

OUTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting (the 367th), of the Council, commenced on Tuesday 5th December 2023, at 7pm at Upwell Public Hall, New Road, Upwell. Chairperson, Mr. Fred Keer presided over the meeting.

Attending: -

Councillor's Ms. Donna Semmen, Mrs. Jill Gooch, (7.15pm) Mr. John Watts, Mr. David Murfitt, Mr. Dale Boyce, Mrs. Tara Rust, Ms. Sarah Arden and Mrs. Gina Greenwood, Borough Councillor Mr. Chris Crofts.

2members of Public

1.1 Apologies accepted for absence: -

Councillor Mrs. Jane Sutton

Borough Councillor Mr. Harry Humphrey.

County Councillor Mr. Chris Dawson

1.2. Councillors' Declaration of Interest in tonight's Agenda items.

Please indicate whether the interest is a personal one only or one which is also prejudicial. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of personal interest, the member may speak and vote on the matter. If a prejudicial interest is declared the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

1.3. **Public Forum:** One of Council's Land tenants, whom had been given 6 months' notice to quit his land in March, spoke to the Council saying how disappointed he was with them not checking on him as to why his rent hadn't been paid. He was also upset at the way the Council had dealt with the matter and already allocated the land to another tenant on 1st December 2023. He requested that the Council withdraw their decision for him to vacate the land in Langhorn's lane. Chairman informed him that the matter will be discussed by the Council under the heading of Allotment reports.

Chairman at this time allowed Borough Councillor Chris Crofts to speak- he was having to attend another meeting. He asked that OPC would support Mr. Paul Jeffery with the letter he had sent to the planning Ombudsman. The council agreed. He then left the meeting at 7.10pm.

1.4 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 were distributed before this meeting. They were accepted on a proposal by Cllr Donna Semmens and seconded by Cllr John Watts.

These were duly signed as a true record by the Chairperson.

1.5 **Council procedures-** no new ones.

2.1 To report matters arising from the minutes from the Meeting held 7th November 2023.

2.1.1. New Cemetery – Councilor Mrs. Jane Sutton was absent- so no report.

2.1.2 Verges- CC Chris Dawson was not here to update.

2.1.3. River Railings- CC Chris Dawson has advised the Council to bid for funding for help to repair the railings, the Council agreed to put in a bid.

2.1.4. Car Parking outside school. - CC Chris Dawson has recommended that PC representatives along with himself and the Head Teacher to have a meeting. Cllr Georgina Greenwood has volunteered. At this Georgina informed the Council that there will be difficulties again for those that are wanting to get into Downham Market High School in September 2024. Chair of the Governas has written to DMA, they will not expand their school. Beaupre is not a feeder to school to Downham but is for Thomas Clarkson at Wisbech.

2.1.5 Recreation Ground- Community Garden- Cllr Ms. Donna Semmens reported to the Council that there is a Community Garden in Welney and advises Councillor's to visit. It's a working party project- not the Council. John Giles is the landscaper, and it has security, good usage and a Dog Bin located.

2.1.6. Christmas Lights were very successful this year again. Thankyou to the lights committee for all their hard work.

2.1.7 Response from Liz Truss- re-entry into secondary schools in 2024.- Liz is monitoring the developments closely and will make further enquiries if/when necessary. Parent's and Carers are more than welcome to contact Liz on elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk if they have concerns about this issue.

2.2 MATTERS FOR COUNCIL TO ACTION: -

2.2.1 NCC – Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with town and parish council for the financial year 2024/25- copy of email to all Councillors – nothing forthcoming. CC Chris Dawson is hoping that with Parish partnership money that the Riverside Railings can be repaired/ replaced. This has been agreed earlier.

2.2.2. Neighbourhood Plan- Chairman asked permission for him to write to Prue Lester and Sue Lowe about their interest in helping OPC- it was agreed.
Clerk is to organise a meeting between two members of Council, along with other volunteers and a member of BC Neighbourhood planning to get the ball rolling for this project to go ahead.

2.2.3. Clerk's Wage Increase April 2023- -copy of memo to all Councillors was sent before the meeting. Clerk left the room. On a proposal by Councillor Jill Gooch seconded by Councillor Donna Semmens- the Council unanimously agreed to accept the proposal. Clerk returned to meeting.

2.2.4- Email from Kevin Bacon promoting beacons – 6th June 2024- Outwell have committed to have a beacon or fire pit – so Clerk to organize this event.

2.2.5- War Memorial- email from Bill Smith suggested that something is done with the memorial in the Churchyard to prevent the wreaths flying around in high winds, after they have been laid. On a proposal by Councillor Dale Boyce and Seconded by Gina Greenwood that Council should deal with this, Chairman agreed he would look into this matter.

2.2.6- Meeting Dates for 2024 were agreed on a proposal by Councillor Tara Rust and seconded by Councillor Gina Greenwood.

3 FINANCE

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3.1 Decisions/action

3.1.1 To formerly approve Accounts – There was a copy of Bank Statements for everyone for November, also get a financial report. Chairman has checked the records to ensure consistency in the accounting system. Council is now back on track with their banking.

3.1.2. The payments for December were formerly agreed.

3.1.3- Chairman and Clerk to work the budget for next year. An agreement of a 10% raise was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor John Watts. This was unanimously agreed.

3.1.4. Council appreciated that the light Committee have managed to raise enough donations and more.

3.2 For information

3.2.1 BulleyDavy are the accountants that ensure the Clerk's salary is accounted for.

Payments for December 2023 to be Authorised

Payee	Goods	VAT	Total	Ref	Supplier/ Service
Debbie Newton	595.00	0.00	595.00	DD	Clerk Wages
Mr Ellington	345.51	0.00	345.51	DEC01/23	Village cleaner 33hrs @£10.47
Mr Ellington	24.99	0.00	24.99	DEC01/23	Hi VIS Jacket,
Plusnet	38.58	0.00	38.58	DEC02/23	BT Telephone/broadband OCT
K & M Lighting	105.15	21.03	126.18	DEC03/23	Dec Streetlighting maintenance
D J Newton	92.40	0.00	92.40	DEC04/23	Back Pay to April 1st
Upwell Hall	22.00	0.00	22.00	DEC05/23	Hiring of meeting room
SSE Electricity	509.96	101.99	611.95	DEC06/23	Electricity supply October
S. Arden	976.38	0.00	976.38	DEC07/23	Christmas Lights
CGM	258.08	51.62	309.70	Dec08/23	Infilled canal 19/09
Totals	2968.05	174.64	3142.69		

4. REPORTS-

4.1 To receive monthly Police Updates sent via email. All relevant emails sent to the Councillor's.

4.2 To receive the report from the School Liaison Officer – Nothing reported

4.3 To receive the report from the OLD Cemetery working party- Tidy

4.4 To receive the report from the Playing field and Village Hall Committee – Councillor Mrs Tara Rust reported that the next fundraising event will be the NYE dance. The Car Park needs attention, but funds are lacking. The AGM is on Wednesday 6th December 7.30pm at the Crown Public House.

4.5 To receive the report from the Planning working party – report attached to the agenda.

Response from Mr. Hall re- letter of complaint written by Council- copy to all Councillor's.

4.6 To receive the report from the Allotment Working Party: - Mr. Sieley left the room at this time.

Several matters were discussed regarding the use of the piece of land in Langhorn's lane and the late payment of rent. The land has also been sublet. It was decided that a registered letter be sent to Mr. Sieley informing him that the Council hadn't changed their minds, and he would therefore have to give up his tenancy.

4.7 To receive the report from the Village and Highways Working Party-

4.7.1. Streetlights reported as and when.

4.7.2 Any highway reports to Councillor Mrs. Jane Sutton.

4.7.3. Clerk still looking for Suitable notice boards and Benches.

4.7.4 Council needs to find out if the Feasibility Study results.

4.8 To receive the Norfolk County Councillor's Report -Mr. Chris Dawson has sent all updates /reports via email.

4.9 To receive Borough Councillor Mr Harry Humphries/ Mr. Chris Crofts report- reported earlier.

4.10 Outwell Parish Council Web Site is updated monthly-

4.11 To consider agenda items for the next meeting 30.01.2024.

4.12 Date of next scheduled meeting – Tuesday 5th February 2024 at 7pm at Upwell Village Hall, New Road, Upwell.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....