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

15 January 2018, 7.00pm, at Upton Pavilion, Upton, Chester.

Present: Cllr S Eardley, Cllr J Evans, Cllr J Houlbrook, Cllr J Lee, Cllr M Lloyd,

Cllr H McNae, Cllr A Paddock, Cllr F Samuel, Cllr B Southward,

Cllr K Vaughan and Cllr A Walmsley (Chairman).

In attendance: Mrs S Pollard (Clerk).

**155.18 OPEN FORUM.**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

**156.18 COMMUNITY SAFETY.**

Sgt Davis attended the meeting to provide further information regarding a request to make use of the Pavilion by local police officers.

Local police officers were unable to attend this meeting to report on crime but a written report was circulated.

**Resolved: the Parish Council will agree to the casual use of the Pavilion by local Police Constable Robert Brown and PCSO Jenna Tapley, for the purpose of administrative work and occasional public liaison. The clerk will arrange for the external key safe code to be issued to local police officers. Signage to inform residents that the police are in attendance will be considered.**

**157.18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bartliff, Cllr Bennion, Cllr Bryan,

Cllr Ford and Cllr S Lloyd.

**Resolved: noted.**

**158.18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Walmsley declared an interest in item no:14 regarding Upton High School due to his role as a school governor.

**Resolved: noted.**

**159.18 MINUTES.**

**Resolved: the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

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

**160.18 CLERK’S REPORT.**

It was further reported that consideration of the request by residents for waiting restrictions on roads in the Bache Hall Estate is ongoing; Cllr Houlbrook and Cllr Evans are liaising with CW&C Highways.

**Resolved: the Clerk’s Report was noted.**

**161.18 COMMITTEE MINUTES.**

**Resolved: the Minutes of the committees held since the last meeting were received.**

Finance Committee 8th January 2018.

General Purposes Committee 8th January 2018.

**162.18 WORKING PARTIES.**

**Resolved: that the notes of the QE II Playing Field Working Party were received.**

**163.18 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**

The Chairman of the Steering Group reported that publicity is currently being considered; an information leaflet will go out with Inside Upton in March.

A Business Survey Questionnaire is now complete and ready to trial.

A meeting with local businesses and the Chester MP is arranged and members of the Steering Group will attend to use the opportunity for consultation purposes.

**Resolved: the Minutes of the steering group meeting held on 11th December were received. Cllr Evans will request more details regarding the meeting at Weston Grove shops and circulate to councillors.**

**164.18 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORT.**

Items from the Borough Councillor’s reports were discussed.

**Resolved: the reports from Borough Councillors were received and noted.**

**165.18 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS REPORTS**.

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

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

**166.18 PRECEPT.**

**Resolved: that the Parish Council will set the precept for the financial period 2018/19 at £99,300. This represents a 4% decrease on last year.**

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

Vote:

For - 8

Against – 3

**167.18 LOCAL PLAN (PT II) LAND ALLOCATIONS CONSULTATION.**

**Resolved: the Parish Council will submit a response in agreement with the current CW&C Council recommendations.**

**168.18 UPTON HIGH SCHOOL.**

The Chairman reported on a recent tour of the High School buildings involving Borough Councillors, himself and the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council along with representatives of other Parish Councils appropriate to pupil intake feeder areas for the school. The tour had been arranged by the school to show those involved how badly the fabric of the buildings had evolved and how unreliable the utilities for the school (gas, electric, water) had become. The unacceptable state of the school buildings was now having a significant and detrimental impact on the education of pupils.

As a result of the tour findings, the school had requested the Parish Council (and those other parties involved in the visit) to make strong representations to the relevant authorities to provide urgent funding so that the school could be brought up to date with 21st century standards for its buildings and associated utility supplies.

**Resolved: (a) that the Parish Council write both to the Secretary of State for Education and the Education & Skills Funding Agency urging immediate and adequate funding to be provided and requesting that a personal visit to the school either by an appropriate Minister or a representative of ESFA be arranged as a matter of some urgency and**

**(b) that a copy of the Parish Council letter be shared with neighbouring Parish Councils requesting that they too make similar representations.**

**Vote for the proposed action:**

**For - 10**

**Against - 1**

**169.18 INVITATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS.**

None received.

**170.18 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.**

**Resolved: the Parish Council will enter the competition at a cost of £75. The clerk will attend training.**

**171.18 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

**Resolved: the date and time of the next meeting will be on Monday 26th February 2018 at 7.00pm.**

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