



UPTON BY CHESTER AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Upton by Chester and District Parish Council, held on Monday 01 March 2021, 7.30pm, via Microsoft Teams

Present: Cllr A Bennion, Cllr M Carter, Cllr J Egerton-Parry, Cllr T Egerton-Parry (Chairman), Cllr J Evans, Cllr J Houlbrook, Cllr G Hulmes, Cllr M Keenan, Cllr N Poulton, Cllr F Samuel, Cllr B Southward and Cllr B Walker.

In attendance: Suzi Bull (Clerk/Proper Officer) and 10 members of the public.

18.21 OPEN FORUM.

A resident of Upton Park attended the meeting to request he be kept informed of progress with the playground project. The resident has approached the Parish Council previously with concerns regarding noise and other intrusion from the young people using the playground.

The Chairman asked Members for approval to add an item in relation to Cllr Schmidt's report from the Sustainable Transport Task Force.

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Schmidt, along with an update from the STTF.

Resolved: The Clerk will circulate the update to Councillors.

19.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Booth, Cllr Bryan, Cllr Greenhalgh and Cllr Schmidt.

Resolved: noted.

20.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations were made.

21.21 COMMUNITY SAFETY.

No members of the local community police team were available to the meeting; a report on community safety was circulated to Councillors and posted on the website.

Resolved: Noted.

22.21 MINUTES.

Resolved: The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18 January 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.

Proposed by Cllr Houlbrook, seconded by Cllr Bennion. All agreed.

23.21 CLERK'S REPORT.

Resolved: The Clerk's report was received and noted.

24.21 COMMITTEE MINUTES.

Resolved: The Minutes of the committees held since the last meeting were received.

- Communications Committee 01 February.
Recommendation to approve the draft newsletter. The draft newsletter was not available for review and will be circulated for approval via email.
- QE II Sub-Committee 25 January and 22 February.
The Chairman reported that the grant application for the playground refurbishment will be submitted shortly.
A sum of £10,700 of Section 106 funds, associated with previous planning conditions, has been received from CW&C Council towards the playground project.
Progress is being made with the tennis courts project with plans for a full coaching program and liaison with the LTA ongoing.
- Finance Committee 02 February.
The Chairman reported that the Finance Committee will be considering additional and or improved sources of income.

25.21 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

It was reported that the steering group has benefitted from the professional services of a validation planning officer from Cheshire Community Action.

Resolved: The Chairman of the NDP Steering Group will provide a written update which will be circulated via email.

26.21 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

A written report was received from Cllr Houlbrook and circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Bryan was absent from the meeting due to ill health.

Resolved: Cllr Richard Beacham, CW&C Councillor and cabinet member, will be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting in April to discuss youth provision in Upton.

27.21 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS REPORTS.

Resolved: Accounts Reports for January were received. Payments approved and receipts and balances noted.

Proposed by Cllr Houlbrook, seconded by Cllr Egerton-Parry. All agreed.

28.21 PAVILION STAFF TRAINING.

Resolved: Two of the Pavilion staff will attend a training course to achieve a level 1 qualification as a Crown Green Bowls Coach. The cost of £130 for each person was approved.

29.21. WOODLAND CREATION SCHEME.

CW&C Council is looking for project sites for a joint enterprise with Mersey Forest to create woodlands.

Resolved: The Parish Council will register an interest in this project.

30.21 PARKING ON GRASS VERGES.

Members were asked to consider action to ensure that contractors restore grass verges to the original condition after completion of work to Upton properties.

Resolved: Correspondence will be sent to CW&C Council planning authority to request that enforcement action is taken to ensure that the grass verges are restored.

31.21 DEFIBRILLATORS IN TELEPHONE BOXES.

Members were asked to consider information regarding a project undertaken in other areas to convert redundant telephone boxes to housing for a defibrillator. In the event of this project being approved, the Parish Council would incur all initial costs to purchase items and ongoing maintenance costs.

Telephone boxes within the parish identified for potential conversion include those on Weston Grove and on the A41.

Resolved: The Parish Council will identify where defibrillators are currently sited in Upton. This item will be referred to the General Purposes Committee.

32.21 UPTON IN BLOOM.

Members were asked to consider a Parish Council led garden competition. The competition would include various categories to suit all.

Resolved: This item will be referred to the General Purposes Committee.

33.21 CORRESPONDENCE.

To receive and agree action on the following correspondence:

- Letter and email correspondence from Upton Park residents regarding flooding at the QE II playing field.

Resolved: The Parish Council will take necessary steps to investigate the situation, will take responsibility where it lies and act accordingly.

A site meeting will be arranged with CW&C Council flooding officers;

Councillors and interested parties will be notified of the meeting.

- Email correspondence regarding the tennis courts project.

Resolved: Councillors will feed back comments to the Clerk via email; the Clerk will form a reply based on factual details and consensus.

34.21 SANCTUARY HOUSING.

The Clerk reported that where liaison is required with Sanctuary Housing in relation to Upton residents and Parish Council land or business, it is very difficult to contact officers. Residents at Marl Heys have been waiting for some time for a response to correspondence which is delayed by the Clerk being unable to speak with a representative of Sanctuary Housing.

Resolved: The Parish Council will write to the Chief Executive of Sanctuary Housing to report the contact issues and request a direct line of communication.

35.21 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Resolved: The date and time of the next meeting will be on 12 April 2021 at 7.30pm.

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