

## UPTON PYNE AND COWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY THE 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL. Website address:

[www.uptonpyne-pc.org.uk](http://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 A Jackson  
Cllr E Rogers

#### **In attendance**

Mrs J Ward Clerk  
2 members of the public  
EDDC Cllr D Custance Baker  
Mr N Baker – Tree Warden  
DCC: Cllr P Bowden

#### **15 Minutes Open Forum.**

- Cllr Smith informed the Council that the A377 Action is no longer in existence.
- The Chair informed the Council of Cllr Evans' resignation. He said the Council will discuss co-opting at the meeting of the Council in January 2014.
- Public: asked if views of objectors would be represented by Parish Council, Chair advised that their objections would be referred to as well as the fact that the objections raised had been addressed. He also confirmed again that the Parish Council gave its full support to the scheme.

**286/13 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr H. Evans.

**287/13 Minutes:** Approved minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and signed by the Chair.

**288/13 Declarations of interests.** To be taken as identified.

**289/13 Report by Community Police Officer WPC Lisa Crocker:** No report received.

#### **290//13 Report by East Devon District Councillor D Custance Baker:**

- The EDDC Office move is going ahead: this may be to Cranbrooke; Heathpark in Honiton; Skypark or Clyst House at Renslade Park.
- Budget: this is still being looked at with more cuts predicted.
- Cardboard Recycling: this is not going ahead.

Cllr Custance Baker left at 7.50pm.

#### **291/13 Devon County Councillor P Bowden:**

- **Flooding:** Cllr Bowden asked the Council to provide him with brief details of those places at risk of flooding. The Clerk to contact Cllr Bowden in due course.

- **30mph Speed Limit:** at Cowley Bridge: Cllr Bowden informed the Council that the flashing signals proposed do not last.  
Cllr Bowden left the meeting at 8.35pm.

#### **292/13 Updates on Councillors Responsibilities.**

- **Affordable Housing:** The Clerk provided Cllr Wass with the information on Fair Rents which she obtained from the Rent Officer for East Devon. This she read out to the Council. She will send further information with links from the Valuation Office Agency, (VOA), website to Cllr Wass when these become available.
- **Pedestrian Walkway:** The Chair stated that this is still being pursued.
- **St Andrews Road:** the hedge cutting has not yet been done.
- **Footpaths:** the P3 meeting is this coming Thursday and did not take place today as planned. Cllr Smith stated that the P3 Officer for Devon is very busy due to the fact that her boss and her deputy have been made redundant. Cllr Smith will report on this Thursday's meeting at the PC meeting in January. The footpath that leads from Coxs Hill farm to join the road below the kennels, ie in Brampford Speke, requires attention. The gate containing the public access is locked and pedestrians less than 6 ft tall will struggle to get through the section that can be opened. Footpath Officer to refer to Brampford Speke Parish Council. To be discussed at the meeting in January.

#### **293/13 Code of Conduct:** the Clerk gave an explanation to the Council:

- **Standing Orders:** the EDDC Standing Orders were adopted by the Parish Council in July 2012 and the Clerk confirmed this with EDDC. Also that the Register of Interests forms the Clerk sent at that time are with and remain with EDDC. The Clerk was informed by EDDC that the Standing Orders have not been revised as was originally understood and that therefore, there is no requirement for the Parish Council to adopt a new set of Standing Orders.
  - **Register of Interests:** The Clerk advised the Council that EDDC will be sending out reminders to councillors to advise them to contact EDDC if their circumstances have changed and there is a need to update their Register of Interests forms.
  - **The granting of Dispensation to speak and vote for the precept for the financial year 2014/15:** under the Localism Act Parish and Town Councils are now responsible for granting their own dispensations. They are able to delegate responsibility to the Clerk to contact the relevant authority, i.e. EDDC, to grant them dispensation. The Clerk asked for a formal resolution to be passed to enable her to do this. It was proposed and seconded that:
    - **'RESOLVE that the Parish Council delegates the power to grant dispensation to the Clerk. The power rests with the Parish Council as a relevant authority under section 33(1) of Localism Act 2011 and the basis on which a dispensation may be granted is set out in section 33(2) of the Act'**
- Resolution passed.**

**Please note:** As it was necessary for councillors to speak and vote on the precept at the

November meeting the Clerk has already asked EDDC to grant dispensation in advance of this resolution being passed. The Clerk has received a reply from the Monitoring Officer at EDDC granting dispensation for the setting of the Council tax or precept dating from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This certificate was shown to all.

### **294/13 Finance.**

To sanction payment of accounts:

- a. Clerk's wages for November 2013: £187.99 plus £10.00 Home Allowance = £197.99. Approved.
- b. Training courses for Councillors and Clerk noted.
- c. Ink cartridges: to reimburse the Clerk for costs: £31.00. Approved.
- d. Budget and Precept 2014/15: the Clerk handed round copies of the Budget forecast for councillors to consider. It was agreed that a decision on the Precept should be made at the meeting in January 2014 giving the councillors time to consider further any forthcoming projects for the coming financial year. In addition, the Clerk advised the Council that it would be prudent to ask for the same Precept the Council has received for the past two years and not to consider asking for one in line with the standard rate of inflation, which at present stands at 2%. This comes after discussions with the head of finance at EDDC. Therefore, it was agreed to defer the decision until January 2014.
- e. Reimburse the Chair £35.46 for the purchase of wood stain for the benches in the Village. Approved.
- f. The Clerk's extra hours: 8 hours: £68.32. This was for extra work in sorting the Council's finances and spreadsheets as well as preparing the Budget and Precept. Approved.
- g. Review of Clerk's salary increase: to discuss at the meeting in January.
- h. Signatories: the Clerk to arrange with Nat West Bank a change in two of the current signatories. To be discussed and agreed at the meeting in January.

### **295/13 Planning:**

- **Land South of Glebe Close:** The Chair explained the decision made by EDDC in recommending a refusal and that there is to be a meeting in Sidmouth tomorrow of the Management Development Committee to give their final decision on the application which will be reported back at the next Parish Council meeting.

**296/13 Rural Fair Share Petition:** The Chair stated that there was no deal here and that it is now no longer an Agenda item.

**297/13 Church of Cowley, St Anthony:** Cllrs Smith, B Short and I Short attended the open meeting last month. Cllr Smith said the PCC had received an offer to open an art centre here; there may be problems with access. The Parish Council agreed to await a planning application from EDDC.

**298/13 Stencils: (to discourage people from leaving dog waste):** the Chair said that it was agreed that the stencils were only to be used on the footpath access at Creedy Bridge and at the division of the footpath in Coxs Hill Farm lane.

**299/13 Highways Safety Awareness Training:** The Chair asked if anyone was able to attend, no one was available at this time.

**300/13 EDDC: Town and parish Councils Viewpoint Survey:** it was explained to councillors that this survey could be completed online and details were given.

**301/13 Communications/e: mails received for possible action:**

The Clerk made available all communications received.

It was pointed out that the Mobile Library Services were being stopped in some areas; however, Upton Pyne still has a service but the Chair advised people to make full use of it or lose it.

**302/13 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:** 13th January 2014

10<sup>th</sup> February 2014

10<sup>th</sup> March 2014

The meeting was closed at 9pm.