

## UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Upleadon Parish Council held on Thursday 05 December 2019 at Upleadon Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Cllr H Dunn (Chair), Cllr M Manning (Deputy Chair), Cllr Mrs W Fabian, Cllr Mrs P Turner, Cllr Mrs P Cooke, Cllr P Dallow, Cllr E Wood

There were no Members of the public present

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### 5.00 Apologies

Apologies were received from District Cllr P Burford

### 5.1 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Interest were declared in Agenda item 8.2 Upleadon Village Hall – notification of increase in hire of Hall by Cllrs Mrs Turner, Mrs Fabian, Mrs Cooke.

### 5.2 Mr Jeff Wheeler Cheltenham Motor Club – Three Shires Stages

This item was deferred until the end of the meeting due to Mr Wheeler's sending his apologies that he would be delayed in attendance.

### 5.3 Approval of Minutes – Council meeting 12 September 2019

Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting of 12 September 2019 was proposed by Cllr Dallow, seconded by Cllr Manning and agreed by 6 votes in favour, 1 abstention after the following amendment:-

3.1 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Mrs Fabian – *add Cllr Mrs Turner and Mrs Cooke* declared an Interest in Agenda item – update on future of Upleadon Village Hall

### 5.4 Matters Arising

P.4 1.12.7 Highway matters – encroachment of path between Gloucester Road and Forge Lane.

It was noted that the hedge had not been cut back – Cllr Dunn agreed to speak with the owner about this.

### 5.5 Approval of Minutes – Council meeting 24 October 2019

Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting of 24 October 2019 was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Mrs Turner and unanimously agreed.

### 5.6 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

### 5.7 Finance/Sundry Payments

The Clerk advised that an interim invoice had been received from Forest of Dean District Council for Election related costs in May 2019 by the Parish Council amounting to £147.00 which had been required to be paid prior to this meeting.

Further payments for consideration:-

Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreath  
(cost to make £17.00)

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England – subscription £36.00

Cllr Wood proposed the Council cancel the subscription to Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. This was not seconded. Cllr Mrs Turner proposed that the minimum payment of £36.00 be agreed which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Cooke and agreed by 6 votes in favour, 1 against. Cllr Manning proposed that the Poppy wreath payment be made up to the sum of £50.00 which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fabian and unanimously agreed.

## 5.8 Correspondence

### 5.8.1 Forest of Dean District Council – support for Gateways into the Forest of Dean

Advise that recently a meeting was held with the Forest Verderers, District Council, Tourist Information and representatives of the Community Safety Partnership to discuss establishing “Gateways” into the Forest of Dean. These will be in the form of signposts encouraging drivers to slow their speed so that they and their passengers can enjoy the beauty of the Forest, both the Flora and Fauna. There will be an emphasis on exploring and viewing the natural beauty of the forest and its animals in a safe manner by reducing speed and encouraging safe passageway on the roads. They hope that all can support this project for the benefit for everyone who lives, works in and visits the Forest. Obviously this will incur costs and the District Council will be supporting this financially as hopefully will the Community Partnership. Hope that Parish and Town Councils will also be able to support this venture and if so, to please send an email to indicate the level of its support.

Members considered that if the idea was workable, then it would be a positive thing. Cllr Wood proposed that the Parish Council support the idea in principle but not financially. This was seconded by Cllr Manning and unanimously agreed.

### 5.8.2 Upleadon Village Hall – notification of increase in hire fee of Hall

Cllrs Mrs Turner, Mrs Fabian and Mrs Cooke declared interests in this matter and left the room whilst this matter was under discussion.

The Clerk advised that the Village Hall Committee had decided to standardise its hire fee for all of its regular users. As from 1 October 2019, the new rate will be £12.00 per evening session which is still under half of its normal fee per evening. For short meetings the fee will be £6. Running costs have increased and the hall needs work. Their records show the Parish Council has been paying £10 per session since 2019 which they feel has been very good value for money. They hope the increase will not mean the Village Hall Committee loses the Council’s custom as they value its contribution to the hall and the village.

Cllr Wood proposed that the small increase be accepted which was seconded by Cllr Manning and unanimously agreed.

### 5.8.3 Pension Regulator – assessment/re-enrolment eligible staff & re-declaration of compliance

The Clerk advised that the Pension Regulator required re-enrolment of eligible staff and redeclaration of compliance. The Clerk advised that its only employee was not eligible by way of hours worked/salary and it was therefore unanimously agreed to respond accordingly.

## 5.9. Business

### 5.9.1 To give consideration to Budget and setting of Precept 2020/21

Members were furnished with figures showing existing and predicted expenditure to the end of the financial year, together with a draft budget for 2020/21. Cllr Manning who oversaw the maintenance of the defibrillator proposed that expenditure be allowed for replacement consumables - battery and pads in next year's budget. This was agreed. Cllr Wood suggested that grant funding may be available for this.

Cllr Mrs Fabian proposed the Precept for 2020/21 be set at £3,000. This was seconded by Cllr Dallow and unanimously agreed.

### 5.9.2 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk advised that Mr Chris Fearn had confirmed in writing that he would be pleased to carry out an independent internal audit of the Council's accounts for 2019/2020.

### 5.9.3 Highway matters

It was agreed to report that the drain cover was broken in Forge Lane at the junction of Middletown lane. It was felt this was because the drain was set far too high and this needed to be addressed.

### 5.9.4 To set date of Annual Parish Assembly meeting

It was agreed to set the date of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting immediately prior to the Council AGM – 7th May 2020.

### 5.9.5 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to set the date of the next meeting on Thursday 5 March 2020

### 5.9.6 Mr Jeff Wheeler - Cheltenham Motor Club – Three Shires Stages

Mr Wheeler gave Members feedback on this year's event and how things could be improved next year. This included better communication to parishioners on the route – a leaflet is planned to be distributed before the event next year, showing the route and alternative roads to get in and out of the village. Mr Wheeler advised that they are looking to lengthen the stages next year which will give more mileage and will mean they only have to run once in the morning and once in the afternoon. They plan to use a slightly different route next year and the date for the event will be

Sunday 6 September. They plan to use the same number of cars as they did this year, and at 30 second intervals. Members commented that the road closures need to state the reason for closure or notice won't be taken of them and the route needs to remain closed for the duration of the event.

5.9.7 Any Other Business which in the opinion of the Chairman/Clerk is considered urgent

There were no items of any other business

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.45 pm