

MINUTES OF THE UPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2015

Present Cllr Pape (Chairman)
 Cllr Bottwood
 Cllr Caddy
 Cllr Earle
 Cllr Barrett
 Cllr Stevens
 Cllr Bray

In attendance were: Mr Oakley (Clerk), County Councillor Jill Hope, and three members of the public.

1. Opening Procedures

1.1 Apologies/Absences.

Apologies: Cllr Burden, Cllr Green and Cllr Chauhan

1.2 Declarations of interest.

None.

1.3 Confirmation of minutes of 5th January 2015.

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Earle and seconded by Cllr Bottwood as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

1.4 Clerk's report on matters arising from the previous minutes.

UPC Contacted James Ogle for an update on the progress of rectifying the problem of mud and waterlogging within the Children's Play Area. He replied stating the recent weather conditions had prevented the contractor from undertaking the work so far and that the work was now planned to commence in the week beginning 23rd February once the school half term break is over.

The council wrote to the ExtraCare Retirement Village to ask if their secondary car park can be used by parents for dropping off and collecting children from St. Luke's School.

A reply was received stating that this matter will be discussed at their next Resident Association Meeting and that they will let UPC know the outcome.

UPC contacted Sergeant Basham to formally request more intense policing of the roads surrounding St. Luke's School, the T junction on St. Crispin Drive and the area surrounding Berrywood Hospital over the next few weeks.

A letter was received from a member of the public regarding overgrowth of bushes and litter on the footpath and amongst the shrubbery on Kent Road.

A request will be made to Taylor Wimpey for this matter to be addressed.

2. POLICE AND PUBLIC SESSION

Gavin Lewis the Street Football Officer at Northamptonshire Leisure Trust attended the meeting to promote the Northampton Street Football Project.

The Northampton Street Football Project is a social inclusion project that runs in 13 different areas of Northampton. Sessions are run during the evenings by qualified coaches and are for youngsters (boys and girls) aged 8 – 18. The sessions are split into 2 x 1 hour sessions a week for different age groups.

Coaches deliver football and sports based activities aimed at giving young people a positive activity to get involved with in their community.

The overall aim of Street Football is to set up recreational football clubs in individual communities. These football clubs are community led and also provide youngsters with a pathway to play for local junior football teams. It is vitally important that projects are sustainable. This is achieved by recruiting volunteers (from the surrounding area), training them up to be qualified coaches and having already qualified coaches in place to mentor them through courses. The cost is free to all participants.

All the councillors were in agreement that this was a very worthwhile project and the Chair stated that he would be very keen to endorse it.

Dave Cox from St. Crispin's Bowls Club attended the meeting to enquire whether the council would be able to assist with a financial contribution towards the cost of re-paving the area surrounding the green.

The councillors debated this request but it was agreed by all that because the Bowls Club operates as a private club then it would be hard to justify the spending of public money on a facility that is in effect private. Therefore it was decided that no money would be granted to the Bowls club in its existing mode of operation.

County Cllr Hope mentioned that the allowances for community empowerment held by the county and borough councillors are under threat.

3. DEVELOPMENTS IN UPTON

The council discussed the proposed new Parish Logo and redesign of the Newsletter template and it was agreed that both new designs will be adopted by the council.

This was proposed by Cllr Bray and seconded by Cllr Stevens.

It was reported that County Cllr Suresh Patel has asked Cllr Bottwood to attend a meeting with him at the St. Crispin Social Club to discuss a way forward with regards to the Cricket Club. Cllr Bottwood reported that Bryan Hardman (the solicitor acting on behalf of UPC) had sent St. Crispin Social Club details to them without the instruction of UPC to do so.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS / CONSULTATIONS

N/2015/0016 - No objection provided it adheres to the Design Statement for this part of Upton.

5. FINANCE MATTERS

Accounts for payment:

i) Cheque 000649 £369.43 Mr A Oakley Salary

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Barrett and duly resolved that the above accounts be paid.

The council discussed the future funding of the successful Youth Club.

It was agreed that the council would fund the Youth Club at £100 per month (reviewed every three months) and that the Youth Club must report on how this funding is being spent.

This was proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Caddy.

Cllr Barrett pointed out that there were inconsistencies with regards to the Standing Orders which have yet to be resolved since he originally raised the issue.

The Clerk will contact Danny Moody at NCALC to enquire as to how this matter can be properly addressed and will also ask if there are to be a new set of model orders issued in the near future.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

All communications received were made available to the Councillors.

7. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Bottwood pointed out that a councillor's personal interests do not preclude that councillor from taking part in the discussions, debate or voting on an issue unless they are pecuniary.

There are a number of potential criminal offences associated with the discussion of a councillor's Disclosable Personal Interests at meetings.

Cllr Barrett wished for it to be noted that the Chairman did not permit him to debate this issue.

Cllr Bottwood reported that he will be meeting tomorrow with the manager of Berrywood Hospital, the Police and Northamptonshire Highways to discuss the issue of inconsiderately parked vehicles obstructing the highways and footpaths surrounding the hospital entrance which are causing congestion and posing a risk to pedestrians and other road users.

Cllr Bottwood explained that he is currently working on the NBC budget for the forthcoming financial year and that NBC does not intend to increase its portion of the council tax demand.

8. SERVICE REQUESTS AND REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Earle announced that St. Crispin's Hospital is rumoured to be in the hands of new ownership. UPC will write to Simon Tindle at NBC to enquire about the ownership of the site and to request the latest report into the condition of the buildings which are supposed to be inspected by NBC on a biannual basis.

9. TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will begin at **7.15pm on Monday 2nd March 2015, at the Berrywood Hospital.**

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.17pm

Chairman.....

Date.....