

UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Upleadon Parish Council held on Thursday 02 March 2023 at Upleadon Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr M Manning (Chairman), Cllr E Wood, Cllr H Dunn, Cllr Mrs P Turner, Cllr Mrs W Fabian, Cllr P Dallow, Cllr T Rickard

Apologies: Cllr District Cllr B Lewis

Also Present: District Cllr P Burford, Cllr Mrs G Moseley

There were 3 members of the public present

- 9.00 Public Representation. Cheltenham Motor Club - Keith Richings, Clerk of Course, Kevin Smith, Event Director and Elaine Ward, Secretary of the Meeting - representatives and organisers of the 3 Shires Stages Rally on 16/17 September 2023 were present together with three members of the public.

Members of the public were invited to speak.

A member of the public voiced concerns about the Rally:-

Local roads are not suited to fast rally driving - this is not their purpose nor should it be.

The Rally prevents the quiet enjoyment of residents' property. We will have to listen to brakes screeching, engines growling, exhausts backfiring and farting throughout the day. The local topography provides an ideal parabolic reflector effectively magnifying this sound track. The Rally noise pollution adversely affects wildlife, farm and domestic animals.

The Rally generates air pollution which we smell.

The road closures throughout the day severely restrict resident's free movement and that of local walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and other motorists. It will also severely curtail Sunday social visits within the neighbourhood.

The Rally overlaps sections of the Newent Cycling Loop, a leisure route featured online at Newentloop.org through Gloucestershire's 'quiet country roads and lanes'. This will effectively be out-of-bounds for those wishing to cycle on either the 19 miles or 28 miles signed Loop. Sunday is a popular day for recreational and family cycle rides but that will be denied them. Local businesses normally benefitting from the Loop will also suffer.

There are dedicated race tracks throughout the country which are suitable for Rally driving and where CMC would be welcome. Here the Rally is frankly divisive.

At a time when the adverse effects on health from noxious fumes are well-known and there's a climate crisis, the consumption of fossil fuel in this way seems wholly inappropriate.

Another member of the public stated the letter that had been delivered to his address by Cheltenham Motor Club did not make it clear if the Rally was going past his house. He questioned if a precedent had been set for the route/frequency of the Rally and agreed with the previous speaker's concerns.

A third member of the public stated the Rally had a negative impact on his holiday cottages where occupants wanted to get out and about, as he did to attend to livestock in other areas.

In answer to questions/comments made Cheltenham Motor Club advised that they had started to look at other areas to stage the Rally, however this was a massive undertaking in finding suitable areas. With regard to noise and pollution, there are very strict regulations and test procedures carried out. Cars have to pass MOT and the requirements within the test appertaining to emissions. Cars driven too fast will be out of the Rally, it is not a race. The Rally is made up of professional teams. Emergency procedures are in place.

The Road Closure is from 6.00 am until 8.00 pm and signs are put out following authorisation from Gloucestershire County Council.

Cllr Dunn reiterated problems when the Rally last went through the village of Upleadon and whilst lots of people within the village liked to see and were very positive about the Rally it had to be done properly. The road was opened too soon and it was very dangerous for those who were still removing straw bales.

Cheltenham Motor Club advised that a new team was now in place – those now involved including security guards had lots more experience and a vast improvement will now be seen. The team will be briefed regarding the concerns raised.

Cllr Mrs Turner reiterated concerns raised prior to the last Rally that other villages in the surrounding areas of Upleadon need to have prior knowledge that the roads around Upleadon would be closed. Liaison need to be done further away than it would appear has been done previously. Cheltenham Motor Club gave reassurance that they would undertake this and also to undertake a post mortem after the event if required to highlight any concerns that may be raised with any aspect of the event.

Cllr Rickard stated he had studied the safety map but did not understand it as there was no key. Cheltenham Motor Club to send key to map to Clerk.

Cheltenham Motor Club were thanked by the Chairman for attending the meeting.

9.1 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of interest

9.2 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting 1 December 2022

Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting of 1 December 2022 was proposed by Cllr Mrs Fabian, seconded by Cllr Dallow and unanimously agreed.

9.3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

9.4 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting (Planning) 12 January 2023

Approval of the Minutes of the Council of 12 January 2023 was proposed following deletion of Cllr Mrs Fabian as being present by Cllr Dallow seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed.

9.5 Finance/Sundry Payments and Bank Reconciliation

Upleadon Village Hall – 5 meetings @ £10.00 £50.00

Clerk's salary 20022/23 £1694.17

HMRC £384.40

Cllr Dallow proposed approval of the Finance/Sundry payments which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Turner and unanimously agreed.

Members noted the Bank reconciliation and the balance of the Council's bank account as at 30 January 2023.

9.6 Correspondence

9.6.1 Motorsport UK – consultation on 3 Shires Stages Rally – 16/17 September 2023

Whilst concerns were raised about various aspects of the Rally in the public session, Cllr Mrs Fabian stated that many people were in support of and very much enjoyed the Rally. Cllr Rickard advised that a survey had been undertaken of residents' views of the Rally in Oxenhall and suggested that a similar survey be undertaken in Upleadon. It was however accepted that such an exercise was not feasible due to the need to respond to Motorsport UK consultation in the next few days. It was ultimately agreed to reiterate the Council's concerns highlighted at the last Motorsport UK consultation particularly in terms of safety which was considered paramount, especially at the end of the day when roads are re-opened. A response be requested to Council's comments. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Fabian, seconded by Cllr Dallow and unanimously agreed.

9.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) – Call for Sites 2023

It was agreed to advertise the document on the Council's website/notice board to raise awareness and also to review the boundary of the village envelope at the next meeting.

9.7 Business

9.7.1 To give consideration to appointment of Internal Auditor 2022/23 End of Year Accounts

The Clerk advised that Mr Chris Fearn had confirmed in writing that he would be prepared to undertake the End of Year Accounts for the period 2022/23. Cllr proposed approval, seconded by Cllr Mrs Turner, seconded by Cllr Rickard and unanimously agreed.

9.7.2 Maintenance plan for refurbished footpath – Gloucester Road/Forge Lane

The Clerk advised that she had consulted with the Council's insurers with regard to cover for Members' volunteering to maintain the recently refurbished path. It had been confirmed by the Insurers that Members would be covered under Public Liability insurance subject to domestic type machinery being used, the wearing of PPE and that relevant risk assessments relating to personal safety, and that of the general public be completed by those undertaking the work. The Clerk advised that she had contacted Suzanne Hopes at Public Rights of Way regarding PPE availability but she advised that she would be better placed to support the Council in this regard, once brush cutter training had been undertaken, however sessions were not available in the short-term. She further advised that when volunteers were working on the path, the public should be excluded and notices erected at each end of the path to prevent public access.

Risk assessment forms to be forward to those involved in maintaining the path and it was noted that one of the volunteers in this regard worked professionally in terms of this type of work and could fulfil the safety requirements in terms of full PPE when undertaking brush cutting.

9.7.3 The King's Coronation – 6 May 2023 – village activities/expenditure

Members considered ways of marking the King's Coronation. Cllr Mrs Fabian suggested the planting of a tree. This to be firmed up with regard to species, location and cost at the next meeting.

9.7.4 Volunteer for your Community – “The Big Help Out” to mark the King's Coronation

Cllr Mrs Turner proposed that in support of participation in “The Big Help Out” the Council ask villagers to volunteer to take part on 8 May 2023 in adopting an area previously identified by herself and Cllr Mrs Cooke who had undertaken in 2021 a partial assessment and recording of distinctive features in Upleadon to feed back to FoDDC. The intention would be to build on this in more detail in building a picture of the landscape his can be highlighted and taken into account in future planning applications (following FoDDC Character & Design webinar). This was seconded and unanimously agreed.

9.7.5 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting to be Thursday 11 May 2023 at 7.30 pm

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.05 pm