

UPTON MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held virtually via Zoom on 11th February 2021.

21/015 Public Question Time.

At this point, Mrs. Alison Utting introduced herself as the Parish Clerk who will take up the position from 15th February. Also, Mr. Alan Granger introduced himself as the new Sundorne Castle Estate Manager who will commence at the end of February.

21/016 Present.

Parish Councillors: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Walters, Mr. Brooker, Dr. Dawson, Mr. Pillow, Mrs. Bennion. Mrs. Smith-Wells (Parish Clerk). Shropshire Councillor Lezley Picton. Two members of the public.

21/017 Apologies.

None.

21/018 Declarations of Interest.

None received.

21/019 Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 14th January 2021.

Resolved as a correct record and agreed that the Chairman would sign the minutes in person, at a later date.

21/020 Monthly Report from Councillor Picton.

Councillors accepted Councillor Picton's general written report circulated prior to the meeting (included on the Parish Council website). She added a) that it has been confirmed that local elections will take place on 6th May and b) that Shropshire Council are to improve their reporting system.

21/021 Accounts.

- It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the following amounts be approved for payment in February:

£229.85	Parish Clerk's salary, Working from Home Allowance and mileage for January
£117.62	Parish Clerk's salary, Working from Home Allowance and mileage for February
£27.31	Streetlight electricity
£86.34	Servicing of lawnmower

- It was agreed that the Chairman and one other signatory would sign the authorisation sheet and cheques in person, at a later date.
- It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the bank reconciliation and accounting spreadsheets for the third quarter (prepared by the Parish Clerk) be accepted.

21/022 Current Projects.

- Smartwater: No further progress due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was agreed that the outgoing Parish Clerk would deliver the Smartwater kits to Councillor Brooker for storage.

21/023

Planning.

The Parish Council discussed new and existing planning applications:

- 20/03075/FUL single storey extension at The Haughmond village store: permission granted.
- 16/04965/EIA construction of poultry units at The Rea: pending.
- 20/05154/VAR variations to planning application at 10 Pelham Road: pending.
- 20/05269/TCA tree work at 8 Pelham Road: consent by right.
- 21/00052/FUL extension at The Gate House, Upton Magna. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the Parish Council does not object to this application. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to post a comment to that effect on Shropshire Council's Planning Register.

21/024

General Parish and Highway Matters.

- Haughton Crossroads: The Forestry Commission has advised that they are not willing to allow the Parish Council to pay for the replacement of the hedge with an open fence. It was agreed that the Parish Council's only course of action left is to continue to regularly remind the Forestry Commission (and other adjoining landowners) to keep hedges and vegetation cut back.
- Verge at Haughmond Hill: Councillors again discussed the damaged verge close to the corner by the Criftins, caused by motorists parking there when using the rear (unofficial) entrance to Haughmond Hill. It was agreed that the problem is worsening. The Parish Clerk reported that Shropshire Council has not replied to her request for information on the legality of placing boulders on the verge and Councillors Picton said that she will chase the Highways Section. It was further noted that flimsy "no parking" signs erected by the Forestry Commission have blown away.
- Flooding on the Leg 'o' Mutton Road: Shropshire Council has placed "road closed due to flooding" signs on this road. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.
- Asset Register: Councillor Brooker has carried out the annual inspection of the Parish Council's assets and no action is required. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to place the completed asset inspection form on the Parish Council's website.
- Accident on Pelham Road: The Chairman reported that there had been another road traffic accident on the sharp corner on Pelham Road, heading towards Berwick Wharf. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to email: a) Atcham Parish Council to suggest they request a salt bin from Shropshire Council for that location and b) Shropshire Council Highways Section to highlight the problem to them.
- Footpath 0437/1/1: Councillor Dawson reported that this footpath is still not clear, and an unguarded electric fence has now been erected across it. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to email Richard Jones-Perrott regarding it.

21/025

Correspondence.

None.

21/026

New Parish Clerk.

It was reported that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had interviewed two candidates for the position and Mrs. Alison Utting had been successful. She commences on 15th February, on which date she and the current Clerk will meet for a handover. It was noted here that she has prior commitments for several forthcoming dates, and it was agreed that the scheduled meeting date of 11th March be changed to 10th March. Other dates will be addressed in the near future.

Mrs. Smith-Wells was thanked for her work for the Parish Council over the last seven years.

- 21/027** **Items for Future Agenda.**
Flooding on “leg of mutton road”.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.37pm.

..... (Chairman) (Date)

Date of next meeting: 10th March 2021

MRS. K.M. SMITH-WELLS, CLERK TO UPTON MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

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