**UPTON PYNE AND COWLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

 **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY THE 10th FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.**

**Website address:** [**www.uptonpyne-pc.org.uk**](http://www.uptonpyne-pc.org.uk)

**Present In attendance**

Cllr B Short Mrs Ward Clerk

Cllr S Ward Fabian King: Footpath Warden

Cllr M Cormack Eleanor Rylance: Chair of EDDC &

 District Councillor for Broadclyst

 2x members of the public

|  |
| --- |
| **Open Forum.*** **Speke-Up notes:** the Clerk to write up.
* **. gov.uk email accounts:** Cllrs Leach and Hewlett are having problems logging in and the Clerk has advised Senior of this and is waiting to hear from them.
* **Eleanor Rylance** spoke about the local government changes which will take the District Council (in this case, EDDC) into the County Council, (Devon County Council) to become a unitary council. A form of devolution: a combining of powers. She said there is little in the White paper regarding town and parish councils. It should be noted that the initial proposal has not been accepted in the first round of 'mergers'. There is no date for the second round. Eleanor also informed the Council that there will be a local by-election in Exe Valley for a new District Councillor. This has been posted onto the Parish Council’s website and on the various notice boards by the Clerk. Eleanor praised the Council’s work and gave a special mention to the affordable housing scheme which our Councillors, past and present, helped to set up. She says she advises people to go and look at the houses as they are very impressive.
* **Fabain King** spoke of the invaluable work done by the Parish Council and the hard work and dedication of our Councillors. These, and other parish councillors, are volunteers who do the absolute best for their communities. Thank you, Fabian!
* **A member of the public attended Open Forum** and talked about the Parish Council’s finances and spending powers**.** The Chair advised him to go to the appropriate persons at East Devon District Council.

**Agenda.****18/25 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs: Hewlett and Leach.**19/25 Minutes:**  to approve or amend the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th January 2025. Proposed and seconded to approve and signed by the Chair. **20/25 Declarations of interests:** To be taken as identified.**21/25 Police Report:** November:2024:1x Public Order in Upton Pyne and two violent and sexual offences. December 2024 in Upton Pyne 1x violence and sexual offence.Cowley Nov 20241x drug related 1x theft. No crimes reported in December 2024. **22/25 Report by East Devon District Councillor** **J Kemp:**  see under Open Forum above from Eleanor Rylance. The Chair thanked her for attending. **23/25 Devon County Councillor S Randall-Johnson:**  the Clerk sent the report to all Councillors for February.**24/25 Updates on Councillors’ Responsibilities.** **Footpath:** update from Fabian King: John Boyd, the Public Rights of Way Officer, would like to attend one of our meetings at some point in the future. Fabian has asked if any parishioner would like to look at the organisation of the footpaths as he would welcome and consider any ideas or thoughts on new footpaths in the area. He is preparing for the P3 submission and wants to laminate a pdf of the map of footpaths for Upton Pyne, which includes the Parish Boundary and has the updates completed. Fabian has been consulting with John Boyd on these matters.**Update Councillors’ Responsibilities:** this has been postponed until we have a full complement of councillors.**25/25** **Finance: To sanction payment of accounts:****a. Clerk’s wages: for February 2025:** **£385.92 plus Home Allowance of £40=£425.92.** Extra Hours: UPPC meeting: 2.5 hours and 2 hours for travel to notice boards = 4.5 hours = £54.27 = £480.19 total. Proposed and seconded to approve. **b. Training Courses:** for councillors and Clerk.**c. Clerk’s Travel expenses:** 3x trips, @ 45p per mile (8-mile round trip) = £10.80. Proposed and seconded to approve.**d. Internal Auditor:** to agree to the appointment of an internal auditor: agree to the process so that they are appointed for the close of this financial year. It was proposed and seconded for the Clerk to source an internal auditor.**e. Stationery:** boxes for Council storage: £63.20,printer ink£29.00 receipts supplied to reimburse the Clerk: total: £92.20. To sign and approve. Proposed and seconded to approved and signed by the Chair.**f. Notice Board:** extra set of keys: £12.50: reimburse the Clerk. Invoice supplied. To approve and sign. **g. Upton Pyne Church:** donation £500.00. To approve. Proposed and seconded to approve.**26/25 Planning:**  * **25/0140/FUL - 6 Redside Terrace Cowley EX5 5ET:** see plans. To discuss and arrange a site meeting if required. The Councillors checked the plans and it was agreed by all that a site meeting was not required and that this application improves this property and the Parish Council support it. The Clerk to advise ED Planning.
* **Any other planning issues:** received after Agenda posted.None received.

**27/25 Small Grants Initiative:** this has been postponed as Cllr Hewlett is dealing with this matter.**28/25 Parish Lengthsman:** the Chair is continuing the process of acquiring a person to carry out this work.**29/25 Storm Drains at Cowley:** Cllr Hewlett reported to the Clerk via email: Highways said they checked them and found no issues. He has taken photos of multiple drains on the road between the bridge and the chapel which clearly shows they are blocked with debris, so he will re-send the complaint with photos. **30/25 20’s Plenty:** the Chair is organising this. It was agreed to purchase metal signs.**31/25 New Parish Councillors/Mail Drop via the Royal Mail:** one member of the public who attended this evening may be a potential councillor. The Clerk will organise a mail drop with the Royal Mail now that the time for calling an election has passed: the Clerk was advised of this by EDDC. She will draft the wording of a leaflet and send to all Councillors to add/amend and improve. **32/25 Communications/e: mails received for possible action:** The Clerk made available all communications received.* **Sovereign Play:** discuss play areas. It was agreed that this topic cannot be discussed until we know the effects of the proposed devolution as spoken of earlier in the meeting. The Clerk will advise Sovereign Play.
* **DALC:** bespoke training. To discuss and arrange a mutually convenient date. It was agreed that this would be a consideration once we have a full complement of councillors.
* **Clerk’s Appraisal:** to agree a date in March. The Chair and Cllr Cormack advised the Clerk of dates in March they are available and the Clerk to advise them of dates she is available in due course.

**33/25 Feedback on last month’s circulations and items for future agendas**. **Please submit any items for the next Agenda to the Clerk within the next 7 days.**  **Date of the next meeting:**  **MARCH 10TH 2025.**The meeting was closed at 8.45pm.  |