school and with regard to access to Huntingdon Road;
- insufficient supporting infrastructure in the local community which is already struggling with ever increasing volume of traffic;
- a lack of school places and compromised access to healthcare.

Councillors agreed unanimously with the concerns of the residents and noted that with 250 of the 750 homes already designated as affordable and scheduled to be built as part of the RAF Upwood, Tunkers Lane and Valiant Square developments; plus four already allocated as part of the Church Lane development, there appears little justification for further provision at Farm Close.

It was noted that the aggregated impact of individual developments is not considered by planners and is therefore deceptive. The volume of traffic arising from 1600 new homes (with no supporting improvements to the road network) in Ramsey and Bury will already impact hugely on Upwood and the Raveleys and the surrounding villages and these concerns have been well documented.

Councillors also agreed that BPHA Ltd. has historically been less than cooperative with the parish council's attempts to work in partnership for the benefit of the community, and general maintenance and aesthetic issues such as its responsibility for the boundary fence and ditch have long been neglected.

Despite some revisions prior to submission of this planning application; and the commissioning of a drainage strategy and a transport assessment, the above concerns remain valid.

Councillors expressed frustration with national and local planning policy whereby significant development sites (including two in Bury) which are not identified in the Local Plan to 2036 are being approved. The planning statement refers to the National Planning Policy Framework regarding the delivery of sustainable development: Paragraph 124 states that planning policies and decisions should support development that makes efficient use of land, taking into account a number of factors including: (c) the availability and capacity of infrastructure and services – both existing and proposed – as well as their potential for further improvement and the scope to promote sustainable travel modes that limit future car use and; (d) the desirability of maintaining an area's prevailing character and setting (including residential gardens), or of promoting regeneration and change. This application doesn't appear to have consideration for either point.

Under the "wider benefits of the development proposals" and in the "conclusion", the author has invited significant weight to be attached to the provision of affordable and market housing to meet existing significant need (yet as noted above there is no shortage of either affordable or market housing in this area); that it will deliver new infrastructure with wider benefits to the existing community including an additional 13 parking spaces to assist with local concerns of overspill or nuisance parking arising at school drop off and pick up times. This is unlikely to address the "mayhem" described by parents at school pick up time "with cars, children and parents going in all directions and parking in any available space including on the grassed area" (which is now the site of this proposed development).

It was agreed in February that the parish council would make representation to strenuously oppose the proposed planning application should it be submitted. Given the continuing strength of opposition from residents; the lack of supporting infrastructure; fears for the over-development of an already congested area around the village school; the proposed loss of green space; the ongoing risk of flooding; and the significant developments already underway in Bury and Ramsey (which are already having a detrimental impact on this parish), the vice-chairman proposed that the parish council formally registers its objection to this proposed development. Councillor Maddocks seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

69-11/21 Finance

69-11/21.1 To approve accounts for payment: 01 November 2021



Reference	Description	Payee	Amount
SO	Clerk/RFO Salary. October 2021	Mrs C. Silverstone	£1043.68
SO	Clerk/RFO Salary PAYE/NI	HMRC	£41.42
SO	Employer National Insurance October 2021	HMRC	£55.92
DD	Employee & Employer Pension Contribution	SALVUS Master Trust	£114.22
DD	Pension Administration Fee	SALVUS Master Trust	£24.00
112162646	Clerk's Expenses: Working from Home Allowance, printing costs (October).	Mrs C. Silverstone	£11.75
Debit Card	Monthly Fee.	Unity Trust Bank	£3.00
Debit Card	Mobile Phone Monthly Top-Up	Unity Trust Bank / Tesco.com	£7.50
Debit Card	Monthly Subscription. Acrobat Pro DC.	Unity Trust Bank / store@adobe.com	£15.17
Debit Card	Amazon voucher: Create Your Space prize (minute ref.: 57-10/21.2)	Unity Trust Bank / Amazon.co.uk	20.00
121016294	Parish Maintenance (invoice 8 of 8)	CGM Group (East Anglia) Limited	£920.70
468247351	Active Lives Summer Sports Sessions	Huntingdonshire District Council	£470.02
361596229	Reimbursement for replacement battery (minute ref.: 41-09/21.1)	Ms. G. Bonnett	£9.86
855783326	Reimbursement for materials: Refurbishment of chapel of rest (minute ref.: 47-07/19.3)	Mr I. Ward	£65.94
785180422	Councillor Training (Councillor Awit)	CAPAC Ltd.	£75.00
685843627	Meeting Hall Hire	Upwood and the Raveleys Village Hall	£60.45

69-11/21.2 To note income received: 01 November 2021.

Reference	Description	Received From	Amount
BACS	Commercial Land Rent (Gravel Pits)	C. Holmes & Son	£168.00
BACS	Commercial Land Rent (Dockfields & 3-2-20)	P. Harper & Sons	£1,416.00
000042	Cemetery Fees: Interment	Dignity Funerals Ltd.	£100.00

Councillor Edwards proposed that the accounts be approved for payment. Councillor Maddocks seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. The chairman agreed to sign the list of payments on the agenda; Councillor Burgess and Councillor Perkins agreed to sign each of the invoices and authorise the online payments. The vice-chairman agreed to sign the bank reconciliation and Councillor Perkins agreed to countersign this.

69-11/21.3 To consider supporting the clerk's attendance at the SLCC Virtual Training Seminar at a cost of £45:00.

The vice-chairman proposed that the parish council supports this initiative. Councillor Awit seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

69-11/21.4 To consider the recommendations of the finance working party regarding the draft budget and business plan for 2022/2023 to 2024/2025; and to consider confirmation of the precept for 2022/2023.

The draft budget and business plan had been shared with councillors in advance of the meeting. The clerk outlined the recommendations of the finance working party. The detail will be finalised and approved at the next meeting.

70-11/21 Traffic, Highways & Road Safety

70-11/21.1 To review data gathered from the Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) during October 2021.

This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

70-11/21.2 To receive an update on speed management strategies.

Councillor Bonnet-Kolakowska had confirmed in advance of the meeting that: the speed reduction application for Huntingdon Road and Ramsey Road has been submitted (minute ref. 56-10/21.2); the application process for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will open at the end of December/beginning of January (minute ref. 59-10/21.1); and the (LHI) application for Great Raveley phase two has been submitted (minute ref. 41-09/21.2). Councillors were pleased to note that repairs to the pavement along Huntingdon Road are underway.



71-11/21 Community

- 71-11/21.1 Further to minute reference: 57-10/21.2, to receive an update on strategies to improve the provision of play and recreation facilities for children and young people.
Councillor Mashford has received two quotations for the refurbishment of Bentley Close Play Area and is waiting for a third.

72-11/21 Parish Maintenance

- 72-11/21.1 To consider a new parish maintenance strategy prior to tendering for a new maintenance contract to commence in the spring of 2022.
Councillor Awit, Councillor Edwards and Councillor Perkins confirmed that they are working on plans to incorporate the sustainable management of verges, hedgerows and trees into a new parish maintenance strategy. This will be reviewed again at the next meeting. It was noted that applications for the re-wilding of highway verges need to be submitted to the district council by the end of January to be considered as part of its 2022 planting plan.

73-11/21 Correspondence and Communications.

- 73-11/21.1 An invitation to participate in consultation on Huntingdonshire District Council's draft Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which is intended as a replacement for the current Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD adopted in 2007.
73-11/21.2 An approach from a developer interested in purchasing the Upwood Allotments land.
Councillors noted that the same letter had been sent to several land-owners in the area and agreed that no action was required.
73-11/21.3 Notification of an increase in hire charges for Upwood Village Hall with effect from January 2022.
73-11/21.4 An update from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.
73-11/21.5 Retrospective comments from a resident concerning planning application no. 21/01421/FUL (minute reference: 54-10/21.2).

73-11/21 To receive verbal reports from parish councillors on matters arising from their portfolio responsibilities and matters for future consideration. No decisions can be made under this item.

Councillor Perkins suggested that two horse chestnut trees in St. Peter's Churchyard would benefit from some remedial work. He will seek advice and present quotations for consideration at the next meeting.

74-11/21 Date of next meeting: Monday 06 December 2021.

Close of meeting: 8:20pm

