**UPTON PYNE AND COWLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY THE 10th MARCH 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 Leach 1x member of the public

Cllr M Cormack

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| **Open Forum.**   * **Speke-Up notes:** the Clerk to write up. * **. gov.uk emails migration:** Cllrs Ward, Leach and Hewlett to call Charlotte at Senior to sort the problems they have logging in to the new system. Her mobile number has been provided by the Clerk. * **Thanks:** from Beverly Horton the Church Treasurer, and Cllr Cormack for the kind donation from the Parish Council. LisaClapp, the churchwarden,emailed the Clerk to say that *this will really help us with our planning for this year and is most welcome and appreciated. Please do pass on my thanks and those of the PCC to the councillors.* * **Notice Board:** Cllr Cormack said that this requires removing from the Causeway. It is propped up against a bench. The Chair said he would do this.   **Agenda.**  **34/25 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr M Hewlett.  **35/25 Minutes:**  to approve or amend the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th February 2025. Proposed and seconded to approve and signed by the Chair.  **36/25 Declarations of interests:** To be taken as identified.  **Register Of Interests:** the Clerk reminded Councillors to make sure these are up to date and to advise her of any changes.  **37/25 Police Report:** Upton Pyne: 1 x crime: violence and sexual offences reported in December 2024. No crimes reported in Cowley.    **38/25 Report by East Devon District Councillor**: the by election is to be held on Thursday 13th March to elect an East Devon District Councillor.  **39/25 Devon County Councillor S Randall-Johnson:**  no report to date.  **40/25 Updates on Councillors’ Responsibilities.**  **Footpaths: Fabian King:** Fabian handed out a spreadsheet he had completed to all Councillors. This listed all the footpaths and their various locations and other relevant information. Also, the condition they are in and what is required to improve them and make them safe. He must complete the P3 Footpath Survey for the Grant Application. The draft for this has been checked with corrections by the Clerk and the Chair and Cllr Cormack. Fabian has walked the footpaths with Jon Boyd of DCC. He was asked by the Chair to put in his grant application to advise the Parish Council of the estimated costs of repairs. The Parish Council agreed it will then pay for these repairs if there is no grant forthcoming from DCC. It was also discussed that the Footpath account, which has a balance of just over £2,000 set aside, be topped up to a more realistic sum. This will be discussed and resolved at the meeting in April.  **41/25** **Finance: To sanction payment of accounts:**  **a. Clerk’s wages: for March 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:** 2x trips, @ 45p per mile (8-mile round trip) = £7.20. Proposed and seconded to approve.  **d. Internal Auditor:** update from the Clerk who is still looking for a suitable person to take up this role.  **e. Summer flowers:** Cllr Cormack has asked if the Parish Council will donate £100 so that John Howells is able to plant these on the Causeway. It was proposed and seconded to approve. The Clerk to advise John the sum agreed.  **42/25 Planning:**  none received.  **Any other planning issues:** received after Agenda posted.None received.  **43/25 Small Grants Initiative:** update from the Clerk on emails received from Cllr Hewlett. To discuss at the meeting in April.  **44/25 Parish Lengthsman/contractor:** update from the Chair. Cllr Leach has spoken to Johnny Butt who works with Ian Woollacott who is affiliated to DCC Highways.He may take on this work. He would charge £47.50 per hour with two tractors. He can begin work at the beginning of April. The Chair will speak with Mr Butt along with Cllr Leach and list the matters which require attention.    **45/25 Storm Drains at Cowley:** update from Cllr Hewlett. For the April Agenda.  **46/25 20’s Plenty:** update: the Chair has ordered the signs.  **47/25 New Parish Councillors/Mail Drop via the Royal Mail:** the Clerk sent adraft wording of a leaflet to all Councillors to add/amend and improve. This was agreed by all Councillors and the Clerk will complete the work and advise the Royal Mail.    **48/25 Clerk’s Appraisal:** a date has been agreed later this month. The Clerk will forward the forms to the Chair and Cllr Cormack.  **49/25 Communications/e: mails received for possible action:**   * A letter was sent to the Clerk from the MP David Reed who represents Exmouth and Exeter East, inviting the Parish Council to contact him and discuss matters of concern to the local community. The Chair will call him in due course.   The Clerk made available all communications received.  **50/25 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.**  **Dates of the next meeting:** **14th April** **2025 T**he meeting was closed at 8.25pm. |