

UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual Zoom meeting of Upleadon Parish Council held on Thursday 10 September 2020 at 7.45 pm.

Present:- Cllr H Dunn (Chair), Cllr Mrs W Fabian, Cllr Mrs P Cooke, Cllr P Dallow, Cllr Mrs P Turner, Cllr E Wood

Cllr M Manning joined the meeting by phone

Also present: District Cllr P Burford

There was one member of the public present

Public participation

None

3.00 Apologies

There were no apologies

3.1 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were made by Cllr Dunn in Agenda item 8.1 Planning application – P1140/20/FUL Hearn's cottage, Forge Lane, Upleadon, and by Cllr Mrs Cooke in Agenda item 8.3 Parish Council website amalgamation and compliance with WCAG 2.1 regulations.

3.2 Approval of Minutes – Council meeting 21 May 2020

Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting of 21 May 2020 was proposed by Cllr Dallow, seconded by Cllr Mrs Fabian and unanimously agreed.

3.3 Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that whilst there had been no apologies declared at the meeting, Cllr Wood had subsequently written to the Clerk advising he had been unable to attend due to connectivity issues.

3.4 Approval of Minutes – Council meeting 9 July 2020

Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting of 9 July 2020 was proposed by Cllr Mrs Turner, seconded by Cllr Mrs Cooke and unanimously agreed.

3.5 Matters Arising

Cllr Dunn advised that the overgrown hedge had now been resolved.

3.6 Correspondence

3.6.1 Glos Assoc Parish & Town Council – AGM 9 December 2020 6.30 pm (virtual meeting) – invitation to submit a resolution for debate

Members declined to submit a resolution.

3.6.2 SARA – Grant application

Advise they are facing a huge gap in their fundraising this year due to not being able to hold their collection events, running a stand at local events and school open days and providing first aid cover for local sporting events due to Covid-19. SARA costs around £130,000 per year to operate. With all of the normal face to face events cancelled they are looking at a gap this year of between £50,000 and £100,000. Within Gloucestershire SARA has lifeboat and rescue stations at Tewkesbury, Sharpness and Beachley. Overall they have 180 volunteers on call every day and each year they respond to well over 100 callouts including missing person searches on land, lifeboat callouts on the Severn, cliff and steep ground rescues and everything inbetween. They deployed flood teams on 29 occasions in the three weeks following Storm Dennis in February.

SARA asked if Upleadon Parish Council would support SARA with a donation of £100. They have a number of projects which would benefit from funding support as well as ongoing operational costs.

Cllr Manning proposed the Council give a grant of £50.00 at this time and to consider a further amount at the end of the financial year when Grant applications are normally considered. This was seconded by Cllr Dallow and unanimously agreed.

3.7 Finance

3.7.1 Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Fabian proposed acceptance of the Bank reconciliation, which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Cooke and unanimously agreed.

3.8 Business

3.8.1 To give consideration to Planning application P1140/20/FUL Hearn's Cottage, Forge Lane, Upleadon – Erection of a two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, porch and detached garage/car port. Change of use of agricultural land to additional residential curtilage. Demolition of existing garage

Cllr Dunn left the meeting at this point. The Deputy Chairman – Cllr Manning chaired the meeting for this item of business.

Cllr Manning proposed No Objection to the application which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Turner and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Dunn returned to the meeting.

3.8.2. To give consideration to Planning application P1355/20/FUL The Homestead, Gloucester Road, Upleadon – Proposed two storey extension

Cllr Mrs Fabian proposed No Objection which was seconded by Cllr Dallow which was unanimously agreed but also pointing out that the floor plans show Velux in gable, however the elevation plans do not show them.

- 3.8.3 To give consideration of Parish Council website amalgamating with Village website thus reducing web/email hosting costs and to compliance with WCAG 2.1 regulations and related costings thereto.

Cllr Mrs Cooke left the meeting at this point.

Prior to the meeting Members were furnished with a quotation from the Council's website providers to make the Council's website compliant with WCAG 2.1 regulations which were coming into force on 23 September 2020. This was in the region of £400. In addition following the Council having taken on the modest cost of web hosting and email domain for the Village website and the on-going substantially higher costs of web hosting and email domain for the Council's own website, the Administrator of the Village website suggested the Council may wish to combine its webpages with that on the Village website thereby incurring just one cost and making a saving for the Council in excess of £100 per year at current fees. The Administrator of the Village website put forward a paper setting out in detail the proposals for both amalgamating the websites and making the website WCAG 2.1 compliant which he would be prepared to undertake in the interests of the village. Both of these procedures would be undertaken free of any charge and therefore at zero cost to the Council.

The Clerk furnished Members with a document issued by Glos Assoc & Parish Council summarising the Government guidance regarding making websites compliant with WCAG 2.1 regulations. The document stated that "if there is no-one in your organisation with the skills to audit the content of the Council's website and to check that functionality is WCAG 2.1 AA compliant, it can pay a third party to do a detailed audit instead. If the Council's organisation is very small it might wish to find a volunteer with a basic knowledge of website to help you."

Discussion took place regarding the proposals. Cllr Dunn invited the Administrator who was present at the meeting to speak and to answer any questions Members might have. The Administrator outlined the proposals.

One Member was concerned that if the Administrator was no longer for whatever reason able to continue to support the Council with the website, it would be in difficulty. The Administrator did not anticipate this would happen but in the unlikely event he no longer supported the website, he would find a successor.

Cllr Wood proposed the status quo stating the Council had discussed this matter before and that it needed to be independent.

District Cllr advised that Corse and Hartpury Parish Councils were considering the WCAG 2.1 regulations and that he would put the Clerk of those Parishes in touch with Upleadon with regard to their progress/actions in this matter.

Cllr Wood stated he wished to withdraw his earlier proposition. He put a further proposition that further information be sought with Corse and Hartpury Parish Councils with regard to how they were complying with the WCAG 2.1 regulations and that it be brought back to the next meeting of the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Dallow and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Mrs Cooke returned to the meeting.

3.8.4 Hills Ford Three Stage Rally – Sunday 5 September 2021 – consultation

Members considered the proposed details of the Rally in 2021. Cllr Dallow proposed No Objection which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fabian and unanimously agreed.

3.8.5 Forest of Dean District Council – Climate change meeting – Cllr Mrs Fabian

Given the time constraints on the meeting, Cllr Mrs Fabian proposed this matter be deferred to the next meeting when she would produce a short report on the meeting she had attend on this matter.

3.8.6 Highway issues

Cllr Mrs Cooke reported a large pothole in the vicinity of property known as Ridgeway at Eden's Hill. This to be reported to the Highway Authority.

3.8.7 It was agreed that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 3 December.

3.8.8 Any other business

Members were reminded of a Government White Paper forwarded to them regarding Planning reform – a consultation with a closing date of 29 October 2020. This to be considered at a special meeting – Cllrs Mrs Turner, Mrs Cooke, Mrs Fabian, Cllr Dunn to consider the document in detail with regard to highlighting points to Members for comment.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.36 pm.