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 11th September 2017, 7.00pm, at Upton Pavilion, Upton, Chester.

Present: Cllr T Bartliff, Cllr M Bryan, Cllr A Bennion, Cllr S Eardley, Cllr J Evans,

Cllr D Ford, Cllr J Lee, Cllr H McNae, Cllr A Paddock, Cllr F Samuel, Cllr K Vaughan and Cllr A Walmsley (Chairman).

In attendance: Mrs S Pollard (Clerk).

**101.17 OPEN FORUM.**

A resident attended the meeting to speak to the Parish Council about the 30 mph limit on Long Lane.

The resident would like an electronic (solar powered) flashing speed sign erected on Long Lane.

The cost of the sign will be £5,000 + VAT. Cllr Bryan has liaised with CW&C Highways who are prepared to pay half of the cost. Cllr Bryan and Cllr Houlbrook will each pay £500 from their respective Area Funds.

The Parish Council is requested to pay the remaining £1,500.

**Resolved: that this matter will be referred to the next General Purposes meeting for consideration.**

**102.17 COMMUNITY SAFETY.**

No one from the Community Safety Team was able to attend the meeting.

The latest Upton by Chester area police newsletter was available at the meeting.

The Parish Council had hoped to raise the issue of youth nuisance on the QEII playing field and in particular the use of legal high substances by young people on Parish Council property and the resulting litter hazards associated with the discarded canisters.

**Resolved: that a letter will be sent to the police Chief Superintendent to report the matter and to express the disappointment that the matter having been reported to local officers had not been included in the newsletter.**

**103.17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Houlbrook, Cllr M Lloyd, Cllr S Lloyd and Cllr Southward.

**Resolved: that the apologies for absence be noted.**

**104.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations of interest were made.

**105.17 MINUTES.**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**Proposed by Cllr Bennion, seconded by Cllr Evans.**

**106.17 CLERK’S REPORT.**

It was further reported that the proposed Social Media Policy has been drafted by the clerk and submitted to the Chairman for comments.

**Resolved: that the draft Social Media Policy will be referred to the Communications Committee and the remainder of the Clerk’s Report be noted.**

**107.17 COMMITTEE MINUTES.**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the committees held since the last meeting were received:**

Employment Committee 10th July.

Communications Committee 10th July.

Finance Committee 24th July.

General Purposes Committee 24th July.

Planning Committee 4th September.

General Purposes Committee 4th September.

Finance Committee meeting on 18th September – it was further reported that work on the draft Sponsorship Policy is in hand and will be circulated shortly. A working party meeting to discuss school hire charges will take place on Monday 18th September at 6pm.

**108.17 WORKING PARTIES.**

There are currently no working parties to report on.

The next NDP meeting will take place on Monday 26th September; it was reported that work on the written policies is ongoing. Members of the NDP Steering Group will be providing information at the Fun Day.

**109.17 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS REPORTS**.

**Resolved: that the payment of salaries and expenses, payment of invoices for goods and services rendered were approved and the receipts and balances noted.**

**Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr McNae.**

**110.17 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS.**

It was noted and agreed that grass verges in Upton (and elsewhere) are poorly maintained; an apparently reduced schedule along with an unsatisfactory end result due to the grass cuttings being left to blow around the pavements and highway.

A discussion on the variety of shops now available at Weston Grove took place, it was acknowledged that shops continue to close and remain empty. There is a concern that there are now too many take away/ fast food shops which are open late at night, causing noise and traffic nuisance in the neighbourhood.

In addition it was thought that the lack of variety to the retail on offer would not service the community and would deter new retailers from taking the empty units.

**Resolved: that a letter will be sent to CW&C Street Scene regarding the poor standard of grass cutting services.**

**Weston Grove shop owners will be contacted via the NDP steering group, to invite them to the next NDP meeting.**

**The remainder of the Borough Councillors’ Reports were received and noted.**

**111.17 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME.**

The Chairman reported on a meeting recently attended.

**Resolved: that the Parish Council approves the proposal to register for and work towards achieving ‘Quality’ status under the Local Council Award Scheme.**

**112.17 BACHE HALL ESTATE.**

No further information has been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the Parish Council request that the nationally recorded crime statistics for the Countess of Chester Hospital be separated from the residential area of the Bache Hall Estate.

It was noted that there were no crime figures for the COCH recorded in the latest Upton by Chester police newsletter.

**Resolved: that a letter will be sent to the P&CC to request an update on any action taken.**

**113.17 CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS ANNUAL MEETING.**

**Resolved: that the motion to be put at the ChALC AGM will be as per the Minute of the Parish Council meeting 20th February (“lack of sanctions available for use when the Code of Conduct is contravened’’).**

**Cllr Evans and the clerk will write a fuller and more contextual version to submit to ChALC.**

**114.17 LOCAL COUNCIL EXCELLENCE AWARDS EVENING.**

A Local Council Excellence Awards evening is to be held where good work within Parish Councils will be recognised. There are several categories; Members considered which, if any of the categories UPC may submit an entry to.

**Resolved: that UPC will submit an entry to the ‘Effective Communication’ category, supported by the new website and the newsletter.**

**115.17 BOWLING MATCH.**

**Resolved: that the Parish Council bowling team that will play against Upton Bowling Club on 21st September at 5.00pm will consist of:**

**Cllr Bennion, Cllr Samuel, Cllr Houlbrook, Darren Flaherty and Peter Griffiths.**

**Refreshments will be available.**

**116.17 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**

**Resolved: that all members of the Parish Council are members of the Planning Committee and therefore apologies for absence must be given to each meeting.**

**The Chairman of the Parish Council will automatically be the Chairman of the Planning Committee.**

**117.17 INVITATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS.**

**The following correspondence was considered:**

* A letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding ‘Our Conversation with Policing and Crime’.

Resolved: no further action.

* A letter from the British Legion regarding this year’s Remembrance Parade.

**Resolved: that the Chairman will attend the Remembrance Parade and lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.**

* An invitation from Churches Together to enter a Parish Council team into the Annual Quiz, to be held on 13th October.

**Resolved: that the Parish Council will enter a quiz team consisting of**

**Cllr Walmsley, Cllr Evans, David Evans and Cllr Houlbrook.**

* Information received from The Local Government Boundary Commission for England regarding the draft recommendations for the Electoral Review of Cheshire West and Chester.

The recommendation is to retain two ward members for the electoral ward of Upton with only a minor boundary change to include Plas Newton Lane.

**Resolved: that the Parish Council will submit a comment to the consultation to support the recommendation. The clerk will note that a review of the parish boundary should be included on a future agenda.**

**118.17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

**Resolved: that the date and time of the next meeting will be on Monday 30th October at 7.00pm.**

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