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 7 September 2020, 7.30pm, via Cisco Webex – meeting no: 163 068 7334

Present: Cllr M Bryan, Cllr M Carter, Cllr J Egerton-Parry, Cllr T Egerton-Parry,

Cllr J Evans, Cllr J Houlbrook, Cllr G Hulmes, Cllr N Poulton, Cllr F Samuel,

Cllr J Schmidt, Cllr B Southward and Cllr B Walker.

In attendance: Suzi Bull (Clerk/Proper Officer).

**44.20 OPEN FORUM.**

No members of the public in attendance wished to speak at the meeting.

**45.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bennion, Cllr Booth and

Cllr Greenhalgh.

Cllr Keenan was absent without apology.

**Resolved: the apologies for absence were noted.**

**46.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No declarations of interest were made.

**Resolved: noted.**

**47.20 MINUTES.**

**Resolved: The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 July 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and due to Covid 19 restrictions will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.**

**Proposed by Cllr Houlbrook, seconded by Cllr Hulmes, all agreed.**

**48.20. COMMUNITY SAFETY.**

**Resolved: The crime report from the Upton community policing team was received.**

**49.20 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS REPORTS**.

**Resolved: The payment of salaries and expenses, payment of invoices for goods and services rendered were approved. Receipts and details of current balances were noted.**

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

**50.20 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**

The following matters were reported:

* Under the revised timeline a referendum to approve the final plan will be held in October 2021.
* Further work may be required because of the Government White Paper which will come before CW&C Council’s Scrutiny Committee shortly with the CW&C Council’s position on the paper being published soon after.
* Non-Parish Council members of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group were commended for their dedication and hard work during the process for reaching the draft plan stage.

Proposed by Cllr Houlbrook that the draft plan as it stands is approved, seconded by Cllr Bryan.

Vote – 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**Resolved: proposal carried.**

**51.20 CHESHIRE RAILINGS MAINTENANCE.**

**Resolved: The Clerk will take action to organise a volunteer group to paint the railings at the QE II Playing Field.**

**52.20 BUS LANES.**

Information was provided regarding the reasons behind the bus and cycle lanes being put down on roads without prior consultation with residents, in the Chester area (including Upton).

CW&C Council was required to install the road markings to secure further funding at a later date; CW&C Council intends to consult with residents retrospectively. In the meantime the bus and cycle lanes will be used for a trial period.

**Resolved: Comments and ideas for the use of bus and cycle lanes in Upton will be passed to and considered by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.**

**53.20 COVID COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EXPENSES.**

**Resolved: Petrol costs incurred by community volunteers for delivering community aid due to COVID restrictions will be reimbursed from the Community Aid Fund.**

**The Clerk will calculate the remaining balance of funds.**

**54.20 COMMUNITY WILDLIFE/RE-WILDING AREAS.**

Members are largely in favour of re-wilding grass verges and creating wildlife areas in the Upton community.

CW&C Council is due to carry out a public consultation regarding re-wilding verges shortly.

**Resolved: The Parish Council will wait for the results of the CW&C survey before acting to re-wild verges.**

**The Clerk will forward information regarding a recent CW&C pond initiative to Cllr Bryan for further consideration of creating a pond on the QE II playing field.**

**55.20 CHRISTMAS.**

**Resolved: The Parish Council will make initial plans to hold its annual Carol Singing event on Wednesday 16th December (tbc).**

**The Clerk will respond to Chester Round Table to confirm the event and invite the Santa Float to attend.**

**56.20 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

**Resolved: Parish Council meetings will continue to be held online until further notice.**

**57.20 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

**Resolved: The date and time of the next meeting will be on Monday 26 October at 7.30pm.**