

UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Upleadon Parish Council held on Thursday 14 March 2024 at Upleadon Village Hall at 6.45 pm.

Present:- Cllr M Manning (Chair), Cllr Mrs W Fabian, Cllr Mrs P Turner, Cllr H Dunn, Cllr T Rickard, Cllr P Dallow

Also present: County Cllr Mrs G Moseley and two Members of the public

8.0 Apologies and approval for absence

Cllr Dunn gave apologies on behalf of District Cllr P Burford

8.1 Declarations of Interest

A declaration of Interest was declared by Cllr Dunn in Planning application P0198/24/PQ3PA Hill Farm Barn, Forge Lane, Upleadon. Prior approval for the conversion of existing agricultural building to residential (C3) including the provision of private amenity garden space and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

8.2 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting 7 December 2023

Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting of 7 December 2023 was proposed by Cllr Mrs Turner seconded by Cllr Mrs Fabian and unanimously agreed.

8.3 Matters Arising

P.12 6.1.6 The Clerk had undertaken a comparison between a four year contract with a defibrillator company supplying battery/defib pads and purchasing them independently. Members were supplied with the costs and it was found that it was cheaper on the figures at the time to buy independently particularly given the Parish Council are able to reclaim the Vat element on any purchase made.

8.4 Approval of Minutes of Council meeting 15 February 2024

Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting of 15 February 2024 was proposed by Cllr Dallow seconded by Cllr Mrs Fabian and unanimously agreed.

8.5 Matters arising

7.5 Grit Bin. Cllr Dunn advised that a replacement grit bin had been received at St Mary's Church location that day. It was agreed to follow up if a second bin, as requested, was available for siting in Forge Lane.

8.6 Finance/Sundry Payments/Bank Reconciliation

1. Upleadon Village Hall – hire of hall 4 meetings @ £10.00 £40.00
2. Clerk's annual salary net £2033.95 (plus home working allowance £312.00)

3. HMRC - £508.59

Members were furnished with a Bank reconciliation/bank statement as at 31 December 2023.

8.7 Forest of Dean District Council – Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA – CALL FOR SITES 2024

Members considered how the village envelope might be extended and the possibility of engaging with parishioners to ascertain areas of land which might be appropriate to be included albeit it was acknowledged that there would be insufficient time to do so this year, before the closing date of 31 March 2024. It was agreed to put this matter on the agenda for May and that the matter be raised with District Councillor Burford at that time.

At this point Cllr Mrs Turner proposed there be an adjournment of the meeting to allow the Annual Parish meeting to convene at the time stated on the agenda. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Fabian and unanimously agreed.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.20 pm

8.8 Black Box (Planning) – Consultation on new village concept located south of Junction 2 on M50

Members, prior to the meeting had been furnished with details of a new village concept located south of Junction 2 of M5. Members were asked to complete a short questionnaire on preferences with regard to various aspects of the development, its location, infrastructure and community facilities, which was duly undertaken.

8.9 Coleford Area Partnership – request local knowledge of possible places/subjects that could be included in this year's Heritage Open Days 6-17 September 2024

Whilst not in the Parish of Upleadon but nearby, the restoration of the Herefordshire/Gloucestershire canal was thought might be of interest.

8.10 Business

8.10.1 Planning application – Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development (England) Order 2015 P0198/24/PQ3PA Hill Farm Barn, Forge Lane, Upleadon. Prior approval for the conversion of existing agricultural building to residential (C3) including the provision of private amenity garden space and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

Cllr Dunn left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Dallow proposed No Objection which was seconded by Cllr Rickard and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Dunn returned to the meeting.

- 8.10.2 The 2021 Environment Act – to set up a working group to address the requirement for Town and Parish Councils to agree specific objectives and to take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity as required under the Model Biodiversity Policy.

Cllr Rickard spoke on the possible way forward and of contacts involved in climate change and biodiversity. He spoke of Parish-online which has mapping techniques and is a useful tool for biodiversity. It might be that cost could be clustered with other Parishes in the area. In addition he spoke of Severnscapes (Glos Wildlife Trust) who have created wildlife corridors across the three counties of Herefordshire Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. There is a proposal for a £10M bid for work further north to the Wyre, and it is hoped that £150K will be made available to help in this area. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Rickard would bring to the next meeting specific items/proposals for moving forward with this matter.

- 8.10.3 To give consideration to appointment of Internal Auditor 2023/24 End of Year Accounts

The Clerk advised that she had written to Mr Chris Ferns to ask if he would be prepared to undertake the Internal Audit this year, to which he had replied in writing that he would be willing to do this. Cllr Mrs Turner proposed that Mr Ferns be appointed as Internal Auditor for the 2023/24 End of Year accounts, seconded by Cllr Mrs Fabian and unanimously agreed.

- 8.10.4 Maintenance plan for refurbishment of footpath for forthcoming season – Gloucester Road to Forge Lane

Cllr Dallow advised that he would undertake the refurbishment of the footpath for the forthcoming season. The Clerk advised that the Council would require a written risk assessment for the work involved.

- 8.10.5 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on Thurs 9 May 2024 at 7.30 pm.

- 8.10.6 Any other Business

Cllr Wood reported that the highway was, as before, beginning to sink outside the Village Hall – it was agreed to request a site meeting with the Highways representative.

A member of the public reported an area of road surface at Eden's Hill in the vicinity of Madams had failed and where two levels of road surface were visible. This to be reported to Highways for repair.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.40 pm.