



UPTON BY CHESTER AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Upton Pavilion
Wealstone Lane
Upton
Chester
CH2 1HD
07584415343

Email: clerk@uptonbychester.org.uk



Minutes of the meeting of Upton by Chester and District Parish Council, held on Monday 17 May 2021, 7.30pm, United Reformed Church, Heath Road, Upton.

Present: Cllr S Booth, Cllr M Bryan (arrived at 8.35pm), Cllr M Carter, Cllr T Egerton-Parry (Chairman), Cllr J Evans, Cllr P Greenhalgh, Cllr J Houlbrook, Cllr G Hulmes, Cllr M Keenan (arrived at 7.45), Cllr N Poulton, Cllr F Samuel, Cllr J Schmidt and Cllr B Walker.

In attendance: Cllr C Gahan, Cllr R Beacham, Graham Pink (CW&C Council - via Teams), Suzi Bull (Clerk/Proper Officer), and 4 members of the public.

55.21 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN.

A nomination was received for Cllr Tom Egerton-Parry, proposed by Cllr Houlbrook, seconded by Cllr Evans.

No further nominations were received.

Resolved: that Cllr Tom Egerton-Parry is appointed Chairman of the Parish Council unopposed.

56.21 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

Resolved: that the elected Chairman signed the Chairman's Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Proper Officer (Clerk).

57.21 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

A nomination was received for Cllr Matt Carter, proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Poulton.

A further nomination was received for Cllr Alison Bennion, proposed by Cllr Houlbrook, seconded by Cllr Tom Egerton-Parry.

Vote: for Cllr Bennion – 6.

Vote: for Cllr Carter – 5.

Resolved: that Cllr Bennion is appointed Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

58.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bennion, Cllr J Egerton-Parry and Cllr Southward.

Resolved: noted.

59.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Resolved: No declarations of interest were made.

The Chairman proposed that UPC Standing Orders be suspended for agenda item 6 (Minute no: 60.21). All agreed.

60.21 UPTON YOUTH CLUB.

Cllr Carol Gahan, Cabinet Member for Finance and Graham Pink, Director of Property, CW&C Council (via Teams), along with Cllr Richard Beacham, Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration, CW&C were welcomed to the meeting. Information on the background, process and current status of the sale of the former youth club building was provided.

In summary the following points were made:

- The decision by CW&C Council to market the building was based on the assessment of 'no operational need'.
- CW&C Council (and all public bodies) is required to seek 'best value' for all transactions.
- There was an original failure of the running of the youth club, along with the trustees not wanting to continue.
- An opportunity has arisen that may result in a new use for the site; additional funding for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) has been made available from central government. A one-off capital grant of £1,000,000.
- The opportunity above was not present when the building was put on the open market and bidding commenced.
- Dorin Park School has expressed an interest in this funding to make provision for older pupils with special needs, offering lessons and instruction in 'life skills' in preparation for leaving school.
- CW&C Council has 'paused' the sale of the building.
- A feasibility study to assess the suitability of the building/site for use by a SEND project will be undertaken and will take a few months.
- If Dorin Park (or other public body) took over the building, there may be opportunities to use the building out of hours for other community projects/groups.
- A member of the Parish Council working on the committee set up to provide a new youth club in Upton, supported by the Parish Council, stated that the committee is working hard to reinstate an exciting new provision for young people in Upton.
- All parties who have submitted an informal tender for the youth club building will be thanked and kept informed of progress.
- It was agreed by CW&C Councillors that the Upton community could have been kept better informed.
- It was confirmed by the Parish Council that it had not had a vision for the site or looked at opportunities but instead has directed its efforts to supporting the development of new youth provision including through funding and Parish Councillors.

Resolved: noted.

61.21 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (Localism Act 2011).

- i. Electoral mandate – minimum two thirds of the Council elected.

ii. That the Clerk holds a nationally recognised qualification.

Resolved: The Parish Council meets the criteria as listed above and adopts the GPoC.

62.21 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

Resolved: The following representatives to the outside bodies listed were approved:

Upton Youth Club Committee – Cllr Carter, Cllr Houlbrook, Cllr Keenan, Cllr Poulton and Cllr Walker (all named councillors are also trustees of the new youth club with the exception of Cllr Houlbrook).

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Cllr Bryan.

Sustainable Transport Task Force (observation/reporting only) – Cllr Keenan.

Other outside bodies as agreed – none.

63.21. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

Resolved: Membership to Parish Council Committees and Sub-Committees listed will be confirmed to the Clerk via email:

64.21 DELEGATED POWERS.

Resolved: The Clerk will have the delegated powers necessary to ensure Parish Council operations may continue in the absence of decisions made at Parish Council meetings.

65.21 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING AND ALL OTHER MEETINGS.

Resolved: The date and time of the next meeting will be on Monday 14 June at 7.30pm.

The date and time of Parish Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings for the period 2021/22 were approved.