

UPTON PYNE AND COWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY THE 13th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

Website address: www.uptonpyne-pc.org.uk




Present

Cllr B Short
Cllr M Leach
Cllr S Ward took the minutes
Cllr M Hewlett
Cllr A Drake
Cllr J Dalton
Cllr D Horton
Cllr M Cormack

In attendance

Stuart Pearce: Exeter Food Action
DCC Cllr H Gent

Open Forum.

-  **Speke-Up notes:** Cllr Drake to write up.
-  **Volunteer for Exeter Food Action:** Stuart Pearce stated that there was more demand but less supply; is there a need in Upton Pyne? He spoke to the meeting about his work with Exeter Food Action distributing short life food to groups and individuals in need. He wondered if some of this surplus could be directed towards an Upton Pyne larder and the Parish Council discussed how this might work and what the need might be. UPPC proposed supporting with equipment (fridge, shed, electricity etc.) and recommended further discussion with the vicar and with BS Lucy's larder. Stuart said he would be happy to help, he works a shifts on Wednesdays. A feasibility study may need to be carried out: could it be stored in the Church or leave an anonymous feedback box? The Chair said to advertise in Speke-Up.
-  **Resignation:** Cllr Horton will be stepping down as a Councillor after this meeting. The Chair thanked him for his hard work and for stepping in for him.

Agenda.

163/23 To receive apologies for absence: Cllr T Jackson.

164/23 Minutes: to approve or amend the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2023. Proposed and seconded to approve and signed by the Chair.

165/23 Declarations of interests: To be taken as identified.

166/23 Police Report: no crimes reported up to September 2023.

167/23 Report by East Devon District Councillor J Kemp: it was agreed that the Clerk contact EDDC again. There is still no response to date. It was agreed by all to issue a formal complaint to EDDC. The Chair to contact the Leader of EDDC.

168/23 Devon County Councillor S Randall-Johnson: The Clerk has circulated Cllr Randall-Johnson's report to all Councillors for November.

Cllr Gent said that despite significant objections the capacity for the bio digester plant is to be tripled. The Parish Council discussed the importance of an effective travel plan to mitigate against the negative pressures of the increased heavy traffic.

169/23 Updates on Councillors' Responsibilities.

Footpath: Ros Davies has moved to another position. Cllr Drake said she had visited the area concerned near Cowley Place and cleared nettles, tin cans and other rubbish from the area along the roadside and pavement. See also, Item **172/23 below**.

170/23 Finance: To sanction payment of accounts:

a. Clerk's wages: for November 2023: £385.92 plus Home Allowance of £40=£425.92.

Extra Hours: UPPC meeting: 2.5 hours and 1 hour for travel to notice boards = 3.5 hours = £42.21. Total = £468.13. Proposed and seconded to approve.

b. Training Courses: for councillors and Clerk.

c. Clerk's Travel expenses: 2 x trips @ 45p per mile (8 mile round trip) = £7.20. Proposed and seconded to approve.

d. Budget/Precept: 2024/25: to check and approve. To discuss possible increase in the Precept to enable grants for village initiatives. Sent to all. Proposed and seconded to increase the Precept by 2.5% (the cost of living amount only), therefore the total amount = £10,539.97. The Clerk to advise EDDC in due course.

e. Stationery: reimburse the Clerk £21.48. Receipt supplied. Proposed and seconded to approve.

f. Key cutting: (Parish Hall door): reimburse the Clerk £13.50. Receipt supplied. Proposed and seconded to approve.

g. Laptop Security: reimburse the Clerk £20.18. Receipt supplied. Proposed and seconded to approve.

171/23 Planning:

❖ **23/2338/FUL: Cowley Barton Farm:** sent to all: to discuss and organize a site meeting if required. Comments to ED Planning by 29th November 2023. Site meeting not required. The Clerk was asked to contact ED Planning to inform them the Parish Council do not object to the proposal, however, they are concerned regarding access and wish to clarify that they object to any changes to St Andrews Road.

❖ **Any other planning issues:** received after Agenda posted. **Yes:**

❖ **Certificate of Lawfulness: 23/2352/CPE** – Annexe, Longlands, Upton Pyne, Exeter: this is formalising something which has already been happening, therefore, the Parish Council support this application. The Clerk to advise ED Planning.

172/23 Cowley Place: update from the Clerk. See also, Item **169/23 above**. The Chair contacted Cowley Place. He stated they are adamant they are not responsible for this area. Cllr Henry Gent said he will raise this with the DCC Highways Officer, Helen Selby. He will pass on emails to the Chair regarding this matter.

173/23 Upton Pyne Parish Plan: to continue a discussion of the points raised in the Questionnaire. For the Agenda in January.

The Parish Council is still awaiting clarification from Cllr Kemp regarding the layout of the Parish Plan for EDDC Local Plan. Cllr Ward will forward her analysis of the Parish Questionnaire in order that Councillors can consider how to articulate the findings in a way that shows context, desire and direction (where we are, what people want and where we are going).

Cllr Cormack thanked the Chair for supplying the bins. The Chair will order a third bin in due course.

174/23 Cowley Church: update from the Clerk who has not yet heard back from EDDC. She was asked to call them again and if no help is forthcoming on this matter she should write to the PCC and advise them that we do not think the responsibility falls on the Parish Council. The Chair said this was a 'case of passing the buck'. The requirement is to discover who is responsible.

175/23 Warm Space: it was agreed to keep this Item on the Agenda for further clarification. Cllr Cormack suggested increasing the Village Hall tea afternoons to a further two hours and that the Parish Council may fund this.

176/23 20's plenty: Cllr Horton was dealing with this. To discuss. Cllr Horton has looked at the effectiveness of non-statutory road signs such as the 20's plenty stickers and has found that in areas where this is most effective there is often a Village gateway (fencing, planters, signage etc. making it clear that you are entering a residential area) and signs are affixed to more formal looking signposts. The Parish Council could financially support this. Cllr Gent recommended writing to the County Council as so few villages are qualifying under the existing policy for reduced speed limits, asking instead for the policy itself to be changed to a default of 20. The Chair to contact DCC.

177/23 Communications/e: mails received for possible action:

The Clerk made available all communications received.

178/23 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 meetings: 8th January 2024

12th February 2024

11th March 2024

The meeting was closed at 9pm.