



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022 EDITION

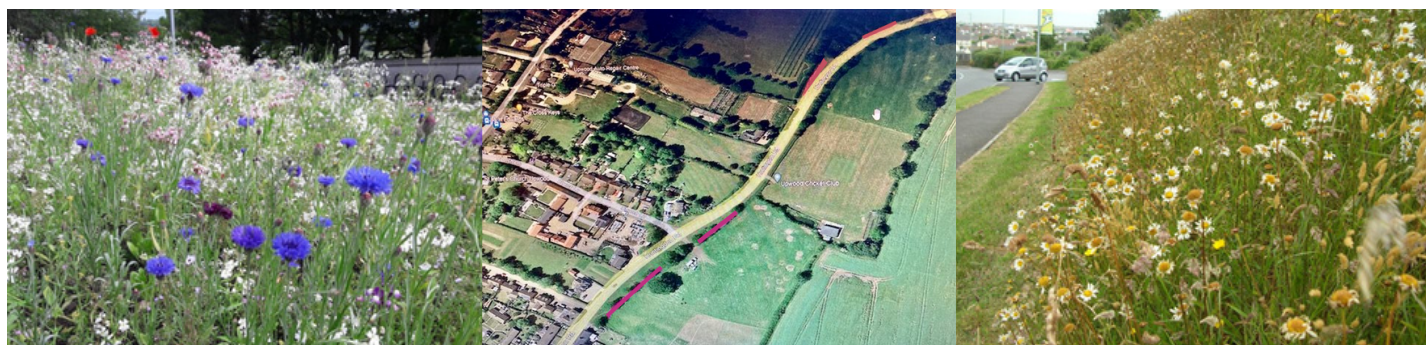
Welcome to a new year!

Robin Howe, Chairman

A new year means we are finalising plans for our new financial year in April. Below shows the anticipated position at the end of this financial year in March and the budget agreed for 2022/23. The annual income (c£29,000) comes mainly from HDC in the form of the precept (£27,000; the parish council's share of the council tax). We are free to increase the precept but our policy in recent years has been to hold it unchanged or make moderate increases.

	BUDGET 2021/22	FORECAST 2021/22	BUDGET 2022/23	% OF TOTAL EXPENSES	MAJOR CHANGES
Income (inc. precept)	£28,134	£28,024	£29,084		Precept increased by £1000 per year
Staff costs	£15,484	£15,650	£16,649	39%	Statutory pay and pension awards
Admin and training	£4563	£3046	£6458	15%	Election expenses £2000
Community services	£2880	£3324	£2985	7%	Calculated reserves 31032023 Play area £9000 Cemetery £6000 Total £15,000
Asset maintenance	£10,200	£8338	£8850	21%	
Projects	£6500	£7248	£7500	18%	Additional CIL income from RAF Upwood (est. £5-10,000)
TOTAL	£39,627	£37,607	£42,442		

Total expenses are planned to be £42,400 in 2022/23. Following the fraud we suffered in 2010/11, the financial reserves have been slowly rebuilt and this has allowed us to fund the growth in annual expenses without making demands on the parish taxpayer. The largest annual expense is the payroll and pension of the Clerk, but without Carol's financial management and good governance we would not be in the strong position we are to fund the other activities the parish needs. Grass and hedge cutting and grounds maintenance account for almost £9000 per year, but we believe a well maintained and attractive parish environment is expected from our



residents. Projects such as speed control and children's play and recreation are partially funded by the parish council, but increasingly by grants we receive from external bodies.

There is little house building in the parish, compared with Bury and Ramsey, but we do receive community infrastructure levy (CIL) payments of £3-5000 per new home built in the parish and this income supplements our budget. Our main concern is that with the huge growth of housing (>1600) in Bury and Ramsey in the coming years there will be a massive increase in traffic flow through the village. Because the parish council has little funding for infrastructure improvement (such as average speed cameras) we need to go cap in hand to the district and county councils, both of whom are famously short of money at the moment.

Wildflower planting

Many have commented on the beautiful displays of wild flowers to be found on the verges in parishes, such as Bury and Wistow – which is something the parish council are keen to emulate in the parish.

We have spoken to Emma Stannard who is responsible for the re-wilding project at HDC at some length. Sadly there is no new money available in 2022 for new re-wilding projects; therefore, any work this year will need to be

self funded by the parish. Fortunately, an anonymous donation has been received from a resident of £300 and we're delighted to be able to initiate our re-wilding plans. The first step is to select the re-wilding sites and prepare the ground over the winter. This is done by first weed killing the grass and then rotavating the soil to a fine till ready for planting in April.

A number of potential sites have identified for consideration (shown on the Google Earth images above):

- Charters Spinney roadside
- Drainage ditch to the south-side of Charters Spinney
- Hedgerow between the cricket club and the village sign

During the December meeting it was agreed to go ahead with the plans outlined above and a working party were appointed comprising Councillors Awit, Edwards, Mashford and Mr Paul Charman (resident) as our consultant on seed and plant selection.

The working party will confirm the final sites, arrange the ground work and planting, and ensure a dialogue on this topic is opened with residents – your thoughts are very welcome.

We aim to mark out the sites in February, prepare the ground in March and plant out in April; so Upwood should be in (modest) bloom in this summer.

Additional updates from the parish council

County and District Reports

Councillor Haines let us know of his successful bid for the installation of two new litter bins, one at each end of the path between Farm Close and Fairmead. The parish council had made several unsuccessful attempts to secure one litter bin along this path so councillors were delighted with this outcome. The bins should be installed within the coming weeks.

Traffic, Highways & Road Safety

MVAS 1 (Huntingdon Road opposite the junction with Ailwine Road)

Of the 33,849 vehicles recorded, 2,944 registered speeds in violation of the 40-mph speed limit. 2,381 registered speeds between 41-45mph; 464 between 46-50mph; 84 between 51-54mph and 14 were travelling at speeds in excess of 55mph. The highest recorded speed was 71mph.

MVAS 2 (by allotments on Huntingdon Road)

Of the 36,546 vehicles recorded (note data are missing for a 4-day period for due to battery failure) 3,969 registered speeds in excess of the 40-mph speed limit. Of these, 2,843 registered speeds between 41-45mph; 795 between 46-50mph; 222 between 51-54mph and 110 were travelling at speeds in excess of 55mph. The highest recorded speed was 87mph.

MVAS 3 (by post box in Great Raveley)

Of the 4,584 vehicles recorded 1,162 registered speeds in violation of the 30-mph speed limit. 875 registered speeds between 31-35mph; 234 between 36-40mph; 44 between 41-45mph; 6 between 46-50mph and 2 were travelling at speeds in excess of 50mph. The highest recorded speed was 63mph.

Speed management strategies

Councillor Bonnett-Kolakowska confirmed that she is waiting for a response to the speed reduction application; and that Community Speedwatch will resume in the spring. She also noted that she had met with Cambridgeshire County Council's new HGV Watch Coordinator.

Parish Maintenance

The parish maintenance contract is coming up for renewal in the spring of 2022. Councillor Awit has been in touch with a number of companies to provide quotations. Two are particularly competitive and the chairman suggested that face-to-face meetings be held with representatives from these two companies; and that references are followed up with a view making an appointment at the next meeting.

Remedial work to three horse chestnut trees in St. Peter's Churchyard is also required. Based on the three quotations received, Councillor Perkins proposed that Ayres Tree Care be appointed to conduct work to rebalance the canopy of two horse chestnuts and reduce the lowest limb on a third. Ayres Tree Care also recommends to reduce the canopy of the lime tree and remove deadwood. Councillor Awit seconded the proposal. All were in favour and it was resolved to do so. Councillor Perkins also recommended that a tree survey be commissioned during 2022 to assess the health of the parish trees and to provide the parish council with a strategic plan for the longer term.

Emergency Planning

Councillor Tew noted that the district and county councils have proposed that parishes adopt an "Emergency Plan". He offered to share further details of previous plans he has worked on and councillors agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

Welcome to our new Councillors!



Welcome David Awit

From the moment my family and I moved into the village, and were welcomed so warmly, we knew this was a special place to live. People talked and greeted each other, they looked out and cared for each other, but most importantly they cared deeply for the village and the surrounding areas, and they worked hard to protect it and make it a wonderful place to live.

It takes teamwork, time, effort, ideas and passion to make sure a community thrives, and I believe those are elements that I can bring to the role and to the parish.

My personal and professional interests include family/kids, my faith and the church, youth activities and sports, cultural interests (movies, music, languages...), business and finance, acting as a business connector/liaison, hospitality and events, so if I can bring those interests and any expertise I've gained in those areas to help serve the parish better, I will gladly do so, and will find much enjoyment in giving back to our community..

I strongly believe that active engagement with people is important to continue to make this a great place to live, and I would never shy away from getting out there and speaking and listening to the residents of our lovely parish.

Welcome Michael Tew



I am currently a Councillor for Bury and recently co-opted to the Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council. I am also currently serving as vice-chair of CAPALC and appointed to the National assembly of Nalc, a Former County Councillor and member of civic voice.

I bring a wealth of experience to the role of councillor and am presently working on a local council award scheme for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and emergency plan for extreme weather events in Bury and Upwood and putting together a library of information on climate change.

During my time as a Councillor, I have brought several projects to fruition, including the Bury neighbourhood plan, the concept of the indoor market in Ramsey, and carer hubs to Cambridgeshire and Norfolk and helped to bring LHIB to many villages whilst serving as the County Councillor for the Warboys ward.

I look forward to bringing my negotiation and project management skills to support the council. I am organised, and can oversee several projects at any one time, a proven track record bringing projects in on time and on budget. I believe in working in partnership with the community, engaging through different methods.