



# 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 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 7.30pm, at Upton Pavilion, Wealstone Lane, Upton, Chester.**

**Present:** Cllr Bennion, Cllr Bryan, Cllr Carter, Cllr T Egerton-Parry (Chairman), Cllr Evans, Cllr Houlbrook, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Samuel and Cllr Walker.

**In attendance:** Deborah Jones, Clerk/Proper Officer (acting), PCSO Beth George and 6 members of the public.

## **143.22 OPEN FORUM.**

Members of the public raised the following issues:

A resident adjacent to the Chemistry Pits playing field voiced issues occurring over recent weeks, such as verbal abuse, which has worsened over the last 6 months. This involves a group of young people, of 10 or more.

Another resident informed the Parish Council that there is often glass outside the back of this his house. Has felt Intimidated by the group's behaviour, that there is no respect or boundaries.

This resident feels unsafe and concerned for personal safety and that of his property. This has been recently reported to the Parish Council and the police. It is felt that the wooded area of the playing field is used as a hiding place.

This was supported by another resident, who assists in clearing up the litter and maintaining a clean area. This resident has suffered verbal abuse and stones/bricks being thrown at his conservatory.

**Item 15 was brought forward – to allow the PCSO to comment.**

- A member of the Parish Council has recently undertaken a review and it is suggested to cutting down of the wild area down to ground level. This would make it easier to remove litter.
- Move to put a line in the budget to support contracted, also suggests the gates to be locked.
- It was reported that some funding is set aside for improvement and maintenance at Chemistry Pits.
- The area approaching the entrance from Heath Road is over-grown.
- Members of the public were thanked for their contribution to resolving the issues.
- It was suggested that the young people might just move to another area of the playground.
- It may be possible to carry out 'flood relief planting' which also has the benefit of helping with waterlogging.
- It was noted that impact of planting more trees has the potential to worsen issues by providing hidden areas.
- It was commented that if the playing gates were to be locked overnight, determined people could still gain access.
- It was suggested that the previously discussed 'friends of chemistry pits group' may be reconsidered.
- Members were asked to consider how a potential key-holder could enforce late users to the playing field; a similar issue in the Arradon Court Area had resulted in a gate remaining unlocked for most of the time.

The issue of what was being done by the police in order to stop the anti-social behaviour was raised; PCSO Beth George stated that there had been nine police reports in last 30 days, several social media posts from the police, a crime report to the Parish Council. In addition, a crime officer has reviewed the situation and made suggestions such as locking the playing field entrance gates, cutting down trees, create a more obvious walkway, more use of the area as a sports facility, remove tree stumps.

Action taken by the police recently includes siting the mobile CCTV unit on the playing field for a limited period. Some of the offenders have been identified from photographs. The PCSO has attended at Upton High School and carried out home-visits to the young people involved.

It was reported that the parents are 'shocked and the children are remorseful and have suffered consequences'.

The PCSO continued to report that a 'Dispersal Order' is also an option but that this has to be agreed at 'Police Inspector level' and requires constant resourcing.

### **Resolved:**

### **The following items were agreed:**

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- To carry out a regular programme of maintenance.
- Activate a form of resolution with parents and teachers/schools.
- CCTV will be in place in the short-term.
- A solution to the misuse of apples from a quince tree on Cotebrook Drive will be reviewed by CW&C Council.
- Consider removing a concrete slab at Chemistry Pits.
- Consider hosting a community event on the playing field.
- Inclusion of an additional litter bin.

#### **144.22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Booth, Cllr Greenhalgh, Cllr Poulton, Cllr Keenan, Cllr Hulme, Cllr J Egerton-Parry and Cllr Southward.

**Resolved: the apologies were noted.**

#### **145.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **146.22 COMMUNITY SAFETY.**

The Parish Council welcomed PCSO Beth George to the meeting and received a report on crime in Upton.

A further report was made of suspicious activity in the Caughall Road area where persons were trying to enter houses by trying back doors during the night.

Local Police Surgery dates will be provided to the Clerk. An outdoor surgery will take place at Chemistry Pits and will be advertised by the PCSO.

PCSO George left the meeting along with three residents at 20.00.

**Resolved: That the crime report was noted.**

#### **147.22 MINUTES.**

**Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26 September 2022 will be amended as follows:**

**The item relating to voting on page 4 will be amended to 8 in favor, none against and 1 abstention.**

**Money for the Remembrance Day is not from the community pride budget but is from the ward budget.**

**The amended Minutes will be brought back to the next meeting for approval. Proposed by Cllr Houlbrook, seconded by Cllr Bennion. All agreed.**

#### **148.22 CLERK'S REPORT.**

**Resolved: That the report from the Clerk on action taken on resolutions made at the last meeting is noted.**

#### **149.22 COMMITTEE MINUTES.**

**Resolved: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 26 September were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**Apologies to be added from Cllr Houlbrook for the planning meeting.**

**Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Bennion. All Agreed.**

#### **150.22 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.**

A written report from Cllr Houlbrook was received and circulated. It was further reported that a response from the case officer for the Gamekeeper pub site in Newhall Road is still with the legal team; Cllr Houlbrook is currently following-up on this issue.

It was commented on 'an excellent and interesting report'.

Cllr Bryan gave a verbal update and will forward the written report to the Clerk.

**Resolved: That the Borough Councillors' reports were received and noted.**

#### **151.22 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS REPORTS.**

See Appendix A below.

**Resolved: That payment of invoices for goods and services rendered were approved; receipts and details of current balances were noted.**

**Proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Houlbrook. All Agreed.**

NB: During this item it was noted that it is not possible to access reports via the Parish Council website (as previously reported to the website developer).

**Resolved: That the Clerk will follow-up on this issue. Dates for General Purposes Committee meetings will be re-issued.**

#### **152.22 BUDGET 2023/24.**

Members were requested to consider the expected operational and capital costs for the next financial year, relevant to Committees and proposed projects. This information will be received by the Finance Committee on 31 October.

**Resolved: Noted.**

#### **153.22 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PLANNING COMMITTEE.**

The UPC Planning Committee is to be dissolved and a new committee will be formed; the Neighbourhood Plan and Planning Committee.

**Resolved: That membership of the group is approved as follows:**

**Cllr Jean Evans**

**Cllr Jenkins**

**Cllr Bennion**

**A discussion with interested residents will take place.**

**The Clerk will set a schedule of meetings for the new committee with the first meeting to deal with Terms of Reference.**

#### **154.22 COMMUNITY EVENT.**

Members received an update on the progress of the community event to be held on 22 October 2022.

Members discussed advertising wider afield, however the consensus was that the event was for local people rather than advertising further.

**Resolved: Noted.**

#### **155.22 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER RECEPTION.**

Members were asked to consider hosting a small event for Upton community volunteers and if agreed, to approve costs.

It was acknowledged that this matter requires careful thought in order not to disadvantage anyone.

It could be taken forward but there could be many ways of undertaking such a venture.

**Resolved: That this matter would be further discussed. Costs will be put into the next budget. This item will be referred to the General Purposes Committee.**

#### **156.22 COMMUNITY ORCHARD SCHEME.**

The Parish Council has been invited to express an interest in a project to create a community orchard.

**Resolved: It was noted that community orchard schemes are valued but consideration about how to deal with the fruit and the opportunity to use the fruit for community groups etc. need to be further discussed. This item will be referred to the General Purposes Committee.**

#### **157.22 CHEMISTRY PITS.**

The Parish Council considered further correspondence received from residents adjacent to Chemistry Pit regarding anti-social behaviour.

**Resolved: 143.22**

#### **158.22 RESIDENTS' AWARD SCHEME.**

Members received a proposal for the Parish Council to create and manage a 'Community Award Scheme' to recognise community-minded individuals in Upton.

**This item was discussed at Minute no:155.22**

**Resolved: That this will be further considered, to include possible award categories. Referred to the General Purposes Committee.**

#### **159.22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

**Resolved: That the date and time of the next meeting will be on 14 November 2022 at 7.30pm.**

**This meeting closed at 20.40 hrs**

# RECEIPTS, PAYMENTS AND BALANCES - SEPTEMBER 2022

## MINS APPENDIX 1

### **PAYMENTS**

#### **Admin**

Microsoft	11.28
The Heath Yclub	206.00
The Heath Yclub	1000.00
The Heath Yclub	1000.00
Repay D Jones	28.00
Repay D Jones	75.00
C Jones	50.00
Yorkshire Bank	39.27
SumUp	26.69
GoCardless	0.93
Stripe	49.67

#### **Employment**

Salaries/Pen/HMRC	6406.21
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#### **Environment**

Botanica Landscape	1798.75
Newton Landscapes	370.00

#### **Facilities**

Initial Rentokil	26.92
Essell Cleaning Supp	79.06
L Lewis	251.6

#### **Projects**

Surfacelux Ltd	16034.40
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#### **Utilities**

Bulb Energy	623.59
Water Plus	28.84
BT	27.37

### **PETTY CASH EXP**

Tesco	2.55
Costco	43.20
Costco	132.39
Flag	119.94
Tesco	3.30
Tesco	3.30
Fee	1.99
Morrisons	5.98
Costco	44.09

### **RECEIPTS**

SumUp	1585.55
GoCardless	24.00
Stripe	856.00
Room Hire	216.00
Grant	500.00
Bank Credit	1.36
Bank Credit	0.05
UJFC	3148.50
Cash Receipts	950.55
Bank Interest	48.30

### **BALANCES**

Yorkshire Bank	<b>144,289.14</b>
Petty Cash	<b>282.08</b>

