

MINUTES OF A UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION ON
MONDAY 8th APRIL 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllr Keith Pearson Chairman
Cllr Jim Browne
Cllr Graham Hayes
Cllr David Hunt
Cllr Mary McLachlan
Cllr Matt Sergeant

In Attendance: 5 Members of the Public

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- A member of the public raised concerns regarding scramble bikes using the Parish bridle path. The Council queried if this was a regular occurrence and if so a predictable event? Options discussed included contacting the local PCSO and signage on the path prohibiting their usage.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Council accepted apologies from County Cllr Sue Williams, Cllrs Chrissie Castle and Hillary Morris

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th MARCH 2024.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and duly signed.

4. TO NOTE THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR ROY ROBERTS.

The Council noted Cllr Roy Roberts resignation, thanking him for his service to the Parish.

5. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:

a. County Councillor.

County Cllr Sue Williams was unfortunately not present at the Meeting however Chairman Keith Pearson highlighted the key points in her report which had circulated to the Council prior to the Meeting.

b. District Councillor.

District Cllr Keith Pearson gave a brief update on District Council matters. Cllr David Hunt led the Council in thanking Cllr Pearson for his Service as a District Councillor and for the matters he dealt with on behalf of the Parish.

c. Council Chairman.

Chairman Chrissie Castle unfortunately was not present however her updates were provided to the Council and Public. At this point there was also a discussion regarding the recent weather conditions and praise that the River Twyver has not yet reached its maximum level.

d. Coopers Edge Councilor.

Cllr Matt Sergeant gave a brief update to the council on ongoing matters which included:

- The establishment of a new Church in the Community Centre, just before Easter.
- Planning for a summer party event in the Community Centre.
- Barnwood United signing a 25 year lease for utilising the Community Centre sporting facilities and changing rooms.
- Confirmation that the anti-social behavior in Coopers Edge has improved with the original gangs being dispersed.
- During this update Cllr David Hunt also raised the discussion point regarding his current Aeronautical history project and duplicate display boards being displayed in the Coopers Edge Community Centre. Other areas of the project were also briefly discussed.

e. Clerks Report.

Clerk Roy Balgobin's report was circulated prior to the meeting with no questions from the Council. Highlights included:

- Confirmation that 2 new signs would be delivered to the Parish next week as per discussions in the previous Parish Council Meeting. The signs indicating key locations in the village such as the Church, Shops, Post Office and Coffee House.
- Preparing End of Year Accounts.
- Recognition that the Clerk's Assistant had completed the first part of her formal training passing her FILCA qualification for the Parish.
- Preparing Allotment Tenancies.
- A numerical overview of items dealt with in the Parish Office.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE M5 WORKING GROUP AND AGREE ACTIONS.

Tony Pryce updated the Council on the current situation with this Project, thanking Cllr David Hunt for his assistance when writing a recent communication to the Department of Transport.

7. TO ADOPT A PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY REPORT

The Council agreed to adopt the draft proposal discussed during previous recent meetings, with the acknowledgement that extra detail will be added over the coming months.

8. TO APPROVE THE FUNDING FOR THE CLERKS ASSISTANT TO UNDERTAKE THE INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION (ILCA) AT A COST OF £120.00.

The Council agreed to this funding.

9. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS.

- a. **Allotments.** Cllr Mary McLachlan confirmed the Annual Allotment Meeting would be held on Thursday 11th April at the Village Hall where contracts would be reviewed and relevant actions completed.
- b. **Recreation Ground/Pavilion.** Cllr David Hunt reported on the current conditions of the Recreation Ground indicating the poor ground conditions following the recent weather. Cllr Hunt indicated grants were being investigated to rectify the drainage issues. The Clerk was also requested to review the Playground where water is gathering around the bases of some play equipment. Finally it was confirmed that the Tennis Court would be repainted and shed replaced once there is some improvement in the weather.
- c. **Environment.** Cllr Pete Wilson had already previously discussed the Biodiversity Report therefore focused an update on his current ongoing projects including promoting 'Repair Cafes' and Solar Panel usage. Cllr Wilson confirmed he was looking for someone new to help him with the Solar Panel project within the Parish. There was also discussions regarding the number of cows now on Cud Hill and clarification that Stroud Valleys had replied to his recent communications instructing him contact them in August.
- d. **Village Hall.** Cllr Keith Pearson updated the Council on Village Hall matters confirming a scheduled Electrical Inspection had been completed with the required items being looked at. Cllr Pearson also reminded the Council and attending Public about the pending fund raising event being held on the 18th May and the Village Hall AGM being held on the 29th April.

10. ACCOUNTS:

a. To approve the Accounts

Accounts for payment April 2024			
Payee	Chq Number	Amount	Reason
J Evans	3316	£ 40.00	Litter Pick
The Edge Community Centre	3317	£ 32.00	Hall Hire
Severn Signs	3318	£ 258.80	Memorial Plaque / VH
D Cridland	3319	£ 1,566.00	Groundworks
VOID	3320		
T Slator	3321	£ 460.16	Salary / Exp
R Balgobin	3322	£ 1,153.64	Salary / Exp
HMRC	3323	£ 459.32	Tax / NI
G Knight	3324	£ 540.00	Grass Cutting
	Total	£3,969.92	

The Council agreed that the accounts be accepted for payment.

b. To consider and approve a quotation to provide an updated Council Website and .gov.uk email accounts for Councilors and Staff.

Cllr Browne confirmed that he had completed the diligence on the provider with the Clerk and was happy the Website would provide a better service to residents. It was also indicated that this new update would enhance ongoing projects such as the promotion of Environmental matters in the Parish. The Council agreed to the payment of this quotation and the commencement of the project.

c. To consider and approve a grant towards the Annual Show.

The Council agreed to this grant contribution.

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Monday 13th May 2024 at approx. 8 pm after the Annual Parish Meeting. In the Recreation Ground Pavilion.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.07 PM