



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

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A meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council was held on Monday 04 October 2021 at 7.00pm in Upwood Village Hall.

Present: Councillors D. Awit, G. Bonnett Kolakowska, J. Burgess (Vice-Chairman), J. Edwards, N. Maddocks, R. Mashford, A. Perkins.

In Attendance: Mrs. C. Bilverstone (Clerk), Councillor S. Corney (Cambridgeshire County Council), Councillors G. Bull & M. Haines (Huntingdonshire District Council) and five members of the public.

Minutes

48-10/21 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Councillor Howe: Personal.

In the absence of the chairman, Councillor Burgess (Vice-Chairman) presided over this meeting.

49-10/21 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.

Councillor Awit declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 54-10/21.2.

50-10/21 To receive and approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 06 September 2021.

The minutes of the meeting of Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council held on 06 September 2021 had been circulated in advance following the informal approval of the chairman. Councillor Maddocks proposed that the minutes be approved. Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so. Councillor Howe signed the approved minutes after the meeting.

51-10/21 To consider applications for one casual vacancy. No applications had been received.

52-10/21 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.

53-10/21 To receive reports from county and district councillors.

Councillor Corney announced that a £300,000 budget had been made available for local parishes to apply for grants to address flooding from riparian dykes. Councillors re-iterated concerns for ongoing flooding along Ramsey Road and in Farm Close which they fear will be exacerbated by the airfield housing development and furthermore if the proposal for 28 new homes on Farm Close is approved.

54-10/21 Notification of planning items.

54-10/21.1 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.

54-10/21.2 21/01421/FUL | Proposed 1 No. self-build dwelling | Land Between Fisherman's Close and 71 & 77 High Street Upwood.

Councillors considered the detail of this application and noted the planning authority's response to a pre-application enquiry made in 2019 for the erection of two dwellings. The design and access statement stated that Policy CS3 of the Core Strategy would support residential infilling of up to 3 residential dwellings within the built-up area of Upwood. Advice was also given regarding the potential noise impact on the residents at 2 Fisherman's Close and that any development should be of a rural style.

Councillors noted the current proposal for a single dwelling to be positioned towards the middle of a large parcel of land surrounded by existing dense, high, mature landscape of which none is to be altered as part of this application; thus there would be little or no impact on the street scene or loss of light to neighbouring properties although disruption is inevitable to residents of Fisherman's Close both during construction and after with additional traffic movements.

An arboricultural assessment indicates that there is high risk of root damage to trees at the entrance, but low risk for the rest of the site. A plan to minimise root damage has been outlined, as has a plan to minimise the risk of localised surface water flooding at the entrance.

An ecological impact assessment confirms that the site is of little botanical interest and the hedgerows and trees are in poor condition. The site is assessed as negligible for great crested newts, badgers, bats and reptiles; and assessed as moderate for nesting birds so minor negative effects to the ecology at a local level are predicted. In mitigation, it was noted that the boundary trees and hedges will be afforded suitable tree protection and the applicant proposes enhancements such as: bat access tiles and a bat box; bird boxes; and consideration for pollinator and bat friendly planting.

Councillors considered the style of the proposed dwelling to be in keeping with the original advice and that the design could be considered modest considering the size of the plot. It was noted that a renewable energy source in the form of photovoltaic panels is proposed on the west elevation.

A number of concerns had been raised by residents who feel strongly that they may be adversely affected by this proposed development. The vice-chairman closed the meeting to allow members of the public to address the council.

Three residents outlined significant concerns regarding surface water run off given the type of soil and the sloped terrain, with natural drainage towards the High Street. An additional property would be likely to exacerbate the existing unresolved flooding onto the High Street causing damage to properties that sit directly below the site (within the conservation area); and adding to the already unacceptable level of water (and ice in the winter months) on the highway. The application states that water will be disposed of using a soakaway system but confirmation has not been provided that this will be an effective method to prevent surface water run-off for this type of soil and in this particular situation.

Residents also expressed concerns for the disposal of foul sewage using a package treatment plant. The plans offer little reassurance that this particular site is conducive for this type of disposal. In addition, no specific details about the proposed siting of the plant have been provided and thus concerns were raised for the risk of odour, spillage or seepage onto neighbouring properties.

There are concerns for damage to the road surface through Fisherman's Close and surface debris. Reassurance was sought for regular cleaning of the surface to remove mud deposits and for any damage to the road surface be the responsibility of the developer/owner from commencement of the build and for a period of 12 months post completion.

The vice-chairman invited the applicant to address the council. The applicant confirmed that he understood the concerns raised but added that his surveyor considers that the drainage of water from a single dwelling could be accommodated by a "drainage field" and pond which would retain water on-site. He confirmed that the access road from Fisherman's Close would be fully permeable; and that the treatment of foul sewage would be achieved with state of the art technology. He also confirmed his plans for a pre and post assessment of the road surface in Fisherman's Close and his commitment to making good any damage.

The vice-chairman re-opened the meeting and summarised the discussion. She noted the positive and favourable assessments and reports but expressed concern that the application appears to be lacking with regard to an independent or expert assessment of the risks associated with building on sloped land on the type of soil identified; to the effective management of surface water/domestic water drainage; and the suitability of the proposed methods of disposal of water and foul sewage. She proposed that the parish council should not support this application until such time as a satisfactory independent report could provide reassurance for the integrity of the neighbouring properties and the High Street. Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska seconded this

proposal. Councillor Awit abstained from voting. All other councillors were in favour and it was **resolved** to register an objection to the application on this basis.

55-10/21 Finance

55-10/21.1 To approve accounts for payment: 04 October 2021

Reference	Description	Payee	Amount
SO	Clerk/RFO Salary. September 2021	Mrs C. Silverstone	£1043.68
SO	Clerk/RFO/ Salary PAYE/NI	HMRC	£41.42
SO	Employer National Insurance August 2021	HMRC	£55.92
DD	Employee & Employer Pension Contribution	SALVUS Master Trust	£114.22
DD	Pension Administration Fee	SALVUS Master Trust	£24.00
636696609	Clerk's Expenses: Working from Home Allowance, printing costs (September).	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
76624998	Parish Maintenance (invoice 7 of 8)	CGM Group (East Anglia) Limited	£920.70
800854409	Grant to support operational costs (40-09/21.4)	Upwood and the Raveleys Village Hall	£1,000.00
862363701	Grant to support volunteer grass cutting	Mr. R.H. Brown	£250.00

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

55-10/21.2 To note income received: 04 October 2021. None received at the time of publication.

The vice-chairman reminded councillors that the finance working party will meet during October to prepare the draft budget and business plan for consideration at the next meeting.

56-10/21 Traffic, Highways & Road Safety

56-10/21.1 To review data gathered from the Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) during July, August & September 2021.

July: MVAS 1 was located opposite the Ailwine Road junction on Huntingdon Road to monitor traffic approaching from Bury. Of the 29,977 vehicles recorded, 2,875 were in violation of the 40 mph speed limit. 2,323 registered speeds between 41-45 mph; 453 between 46-50 mph; 78 between 51-54 mph; and 21 were travelling at speeds in excess of 55 mph. The highest recorded speed was 75 mph.

July: MVAS 2 was located on Huntingdon Road by the allotments to monitor traffic approaching from Great Raveley. Of the 40,872 vehicles recorded, 4,977 were in violation of the 40 mph speed limit. 3,689 registered speeds between 41-45 mph; 915 between 46-50 mph; 259 between 51-54 mph; and 114 were travelling at speeds in excess of 55 mph. The highest recorded speed was 88 mph.

July: MVAS 3 was located by the post box in Great Raveley to monitor traffic approaching from Woodwalton. Of the 5,012 vehicles recorded, 1,251 were in violation of the 30 mph speed limit. 964 registered speeds between 31-35 mph (19%); 233 between 36-40 mph (4.7%); 45 between 41-45 mph; 6 between 46-50 mph; and 2 were travelling at speeds in excess of 50 mph. The highest recorded speed was 64 mph.

August: MVAS 1 was located opposite the Ailwine Road junction on Huntingdon Road to monitor traffic approaching from Bury. Of the 26,142 vehicles recorded, 2,284 were in violation of the 40 mph speed limit. 1,852 registered speeds between 41-45 mph; 348 between 46-50 mph; 69 between 51-54 mph; and 15 were travelling at speeds in excess of 55 mph. The highest recorded speed was 74 mph.

August: MVAS 2 was located on Huntingdon Road by the allotments to monitor traffic approaching from Great Raveley. Of the 34,399 vehicles recorded, 4,117 were in violation of the 40 mph speed limit. 2,994 registered speeds between 41-45 mph; 781 between 46-50 mph; 233 between 51-54 mph; and 109 were travelling at speeds in excess of 55 mph. The highest recorded speed was 91 mph.

August: MVAS 3 was located by the post box in Great Raveley to monitor traffic approaching from Woodwalton. Of the 5,732 vehicles recorded, 1,305 were in violation of the 30 mph speed limit. 1,021 registered speeds

between 31 – 35 mph; 236 between 36-40 mph; 41-45 mph; 6 between 46-50 mph; and 3 were travelling at speeds in excess of 50 mph. The highest recorded speed was 60 mph.

September: MVAS 1 was located opposite the Ailwine Road junction on Huntingdon Road to monitor traffic approaching from Bury. Of the 26,142 vehicles recorded, 2,430 were in violation of the 40 mph speed limit. 1,960 registered speeds between 41-45 mph; 381 between 46-50 mph; 70 between of 51-54 mph; and 19 were travelling at speeds in excess of 55 mph. The highest recorded speed was 81 mph.

August: MVAS 2 was located on Huntingdon Road by the allotments to monitor traffic approaching from Great Raveley. Of the 34,065 vehicles recorded, 4,393 were in violation of the 40 mph speed limit. 3,131 registered speeds between 41-45 mph; 866 between 46-50 mph; 267 between 51-54 mph; and 129 were travelling at speeds in excess of 55 mph. The highest recorded speed was 93 mph.

September: MVAS 3 was located by the post box in Great Raveley to monitor traffic approaching from Woodwalton. Of the 6,156 vehicles recorded, 1,487 were in violation of the 30 mph speed limit. 1,140 registered speeds between 31-35 mph (19%); 289 between 36-40 mph (4.7%); 47 between 41-45 mph; 9 between 46-50 mph; and 2 were travelling at speeds in excess of 50 mph. The highest recorded speed was 57 mph.

Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska noted that the purchase of a new battery for the Android device used to download data from the MVAS had short-lived success. Data is currently being downloaded to a laptop and further guidance is awaited from the manufacturer regarding the best option for data management.

56-10/21.2 To receive an update on speed management strategies.

Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska updated councillors on plans to apply for speed reduction on Huntingdon Road and Ramsey Road. The application approved under item 41-09/21 was rejected by Cambridgeshire County Council (at no cost to the parish) due to its complexity. The potential total cost of this project (speed reduction, street furnishings to include build outs; a speed camera; new signage; and road markings will be in the region of £100K). The parish council would need to seek funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy and/or the Local Highway Improvement Initiative (LHI). A meeting has been held with the Principal of Upwood Primary Academy and contact has been made with Cambridgeshire Constabulary with a view to gaining support for this project. Councillor Edwards expressed concern for the re-routing of vehicles via Meadow Road, Church Lane and Ailwine Road by motorists wishing to circumnavigate the proposed traffic calming measures on Huntingdon Road. He also suggested that any measures must accommodate and respect the needs of existing local businesses and the farming community. All councillors were in agreement on both points.

Further to advice, Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska outlined plans for an alternative approach and proposed that the parish council approves the initial cost of £500 to pursue a consultation and audit by the county council. Councillor Mashford seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

57-10/21 Community

57-10/21.1 Further to minute reference: 13-05/21.2, to receive an update on strategies to improve the provision of play and recreation facilities for children and young people.

Councillor Mashford confirmed that she is seeking three quotations for the refurbishment of Bentley Close Play area with a view to submitting grant applications before the end of the year.

57-10/21.2 To review the entries to the “Create your Space” children’s competition to design their dream playground and to announce the winning entry.

Councillor Mashford noted that all entries demonstrated a huge amount of thought and creativity. The judging panel were very impressed with all the entries but voted that seven-year old Freddie should be the winner as he had designed not just a play space but he also demonstrated consideration for its use, making provision for waste bins for example to ensure that the space remained clean and tidy. Five-year old Fynn and seven-year old Oree’s entries were highly commended. All three children were awarded certificates and chocolates were given to Fynn and Oree. A £20 Amazon voucher would be forwarded to Freddie. Councillor Awit proposed that the clerk be authorised to purchase this with the parish council’s debit card. Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was **resolved** to do so.

58-10/21 Parish Maintenance

58-10/21.1 To consider support of “Plantlife” regarding the re-wilding of highway verges (deferred from item 29-07/21.1).

58-10/21.2 To consider participation in “The Queen’s Green Canopy” (deferred from item 27-07/21.2).

58-10/21.3 To consider tendering for a new parish maintenance contract to commence in the spring of 2022.

Councillors Awit, Edwards and Perkins agreed to incorporate plans for the sustainable management of verges, hedgerows and trees into a new parish maintenance strategy for consideration at the next meeting.

59-10/21 Correspondence and Communications.

59-10/21.1 An invitation to seek funding from Huntingdonshire District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund. Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska and Councillor Burgess will review this in relation to item 56-10/21.2.

59-10/21.2 Huntingdonshire District Council's Flooding Review Letter.

59-10/21.3 Cambridgeshire County Council's Street Lighting Satisfaction Survey.

59-10/21.4 A letter of concern regarding damage to trees in Farm Close.

59-10/21.5 An invitation for the parish council to participate in the consultation "Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc".

59-10/21.6 A letter of concern for overgrowing vegetation along the path between Fairmead and Upwood Primary Academy; and for the overflowing bins.

Councillors noted that complaints of this nature are received on a regular basis. Residents are reminded that responsibility for bins and waste falls to Huntingdonshire District Council and matters may be reported direct at: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/?more=true>. Vegetation overhanging pavements should be reported as a highways fault at: <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

60-10/21 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 Edwards confirmed that Chorus Homes Ltd. has agreed to implement a maintenance programme for the grass and hedges along the path leading from Ailwine Road to the playing field.

61-10/21 Date of next meeting: Monday 01 November 2021.

Close of meeting: 8:30pm