

**MINUTES OF A UPTON ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD IN COOPERS EDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON**  
**MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr Keith Pearson Chairman  
Cllr Jim Browne  
Cllr Graham Hayes  
Cllr David Hunt  
Cllr Mary McLachlan  
Cllr Pete Wilson

**1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

The Council accepted apologies from County Cllr Sue Williams, Cllrs Chrissie Castle, Hilary Morris, Roy Roberts and Matt Sergeant.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

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

**4. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:**

**a. County Councillor.**

County Cllr Sue Williams was unfortunately not present however her monthly report had been circulated to the Cllrs prior to the meeting. There were no questions, or comments to be directly forwarded to her. Cllrs noted her comments regarding the specialist school plans for Abbeymead and the collapsed wall at Prinknash Abbey.

**b. District Councillor.**

District Cllr Keith Pearson updated the council on District Council matters which included:

- Confirmation that he had written to Cabinet Member Dominic Morris regarding the ongoing Parish complaints with Highways.
- There had been no full Council Meetings since the last Parish Meeting therefore there were no updates from this.
- Further discussions regarding The Local Plan. Cllr Pearson confirmed that inspectors had granted a 10 month delay on The Local Plan due to concerns regarding its impact on junctions 12 and 14 of the M5. Cllr

Pearson also highlighted the recent media coverage on Sharpness and the rejection of current plans to build a large amount of new homes.

**c. Council Chairman.**

Chairman Chrissie Castle was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that there was no report circulated prior to the meeting as all ongoing matters had been previously discussed with no further updates at present.

**d. Coopers Edge Councilor.**

Cllr Matt Sergeant was absent from the meeting however there was a brief update to the council on ongoing matters which included:

- A new focus on Anti-Social behavior in the play areas within Coopers Edge.
- A suggestion that some members of the Public in Coopers Edge may be interested in joining the Council.

**e. Clerks Report.**

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

- Confirmation that the Noticeboard for the Village Shop had been ordered.
- Thanks given to Parish members for attending the recent Defibrillator Awareness session.
- Verification that the annual allotment inspections had commenced, with the Parish Administration Assistant already inspecting the Stanley Allotments.
- The subject of the Parish Webpage was approached with the request of investigation into its update.

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

There were no further updates on this topic.

**6. TO APPROVE A PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY REPORT.**

This matter was put on hold until the next meeting at the request of Cllr Pete Wilson. Cllr Wilson suggested that the report could be further enhanced on detail following a recent training session and the pending Climate Group review in the following week. Cllr David Hunt also requested that the Recreation Ground sporting teams are also included in future discussions as decisions regarding groundwork could have an impact on their requirements. Additionally including the Allotment Managers was suggested due to their potential usage of certain pesticides.

**7. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE PROPRIETORS OF THE VILLAGE SHOPS FOR SIGNAGE.**

The Council approved the investigation into signage with the added request that Daffodil bulbs are planted at key entrance and exit points to the Village. Cllr Keith Pearson also confirmed that he had ordered the replacement signage for the eroded Bledisloe Cup signs.

**8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COOPERS EDGE HERITAGE TRAIL INTERPRETATION BOARDS (CLLR DAVID HUNT).**

Cllr David Hunt provided an update to the Council confirming 7 sites had been suggested with relevant quotes being obtained. Cllr Hunt suggested that excess funds may be available and if this is the case duplicate signage may be ordered in anticipation for future requirements and replacement. Cllr Hunt also identified that a pending change in project staffing may mean obtaining authorisation from the designated District Council may be problematic, or delayed.

**9. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS.**

- a. Allotments.** Cllr Mary McLachlan updated the Council on Allotment matters confirming that the Parish Administration Assistant was meeting with Allotment Managers to review Allotment plots in preparation for the Annual Renewal. Once these meetings had been addressed a summary meeting would then be held with Cllr McLachlan.
- b. Recreation Ground/Pavilion.** Cllr David Hunt reported that following the recently excessive wet weather, the Recreation Ground drainage appeared to be sufficient with the Clerk confirming that the Verti drainage work had also recently been completed. Cllr Hunt also reminded the Council re a previous conversation earlier in the meeting regarding consulting with the Recreation Ground sporting groups when finalising the Biodiversity Report.
- c. Environment.** Cllr Pete Wilson updated the Council on Parish Environmental matters such as a Recycling article in the March Newsletter and planning for a presentation to residents on the benefits of Solar Power. Cllr Wilson confirmed he is still in discussions with Stroud Valley re the previously discussed tree planting project, requiring further clarification on future maintenance. Cllr Wilson confirmed once again that the Bioiversity Report review would be the following week and approached the subject of reviewing land usage in the Parish.
- d. Village Hall.** Cllr Keith Pearson confirmed that there was a planned refurbishment of the floor in the Village Hall which would see the main hall closed for 1 week. Cllr Pearson confirmed that the cost for this update had been checked and was inflationary correct with the last time it was updated. He also reminded the Council that a fundraising night would be held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Cllr Pearson also indicated that the Village Hall Working Group was also currently investigating investment

options for the Village Hall funds which would hopefully in terms of monetary gain replace the losses from no longer holding the annual firework display.

**10. ACCOUNTS:**

**a. TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PER THE LIST CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING :**

<b>Accounts for payment March 2024</b>			
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Chq Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
J Evans	3308	£ 40.00	Litter pick
T Slator	3309	£ 515.22	Salary/ Expenses
VOID	3310	£ -	
R Balgobin	3311	£ 1,076.75	Salary/ Expenses
Nailsworth Town Council	3312	£ 50.00	Biodiversity training
HMRC	3313	£ 443.41	Tax & NI March
A Russell	3314	£ 473.92	Christmas lights/ Pavillion
M Harvey	3315	£ 120.00	Bus shelters
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,719.30</b>	

The Council agreed that the accounts be accepted for payment.

**b. TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF MR IAN CROWE FFA AS THE COUNCILS INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024.**

The council agreed to the appointment of Mr Ian Crowe.

**10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Recreation Ground Pavilion**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.27 PM**