UPTON BY CHESTER AND DISTRICT



PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Upton by Chester and District Parish Council held on Monday 28th November 2016, 7.00pm, at Upton Pavilion, Upton, Chester.

Present: Cllr A Bennion, Cllr M Bryan, Cllr Eardley, Cllr Evans, Cllr D Ford,

Cllr J Houlbrook, Cllr J Lee, Cllr H McNae, Cllr A Paddock, Cllr F Samuel,

Cllr Vaughan and Cllr A Walmsley (Chairman).

In attendance: PCSO Jenna Tapley, Mrs S Pollard (Clerk).

**163.16 OPEN FORUM.**

One member of the public was present at the meeting.

**164.16 COMMUNITY SAFETY.**

PCSO Jenna Tapley and Sgt Graham Davis attended the meeting and reported the

following:

* PC Mike Henry is the new beat officer for Upton.
* Warning of the possibility of an increase in house burglaries in the lead up to Christmas.
* Several vehicle break-ins recently, however, the vehicles were unlocked at the time.
* PCSO Tapley will attend the Pavilion on Saturday, 10am to 2pm, to carry out bike marking with ‘Selecta DNA’ kits; Area Funding has been provided for this.
* Operation Shield will be further expanded in the New Year.
* Recent anti-social behaviour around Weston Grove shops; young people being abusive, littering and leaving cycles around. PCSO Tapley will go into Upton High School to talk with staff and pupils. A ‘dispersal notice’ will be put in place if it becomes necessary. There are no plans for CCTV to be installed at this stage.
* Inconsiderate parking on Flag Lane South at school drop off and collection times. PCSO Tapley has spoken to school staff and parents.
* Street surgeries are ongoing and becoming more popular with residents.
* A competition entitled ‘Hate Crime and Diversity is being run; Upton Westlea Primary School has been chosen from the area to enter into the competition.
* Inconsiderate or illegal car parking should be reported on telephone number 101, an officer must attend to issue a ticket, no evidence (such as photographs) may be used retrospectively.

**165.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bartliff, Cllr M Lloyd, Cllr S Lloyd and Cllr Southward.

**Resolved: noted.**

**166.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations of interest were made.

**167.16 MINUTES.**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th October 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**Proposed by Cllr Houlbrook, seconded by Cllr Bennion.**

**168.16 CLERK’S REPORT.**

Cllr Houlbrook reported further on the Youth Club; at this stage there is nothing confirmed as to when the youth club may re-open or on what basis. Several issues are being dealt with and further information will be reported back shortly.

The clerk confirmed that due to costs, the annual Community Pride Competition will not be held next year. It was suggested that the previously held ‘Upton Pride’ competition may be brought back instead.

QEII Trees Survey – the clerk reported on the two quotations received so far.

**Resolved: that the youth club will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. That if the third tree survey quotation does is not received, the clerk will appoint J Jones Grounds Maintenance on confirmation that the quote submitted includes all trees overhanging the children’s play area.**

**The remainder of the report from the clerk was noted.**

**169.16. COMMITTEE MINUTES.**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of committee meetings held since the last Parish Council meeting listed below were received and where indicated, recommendations were considered with actions approved.**

General Purposes 24th October.

**Resolved: that in response to the reply from the doctor’s surgery stating that they are unable to contribute to the car park security, the clerk will invite representatives to attend an informal meeting with the Chairman, after which this matter will be referred back to the General Purposes meeting.**

Finance 14th November.

**Resolved: to approve the recommendation to convert the pavilion store room to a meeting room and provide an external storage facility. A working group will meet to discuss the matter further, including the clerk, Cllr Evans, Cllr Houlbrook and Cllr Bennion. A full consultation will take place before anything is put into place and a container will not be used for external storage.**

NDP 21st November.

**Resolved: that the resignation of four members of the public be noted. The clerk will send letters of thanks to all. The Parish Council will consider points raised in the letters of resignation to see where improvements may be made.**

**170.16. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS REPORTS**.

**Resolved: that the payment of salaries and expenses, the payment of invoices for goods and services rendered be approved. The receipts and balances were noted.**

**Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr McNae. All agreed.**

**171.16 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORT.**

A written report from Cllr Houlbrook was circulated at the meeting:

The issue of Child Protection / Safeguarding Policies was raised and whether it is something the Parish Council should be requesting from groups hiring the facilities.

**Resolved:** that trespassers at the Moston Wildlife Park should be asked to remove rubbish left behind; Cllr Bryan will liaise with the group.

**Child Protection Policies will be put on next Parish Council meeting agenda; the clerk will look into a policy to be adopted by the Parish Council**.

A verbal report from Cllr Bryan was given:

Pavement flag stones on Newhall Road are in a poor state of repair and complaints have been received from elderly people. CW&C Highways has been informed and work will be included for a more permanent fix next year.

A contribution from the Area Fund has been granted to the Passion for Learning programme; the High School is interested in training more people to help with disadvantaged children.

**172.16. SPECIAL EXPENSES.**

CW&C Council is consulting on the administration of Special Expenses not charged to Town and Parish Councils who manage their own play areas, Christmas lights and employment of a PCSO.

**Resolved: that this item will be referred to the Finance Committee and then to the full Parish Council on 9th January.**

**173.16 LORD MAYOR’S CONSULTATION.**

**Resolved: that the clerk will write a letter in support of retaining the three civic roles and indicating that the precept level is acceptable. Individual Councillors may also respond. Precept level is acceptable.**

**174.16 THE DALE BARRACKS.**

The Dale Barracks is expected to be closed by 2023, after which it is likely that the land will be sold for development. The MOD is obliged to seek the best possible price for the sale of land.

It was suggested that this land would be ideal to meet the specific housing needs of Upton, in particular, housing for young people, ‘move on’ accommodation, elderly housing provision and ‘affordable’ housing.

It was reported that the main concern of local residents is that development will create a building site for some time and that proactive measures should be taken to seek assurances that residents will not be affected.

It was noted that the Fox Barracks are not part of the closure.

**Resolved: that consideration of the potential development of the Dale Camp will be built into the Neighbourhood Plan and will be a standing item on NDP agenda.**

**175.16 FAIR TRADE.**

**Resolved: that the use of Fair Trade goods is approved in principle, however, the clerk will look into the details of Fair Trade accreditation and the cost and availability of goods.**

**176.16 ENVIRONMENT.**

Waste recycling at the pavilion was discussed. The clerk reported that the cost of using business recycling services (the pavilion is not considered a ‘residence’) was considered too high for the amount of waste generated.

**Resolved: that the clerk will establish how waste collected from the pavilion is processed. In the meantime pavilion staff will recycle waste appropriately and Councillors will collect and recycle. The clerk will report on the cost of the recycling collection service.**

**The matter will be referred to General Purposes.**

**177.16 FOOD SHARE.**

**Resolved: to defer this item to the January Parish Council meeting; in the meantime the clerk will find out where the service is currently available.**

**178.16 CHEMISTRY PITS PATH.**

**Resolved: to refer this item to the General Purposes Committee.**

**179.16 INVITATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS.**

None.

**180.16 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

**Resolved: that the date and time of the next meeting will be on 9th January 2017 at 7.00pm.**

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