

UPTON PYNE AND COWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY THE 13th JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL. Website address:

www.uptonpyne-pc.org.uk

Present

Cllr K Tilley
Cllr S Wass
Cllr N Taverner
Cllr C Smith
Cllr I Short
Cllr R Short
Cllr E Rogers

In attendance

Mrs J Ward Clerk
1 members of the public
EDDC Cllr D Custance Baker
Mr N Baker – Tree Warden

15 Minutes Open Forum.

- **Buckingham Palace Garden Party:** no nominees were put forward.
- **New Councillor's Course:** Cllrs I Short and K. Tilley attended last November. They said it was very informative and that new councillors should attend.

1/14 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr A Jackson and DCC Cllr P Bowden.

2/14 Minutes: Approved minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2013 and signed by the Chair.

3/14 Declarations of interests. To be taken as identified.

4/14 Report by Community Police Officer WPC Lisa Crocker:

Please find details of calls to Police and Crimes recorded for Upton Pyne and Cowley for Oct & Nov 13.

Calls to Police Oct 13	Nov 13
2 x Concern for welfare	2 x RTC Upton Pyne
1 x Suspicious Males in garden Cowley	
1 x Suspicious Males looking at vehicles Cowley	

Crimes reported to Police for Oct 13	Nov 13
1 x Domestic related	None
1 x Other	

5/14 Report by East Devon District Councillor D Custance Baker:

- Budget: more cuts to be made, therefore, more responsibility to be undertaken by parish councils.
- Parishes Together Fund: Cllr Custance Baker advised the Parish Council to re-apply for this.
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- Affordable Housing: it was reported that the CLT is still in negotiation with EDDC and Hastoe to ensure that the Section 106 agreement reflects the inclusion of bands A to E primarily in Upton Pyne and then Brampford Speke in the selection process. Cllr Custance - Baker has kindly offered to obtain details of other Section 106 agreements in the EDDC area where this has been the case.
- Sandbags: Upton Pyne and Cowley have an adequate supply.
Cllr Custance Baker left at 7.55pm.

6/14 Devon County Councillor P Bowden: No report received.

7/14 Updates on Councillors Responsibilities.

- **Footpaths:** Cllr C Smith read out his report which was sent to councillors in November after he attended the annual East and Mid Devon PC's organised by the P3 coordinator for Devon. It concerns the general cutbacks being made to DCC and that there will be no grants for footpaths with a reserve of more than £200.00 which includes Upton Pyne.
There were some positive outcomes. The P3 have agreed to repair the two gates and footbridge on path 10 weather permitting. Cllr Smith raised the issue of the newly installed sleeper bridge on path 9 which has been rendered unusable by recent flood water. This will be looked at by the original contractor who installed it, to see what can be done. The Council agreed to this. The parish Council may have to pay from the Footpath reserve fund for this. It was agreed also that footpath problems should be dealt with sooner and not later to avoid bigger problems. Cllr Smith asked for volunteers to help him with some paths and to coordinate which jobs are to be done. Several councillors volunteered. Report back at the meeting in February.

8/14 Finance.

To sanction payment of accounts:

- a. Clerk's wages for December 2013 and January 2014: £187.99 plus £10.00 Home Allowance = £197.99 x 2 = £395.98. Approved.
- b. Training courses for Councillors and Clerk: £60.00: **New Councillors Short Course** attended by Cllrs I Short and K Tilley on 5th December 2013: invoice from DALC. Approved.
- c. **Ink Cartridges:** to reimburse the Clerk for costs: £14.00. Receipt supplied. Approved.

- d. **Village Hall:** £200.00 for meetings in 2013: approved and agreed that Upton Pyne Parish Council pay for the 2.5 hours for the A377 Group meeting: NSCPC paid previously.
- e. **Budget and Precept 2014/15:** the Council to agree on the Precept for 2014/15. The Clerk advised a 2% maximum increase, however, after careful consideration, the Parish Council agreed to ask for a 2.5% increase in line with inflation which at this current time is approximately 2.6 to 2.7%. The precept therefore to be increased from £5795.00 (held for the last two years), to £5939.87. The proposal was seconded and approved.
- f. **Review of Clerk's salary increase and Home Allowance increase.** This is in line with the NALC Salary Scales each April. The increase is due from last April 2013 and the Chair proposed that this should be taken and backdated. This was seconded and approved. It was agreed that the Clerk should have an appraisal annually in March.
- g. **Signatories:** to discuss which two councillors to be added as signatories. Cllrs K Tilley and N Taverner to be added as signatories. The Clerk handed relevant bank forms to them to complete for collection later and presented to the bank in due course. The Clerk to organise the removal of two signatures of former councillors.
- h. **Travel Expenses: Clerk:** to Sidmouth, (EDDC), on 14th November 2013 to discuss planning issues: £9.60. Approved.

9/14 Planning:

- Holly Tree Cottage, Upton Pyne: a site visit has been arranged for Tuesday 21st January 2014 at 11am. Cllrs Short, Taverner, Tilley and Wass to attend.

10/14 Co-option: to discuss following the resignation of Cllr H. Evans. The Clerk to advertise the vacancy and advise EDDC.

11/14. Potential parish assets: The Localism Act 2011 gives communities the right to bid and time to raise funds. Those relevant to Upton Pyne and Cowley include:

- The bp Petrol Filling Station at Cowley, now lost to the parish.
- The Social Club
- The Three Horse Shoes
- Upton Pyne Church
- Cowley Church
- The above are required to be registered. Councillors were asked to draw up a list and the Chair to check with whom the Parish Council should register and to discuss at the next meeting in February.

12/14 EDDC Planning Issues: The Clerk and Cllr I Short attended on 14th November 2013: a brief resume was given to Council. This was attended to bring the Council up to date with planning issues and the Clerk sent copies of the notes from the meetings to all councillors in November.

13/14 Parish Lengthsman: the Clerk has the timetable for Upton Pyne: one and a half days have been allocated on 5th and 6th February 2014. However, the Clerk has recently received a communication from Highways to say that due to the recent severe weather a number of routine planned works have had to be suspended and this will impact on the Parish Lengthsman Programme which will necessarily be delayed. A revised programme will be re-issued in due course.

14/14 Highways: the Clerk has e-mail from Mr. Phil Thomas, previously forwarded to the Chair, regarding the road conditions near his home. The Chair contacted Highways and was told that due to cuts backs only minimum standards could be maintained. He has heard no more from them. The Council has heard from Radio Devon regarding complaints about the road conditions at Pye Corner and Jackmore and he is to meet them tomorrow. The Chair will also contact the District Councillor, Peter Bowden, to arrange for an engineer to visit and make a thorough assessment of the road conditions in this area.

15/14 Weather warnings: an e-mail was sent to Lord Iddesleigh's Agent from the Chair regarding the precarious state of the tree above the railway bridge. The Tree Warden, Nick Baker, contacted the Clerk on 2nd January 2014 regarding this matter. The Chair was told this may not be on his land and may be the property of the National Rail Network. The Chair to contact them regarding this matter.

16/14 DCC Road Traffic Order: the A377 will be closed overnight from the 24th Feb to the 4th Mar between 7pm and 7am.

17/14 Communications/e: mails received for possible action:
The Clerk made available all communications received.

18/14 Feedback on last month's circulations and items for future agendas.

Please submit any items for the next Agenda to the Clerk within the next 7 days.

Dates of the next meetings: 10th February 2014
10th March 2014

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm.