

MINUTES OF A UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION ON
MONDAY 3rd JUNE 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllr Keith Pearson Chairman
Cllr Cliff Alderman
Cllr Jim Browne
Cllr David Hunt
Cllr Hilary Morris
Cllr Mary McLachlan
Cllr Andrew Skelton
Cllr Pete Wilson

In Attendance: County Cllr Sue Williams
4 Members of the Public

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- A member of the public raised concerns regarding the lack of presence of the Police in the Parish both on a daily basis and at the Parish Meetings. His concern being prompted by a dangerous driving event he has witnessed in the village and wanted to report. County Cllr Sue Williams confirmed the event should be reported and clarified that she had recently tried to email the PCSO however her message had been returned as the PCSO was not on duty. County Cllr Williams confirmed she would look into the concerns on Police Representation in the Parish. As part of the discussion queries were also raised regarding the Police presence in Coopers Edge to which the Clerk confirmed they were regularly engaged in this area.
- Thanks was also given to Cllr Pete Wilson by a member of the public for the publication of their D-Day Article in USL Life.

Chairman Keith Pearson opened the meeting by congratulating County Cllr Sue Williams on her re-election as Vice Chair at the County Council. He also wanted his thanks to be documented for the service Roy Roberts and Chrissie Castle had previously provided to the Parish. It was suggested that an article should be published in USL Life documenting their contribution in addition to the article detailing Graham Hayes retirement and long service to the Parish.

1. Apologies

The Council accepted apologies from Cllr Matt Sergeant.

2. Declaration of Interest (Members are requested to declare any interest they may have in the business set out on the Agenda to which the approved Code of Practice appears.)

There were none.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Monday 13th May 2024

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

4. To consider and approve Co-option to the Council (if any received)

There were no new Co-option applications. Further advertisement options were discussed including ensuring the role was visible for the Coopers Edge development. The Clerk confirmed the Coopers Edge Facebook page has been publicising the vacancy.

5. To Elect a Vice Chairman.

Chairman Keith Pearson proposed that Cllr Pete Wilson should be considered for the Vice Chairman role. Cllr David Hunt seconded this proposal with the unanimous decision that Cllr Pete Wilson would be the new Vice Chairman. Cllr Wilson accepted the role.

6. a. To receive a report from County Councillor.

County Cllr Sue Williams delivered her monthly update and provided information regarding a review of flood management within the Parish. The County Cllr was able to summarise the following points in the meeting:

- The Natural Flood Management Officer is making progress with landowner discussions and surface water flows.
- Trial holes for a highway drainage scheme have taken place and once the results have been delivered contractor discussions can begin. There is an aim to carry out an improvement scheme in September along the highway.
- Field flood storage area discussions with the relevant land owner(s) have taken place.
- Discussions in reference to a two-staged channel along the Parish Council's grass land along Bondend Road have continued. Once consultants have confirmed the dimensions contractors can be approached for quotes.

The County Cllrs full Monthly Report can be found at this link:

During the County Cllrs delivery of her report there were many questions raised regarding the grass cutting within the Parish. Cllrs queried the random approach to grass cutting acknowledging the 'No Mow May' Campaign. Concerns were raised regarding the sporadic nature this was approached where some areas were questionably cut and some weren't. Cllr Keith Pearson suggested contact be made with the relevant parties and the Clerk confirmed that he would contact the Parish Grounds man regarding cutting some areas that pose a health and safety risk due to a reduction in visibility. Finally the 'Fix My Street' initiative was discussed inviting local residents to report issues as they find them.

Initials

b. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

There were no updates from the District Councilor on this occasion.

c. To receive a report from the Council Chairman.

Chairman Keith Pearson confirmed that the new Village Noticeboard had been completed with a slight change in location. The new board can now be found next to the Village Map by the Village Shops.

d. To receive a report from Coopers Edge Councillor.

In the absence of Cllr Matt Sergeant there was no report for Coopers Edge, however the Clerk confirmed that there had been fires reported again at Merlin Close. Cllr David Hunt then provided an update on the Aviation History Project within the development and Cllr Cliff Aldreman reminded the group that a meeting was being held on Tuesday 4th June at the Pineholt Club. Cllr Pete Wilson questioned if the residents of Coopers Edge were aware of the project and the Clerk suggested he could email the Community Facebook Administrator if required.

Cllr Hunt closed this section of the meeting by allowing members to view an artifact found in the Parish that is believed to be from an aircraft.

e. To receive the Clerks Report.

The Clerk delivered his monthly report including confirming that a meeting was being held on Wednesday 5th June to review the placement of Speed Monitoring equipment within the Parish. He also invited everyone to a meeting being held on Tuesday 18th June with Highways at the Village Hall. The Clerk praised County Cllr Sue Williams input with the speed monitoring project which has encountered some frustrations and undelivered promises from external groups.

7. To receive an update from the M5 Working Group and agree any actions.

Tony Pryce confirmed that he is continuing with the complaint process to Highways England as a private resident and that there were no further relevant updates.

8. To adopt a Parish Council Biodiversity Policy.

Cllr Cliff Alderman discussed his work towards the Parish Biodiversity Policy and action plan. Cllr Alderman emphasised the need to establish baseline work so that an assessment in the future can be made on its results. Difficulties were vocalised in establishing what level investigations should go, the Clerk suggested he may know some people in another Parish who may be able to help. There were also discussions regarding how to communicate the Policy and its aims to local residents with the new Parish webpage being seen as crucial to this once it is setup.

Cllr David Hunt thanked Cllr Alderman for all his hard work and investigations into the policy and its proposed plan.

After discussions the Council unanimously adopted the Biodiversity Policy. It was agreed that the Action Plan need not be formally adopted as this is a continually changing document reflecting the latest up to date information and discoveries.

9. To resolve that having met the requirements under the Localism Act 2011, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

After a request, the Clerk briefly detailed the meaning of this item on the Agenda Cllr Keith Pearson then proposed the Agenda item which was then seconded by Cllr David Hunt. The Council unanimously agreed to the adopt the General Power of Competence which is valid until the next election.

10. To receive the following reports

a. Allotments

Cllr Mary McLachlan provided a brief update on the Allotments enquiring if further skips could be requested due to their popular usage and now being full. The Clerk confirmed that unfortunately this was not possible due to the cost to the Parish with 2 skips annually per allotment site being the most that could be provided.

b. Recreation Ground / Pavilion

Cllr David Hunt focused his update on the disappointing vandalism to a bench in the Recreation Ground. The Council agreed to try and save the bench with some modifications and agreed further signage discouraging BBQs would not be effective.

c. Environment

i. Initiatives for Climate / Sustainability Measures.

As the Biodiversity Policy had already been discussed in the meeting, updates were focused on other subjects such as grass verge damage in the Parish due to heavy and large agriculture vehicles and general damage to highways.

d. Village Hall

Cllr Keith Pearson updated the Council on Village Hall matters, particularly his recent frustrations with trying to move the Trust Funds to a more beneficial account. Cllr Jim Browne also passed on thanks from the Playgroup for the Parish Council contribution towards the new fencing area which has ensured child safety and looks very tidy.

11. Accounts.

a. To approve the Accounts for Payment as per the list circulated prior to the meeting.

Initials

Accounts for payment June 2024			
Payee	Chq Number	Amount	Reason
LPS	3345	£1,200.00	Fencing and Gate Installation
VOID	3346	£ -	VOID
Severn Signs Ltd	3347	£ 48.00	Memorial Plaque
J Evans	3348	£ 40.00	Litter pick
A Russell	3349	£ 350.00	Honorarium
A Russell	3350	£ 415.94	Pavilion
Allstone Sands & Gravel	3351	£ 859.20	2 x Allotment skips
R Balgobin	3352	£ 1,081.64	Salary & Expenses
T Slator	3353	£ 403.16	Salary & Expenses
HMRC	3354	£ 373.72	Tax & NI
	Total	£4,771.66	

The Council agreed that the accounts be accepted for payment.

b. To nominate a further Bank Mandate Signatory.

It was agreed by the Council that Cllr Pete Wilson and Cllr Andrew Skelton would be added as new Signatories for the Parish account.

12. Date of the next meeting – Monday 1st July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Recreation Ground Pavilion.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9 PM**

Signature: _____

Date: _____