

UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Upleadon Parish Council held on Thursday 1 December 2016 at Upleadon Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr M Manning – Chairman, Cllr H Dunn, Cllr D Leighton, Cllr P Dallow

Also present: District Councillor P Burford

5.00 Apologies

Cllr Mrs A Bassett had forwarded written apologies due to on-going personal family matters. Cllr Manning proposed acceptance of Cllr Mrs Bassett's apologies due to her circumstances which was unanimously agreed.

5.1 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Leighton declared an interest in Agenda item 7.6 Transparency Fund – cost of setting up website/laptop for approval – and refrained from discussion and voting on the matter.

5.2 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting – 1 September 2016

Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting of 1 September 2016 was proposed by Cllr Manning and unanimously agreed.

5.3 Matters Arising

P.7 Visibility issues at Upleadon Cross

Cllr Manning reported that the residents of "The Steps" had cut back their hedge to assist visibility and the white lining on the road has been repainted.

P.9 Highway matters

The Clerk advised that the missing Hooks Lane sign had now been replaced by the Highways Authority.

5.4 Approval of Minutes of Extraordinary Council meeting – 20 October 2016

Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting of 20 October 2016 was proposed by Cllr Manning and unanimously agreed.

5.5 Finance/Sundry Payments

Payments for consideration:-

1. GMT Solutions – computer configuration	£45.00
2. D Morley – stationery	£8.99
3. Campaign for Protection Rural England –subscription	£36.00
4. Royal British Legion – Cost/donation to Poppy wreath	

Cllr Manning proposed approval to the first three payments and that a donation be added to the cost of the Poppy Wreath making a total cost to the Royal British Legion in the sum of £45.00. This was unanimously agreed.

5.6 Correspondence

5.6.1 Pauntley Parish Council – Fibre broadband

The Clerk advised that she had written to both County Cllr W Windsor-Clive and District Cllr P Molyneux asking for an update on the introduction of fibre broadband for the area. Cllr Molyneux had not replied and Cllr Windsor-Clive had advised he had no new information to impart.

Cllr Manning advised that shortly after the last meeting Pauntley Parish Council had made contact inviting him as Chairman of Upleadon Parish Council to a meeting with Pauntley and Redmarley Parish Councils to look at the possibility of involving local company Loop Scorpio who operated a wireless system from a main hub in Higham reaching properties via lines of site from strategically placed nodes. Pauntley Parish Council had been keen to publicise this as a possibility of improving broadband in the area by inserting details in the local Parish magazine but had subsequently declined to do so as Redmarley Parish council had reservations in that they did not wish to raise false hopes and unwittingly promote a solution that cuts across a better solution that may be provided by another scheme. They did not wish to endorse any particular provider, wishing rather to try to obtain information to help them in discussions with potential providers about making the area attractive to them as an investment proposition.

The Clerk advised that she had recently approached Pauntley Parish Council for an update regarding their progress. They advised that in the event they did not pursue the Loop Scorpio possibility but had put a note in the Parish magazine advising they were looking at various options and asking parishioners who were experiencing problems to contact them.

Members noted these comments.

5.6.2 Business

5.6.3 Council vacancy – Co-option

Cllr Manning proposed that as there were two potential candidates now interested in the vacancy that they both be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council in order that consideration may be given to their application for co-option to the Council. This was unanimously agreed.

5.6.4 To give consideration to Planning applications

It was confirmed that no applications had been received to date.

5.6.5 External Auditor Report – End of Year Accounts 2015/16

The Clerk read the External Auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2016 which related to the Order of signing the Annual governance statement (Section 1) and the Accounting statements (Section 2).

Members noted the information and future action to be taken.

5.6.6 To give consideration to seeking Internal Auditor

Cllr Manning advised that he had made local enquiries with regard to seeking a new Internal Auditor and that there was a possible interest, but this was to be confirmed. Members agreed to enquire with other possible sources and discussed the requirements of the position. The Clerk advised that the most important aspect was that the person appointed was competent and completely impartial to the work of the Council.

5.6.7 Update on installation of defibrillator including cost of installation

Cllr Manning reported that following two quotations having been sought from electricians in the area to wire in the new defibrillator, the electrician whom he had originally asked, had now offered to do so free of charge in view of the benefit to the community. He was not able to confirm at this stage when the work could be undertaken. The Clerk advised that she had spoken with Kevin Dickens of the Gloucestershire Ambulance Trust that day to ascertain when community awareness/training could be given regarding the use of the defibrillator. He had confirmed when the unit was live and the required paperwork completed, his representatives would attend a community meeting of the parishioners to raise awareness of the acquisition of the defibrillator and its use and benefit. Cllr Manning suggested that two alternative dates be put forward towards the end of February to the Ambulance Trust and that publicity of the agreed date be given to the community by a personal hand-delivered flyer to each and every household. This was unanimously agreed.

5.6.8 Transparency Fund – costings re setting up website/laptop for approval

The Clerk advised that she had asked a local person involved in computer services who had given advice and indicative prices regarding laptops and setting up a website. Members considered the Transparency Fund application form and agreed to go forward with the acquisition of a laptop computer and associated software, the setting up of a website, together with staff training with the aid of the grant funding if and when successful.

5.6.9 To give consideration to Budget and setting of Precept 2017/18

Members gave consideration to the Budget for 2017/18 drawn up by the Clerk and to the anticipated funds at the end of the current financial year. Cllr Dunn proposed that the Precept be requested as at last year in the sum of £2,000 which was seconded by Cllr Manning and unanimously agreed.

5.6.10 Revision of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Cllr Manning proposed that this matter be deferred to the next meeting which was unanimously agreed.

5.6.11 Pensions Regulator – declaration of compliance

The Clerk confirmed that the Council had met the required staging dates and that compliance had been made with regard to its responsibilities under the workplace pension.

5.6.12 Highway Matters

1. Mud on road re activity at Old Oak Farm, Upleadon. Cllr Burford advised that he had received complaints and had spoken with Brian Robinson – County Councillor for area and he understood a Planning Enforcement Officer was to visit the site. It was agreed to write to County Cllr W Windsor- Clive expressing concern about the quantity of mud on the road and the damage lorries to the site were causing to the sides of the road.

2. Concern was made regarding the recently replaced boundary fencing at the Causeway and that part of the original concrete/metal fencing was still in situ which was considered dangerous to livestock – to be reported to County Highways.

3. Part of the brickwork on Upleadon bridge had been damaged, thought to have been hit by a vehicle during recent flooding. Also tarmac eroding on the Causeway on the south side – to be reported to County Highways.

5.6.13 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be on Thursday 2 March 2017.

5.6.14 Any Other Business

Cllr Burford reported for information purposes:-

1. The District Council's Allocation Development Plan was nearing completion – there was no new land allocation in Upleadon
2. The Boundary Commission was currently undertaking a review of the parliamentary boundaries – it is likely as a result of this review that the current numbers of District Councillors will be reduced.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 9.05 pm

Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.