

## Upwell Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the virtual meeting of Upwell Parish Assembly, Monday 8th March 2021, 6.30pm

Those Present: Cllr. Williams, Cllr. Lester, Cllr. Lowe, Cllr. Aston, Cllr. Shorting, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Mercer, Cllr. Rose, Cllr. Melton, Cllr Gooch, Cllr Carr, BCLlr Spikings, County Cllr H. Humphrey, Clerk M Hilton, Cllr A. Harrison joined at 18.45pm

Public: sixteen

Apologies : none

### MINUTES

1. **Welcome and consider apologies:** There were no apologies.

2. **The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

### 3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

No declarations of pecuniary interests or any conflicts were given for any item. The Chair will consider items as they come up in the public forum.

### 4. **Agree the minutes of the meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.**

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Councillor Melton and seconded by Councillor Lester.

### 5. **To receive report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The chairman read his report and it is on the website in full to read.

### 6. **To receive a report from our Borough Councillors**

- Borough Councillor Spikings thanked the binmen for going the extra mile during winter. There is a new bin contract coming in 2021. Sports facilities will be opening again soon. A report was submitted and is on the website to read.
- Borough Councillor Rose submitted his report and it is on the website to read.

### 7. **To receive a report from our County Councillor**

County Councillor Humphrey submitted a report and it is on the website to read. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Humphrey for his continuous hard work throughout his service. Cllr Humphrey is to retire later this year.

### 8. **To receive a report from the Chairman of the Cemetery working group**

Councillor Melton submitted a report and it is on the website to read. He thanked Councillor Carr for all the work he has completed at the Cemetery, Cllr Carr recently stepped down as Chair of the Cemetery working group. Councillor Melton also thanked the hard-working volunteers. The Cemetery looks fantastic. The trial period of the Parish Council running the Cemetery comes to an end in August 2021, when the Council need to plan whether to take the Cemetery on a permanent basis. Any feedback from parishioners would be gratefully received.

### 9. **To receive the Chairs and Treasurer's report for Upwell Hall**

Report was circulated to the Council and is on the website.

### 10. **Receive other reports from community representatives and organisations**

- Police PC Anderton, no report was received

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- Upwell Paying Field: Councillor Aston reported that nothing much had happened due to Covid-19. The carpark has been tarmacked and Councillor Aston thanked the Blunt Family Trust for their donation towards this. The committee are looking forward to fund raising this year after lockdown ends.

### 11. Open Forum –the Chairman gave parishioners three minutes each to speak.

The change of use planning application for the Five Bells was discussed. Main objections were:

- This goes against the Upwell Neighbourhood plan
- An illegal change of use
- Should have been on the market for a 12-month period
- It is an attractive pub in village centre
- Owner should have followed DM9 (planning policy)
- Visiting boat crews using the mooring use the pub
- Local shops will lose trade as the boaters will not stop at the pub

One parishioner has written to the chief executive regarding issues with the change of use.

Another topic was Squires Drove Three Holes, a planning application for five new residences. (Upwell Parish Council are not consultees for this application)

Main issues are:

- The wrong address is on the application.
- Road is not capable of taking any more traffic.
- Wildlife needs to be considered
- Broadband is already very slow here
- Water pressure is already low and cannot take more residents. The Fire brigade could not recently get water from the hydrants. Borough Councillor Spikings is already dealing with the issues.

The Chair of Lakes End Village Hall thanked the Borough and Parish Councillors for their continued help with the sewage issues in the village. She will also be applying for a grant to cut the playing field grass.

The Chair then read the following statement:

Response to Concerns about the 5 Bells Planning Application

The Parish Council is only a consultee on planning applications, it is the Borough Council who are the decision makers and to whom, generally, representations from the public should be addressed.

The Planning working group makes their recommendation on the basis of its understanding of planning guidance and material matters for consideration. The Council has received guidance from the Planning Officers on many occasions asking us to limit our opinions within these confines.

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This application is included on this evening's agenda and members of the council may choose to seek to add further comment to the working group's submission. However, these may well be matters of opinion as opposed to material matters under planning guidance. A matter of opinion may or may not be taken note of during the Borough Councils deliberations on the application.

The Parish Council had no prior knowledge of the application before we received the notification from the Borough Council on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The fact that one of the applicants is a serving Parish Councillor is not relevant to our decision making process, that Councillor has a conflict of interest and is not allowed to influence the decision, he will be asked to leave the zoom meeting later when the item is discussed by the council.

The planning notice issued to the Parish Council required our comments to be made by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. We complied with this deadline hence our Planning Group having expressed an opinion prior to this Council meeting.

Thank you to all members of the public who have commented or questioned us on this matter.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

**Signed by the Chairman .....** **Date .....**

**Note forwarded after the meeting Cllr K. Harrison was unable to get onto the meeting.**