

MINUTES OF A UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION ON
MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllr Keith Pearson Chairman
Cllr Jim Browne
Cllr Chrissie Castle
Cllr Graham Hayes
Cllr David Hunt
Cllr Mary McLachlan
Cllr Hilary Morris
Cllr Roy Roberts
Cllr Matt Sergeant
Cllr Pete Wilson

In Attendance: 5 Members of the Public

PRESENTATION

The Council received a very informative presentation from John Newland-McCreedy a technical specialist from New Dawn Homes, mainly concentrated on the drainage associated with the development on the Land Adjoining Bowden Hall Farm.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council accepted apologies from County Cllr Sue Williams.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2023

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

4. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:

- a. **County Councillor.** A report was circulated to the Members prior to the meeting, the Chairman gave a summary of the report.
- b. **District Councillor.** Cllr Keith Pearson gave the following report:

“Council has not met since the Xmas break, the next meeting is on 16th February which is the budget setting meeting. Stroud District Council will seek approval from the Members to set the Council tax increase at 2.99% however with the impending Police increase of around 5.6% this will raise the overall to

somewhat higher. Council House rents and service charges etc. will be raised by 7%. This is necessary to catch up because of the 1% limit that has been in place for several years now.

There are ongoing improvements being made to the Planning Enforcement section, with new systems to enable a quicker resolution of issues, however the prime problem remains that getting staff is a problem despite the Council being well in line on remuneration expectations.

The Canal project has received approval to continue although more funding, o nevertheless it has had to contribute more funding. However the benefits to the District as a whole have already been seen and the final hook up at Saul to the inland network will without bring more benefits. The canal is widely used for recreational purposes and also has attracted more development along the corridor.

Once again there were some issues with the out of hours emergency services over the festive period, however they were resolved.

There is now a greater emphasis for closer cooperation with Town and Parish Councils through the introduction of a Charter, which all P & TC's are encouraged to sign up to.

Progress is also being made to introduce a Countywide Standards procedure which although not compulsory P & T C 's are being urged to adopt in order to create a level playing field across the County

It has been announced to the press that SDC have applied for a grant of £1.8m to help fund the purchase of 16 houses that initially will house Ukranian refugees and the in the future will become part of council tenant stock”

- c. **Council Chairman.** The Chairman reported that the large pot hole in Ash Path has now been repaired.
- d. **Coopers Edge.** Cllr Matt Sergeant reported incidents of anti-social behaviour outside the Community Centre.
- e. **Clerks.** A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE M5 WORKING GROUP

Tony Pryce advised that the formal complaint sent to the Office for Environmental Protection has been dismissed, the Council agreed to make a formal complaint to the Environment Ombudsman via its MP.

6. TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CHARTER BETWEEN STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL AND PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS OF THE STROUD DISTRICT

The Council unanimously agreed to adopt the Charter.

7. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:

- a. **Allotments.** There was nothing to report.
- b. **Recreation Ground/Pavilion.** Cllr David Hunt advised that he is still in the process of obtaining quotes for repairs / cladding on the Pavilion rendering.
- c. **Environment.** Cllr Pete Wilson updated the Council on the Initiatives for Climate / Sustainability measures being undertaken by the Working Group. Cllr Wilson also reported that the trees planted on the Glebe Field are all growing well. The Council agreed to pursue its bid for the VASs through its County Councillor. Finally, Cllr Roy Roberts expressed his concern about the amount of discarded litter in the Village, it was agreed to contact SDC to ask for more frequent litter picks.
- d. **Village Hall.** The Chairman updated the Council on Village Hall matters.

8. FINANCE

- a. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT to approve the Accounts for payment.** The following accounts were presented for payment:

Payee	Chq Number	Amount	Reason
J Evans	3127	£ 40.00	Litter Pick
Waterplus	3128	£ 427.41	Rec / Pavilion
M Harvey	3129	£ 60.00	Bus Shelters
A Chamberlain	3130	£ 325.00	Lino Pavion Kitchen
Greenfieds	3131	£ 331.46	Play Equipment
HMRC	3132	£ 337.82	Tax / NI
R Balgobin	3133	£ 1,030.62	Salary / Exp
Mowtech	3134	£ 780.00	Rec Grass weed and feed
	Total	£3,332.31	

The Council agreed that the accounts be accepted for payment.

9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Recreation Ground Pavilion at 7.30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15 PM