

OUTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting (the 366th), of the Council, commenced on Tuesday 7th November 2023, at 7pm at Upwell Public Hall, New Road, Upwell. Chairperson, Mr. Fred Keer presided over the meeting.

Attending: -

Councillor's Ms. Donna Semmens (7.20pm), Mrs. Jill Gooch, Mrs. Jane Sutton, Mr. John Watts, Mr. David Murfitt, and Mr. Dale Boyce
Borough Councillor Mr. Chris Crofts.

3 members of Public

1.1 Apologies accepted for absence: -

Councillor's Tara Rust, Sarah Arden and Gina Greenwood.
Borough Councillor Mr. Harry Humphrey.
County Councillor Mr. Chris Dawson

Chairman requested that Council sends their best wishes to Cllr Tara Rust. Her son was badly injured during a football match over the weekend.

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:** The Village Cleaner reported that the footway between Church Bridge and the old bus stop is in bad condition. (Clerk had already reported this).

1.4 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 were distributed before this meeting. Chairman pointed out an error in the Council Procedures which immediately corrected, on this amendment, they were accepted on a proposal by Cllr Dale Boyce and seconded by Cllr Jane Sutton.

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

1.5 **Council procedures-** Chairman again re- iterated that no member of Council should be using their Council position without the Council's permission. They can be approached by any member of public and advise any member of public to write to the clerk of the Council for Council intervention. When the views of the Council and any decision making is made it was proposed by Councillor John Watts that the Quorum should be increased from 4 to 6. This was seconded by Councillor Jane Sutton. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to update the Council's Standing orders.

2.1 To report matters arising from the minutes from the Meeting held 3rd October 2023

2.1.1. New Cemetery- Chairman spoke to the Council about the reality of costs for the New Cemetery. He went back to notes etc. collated back in 2021 when the Clerk and himself visited the Cemetery after Ex Councillor Paul Brenchley told Council about the extended cemetery at Leverington. The costs were £80,000 back in 2014 whereby there were already car parking facilities and access. If money is borrowed for thirty years at the interest rates now the loan would want to be around £250,000.00. He asked the Council to consider that the number of burials per year possibly doesn't warrant that amount of expenditure.

Borough Councillor Chris Crofts did inform that the Council must find out if the allotment land is Statutory. Clerk to contact NALC.

County Councillor Mr. Chris Dawson was absent from the meeting, so the next three items were not discussed at length.

2.1.2 Verges- No update

2.1.3. River Railings- Councillor Jane Sutton reminded Council to be patient about these because CC Chris Dawson is still in discussion about the Railings.

2.1.4. Car Parking outside school.

2.1.5 Recreation Ground- Cllr Donna Semmens informed the Council of a project that has been instigated by a working group in Welney for a landscaped area for people to walk and sit in. The Council approved this idea. Cllr Donna Semmens to get more information before the next meeting.

2.1.6. The council's CIL application has been accepted- Parish Council now to apply to NCC Highways to go ahead with the Trod.

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.

2.2.2. Neighbourhood Plan- There are now 4 members outside Council willing to be on the Working Party – The Council have authorized Councillor's John Watts and Mrs. Jill Gooch to form a working party after Christmas. Clerk to send to send both Margaret and Kate's contact details.

2.2.3. Development at Isle Road, Outwell- by Freebridge-Council made the decision not to have streetlights on the new development.

2.2.4- Christmas Lights – Councillor Jane Sutton has given a list to the Clerk of those that have donated towards the lights this year, £640.00 plus there is already £605 in the Council's Bank from last year from donations given. It is proposed to extend the lights from the Bridge down to the Boat Basin.

2.2.5- Email from Kevin Bacon promoting beacons – 6th June 2024- Outwell Council intend to participate in lighting a Beacon on 6th June 2014 at 9.15pm. Also, to encourage parishioners to put lamps in their windowsills too. More information to follow.

2.2.6- Remembrance Sunday: - Sunday 12th November at the memorial for 2pm. There is to be a procession from Beaupre School. There is no service afterwards. Councillor Mr. Dale Boyce to lay Council's wreath.

3 FINANCES

3.1 Decisions/action

3.1.1 Accounts were formerly approved– there have been no banking statements for September and October- The Clerk has opened a new account with Unity Trust as agreed by the Council last meeting that should be up and running shortly. A copy of payments and receipts is attached to the agenda.

The clerk banked the Cheque that morning with great relief. Chairman personally thanked the Clerk for ensuring this was sorted as soon as was possible and dealing with the payments accordingly.

3.1.2. November payments were approved as below- copies of payments to be made are attached to this agenda.

3.2 For information

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

Payments for November 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	NOV01/23	Village cleaner 33hrs @£10.47
Plusnet	38.58	0.00	38.58	NOV02/23	BT Telephone/broadband Sept
K & M Lighting	105.15	21.03	126.18	NOV03/23	November Streetlighting maintenance
CGM	28.89	5.78	34.67	NOV04/23	Cutting of the Boat Basin 19/09
CGM	121.34	24.27	145.61	NOV04/23	Cutting of Cemetery 20/09
BCKL&WN	2500.00	0.00	2500.00	NOV05/23	Payment for feasibility study
Royal Brit Leg	25.00	0.00	25.00	NOV06/23	Wreath
BulleyDavis	54.00	10.80	64.80	NOV07/23	Clerks PAYE
BCKL&WN	45.50	9.10	54.60	NOV08/23	Uncontested PC Election fee
SSE Electricity	3141.98	628.39	3770.37	NOV09/23	Electricity supply April to Oct
Viking	100.47	24.83	125.30	NOV10/23	Ink Cartridges
CGM	86.67	17.33	104.00	NOV11.23	Boat Basin 18/10, 27/10,30/10
CGM	364.02	72.8	436.82	NOV11/23	Cemetery- 04/10 17/10, 30/10
CGM	516.16	103.23	619.39	NOV12/23	Canal 18/10, 03/10
Viking	56.88	11.38	68.26	NOV13/23	Ink cartridges for chairman
Totals	8125.15	928.94	9054.09		

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 – Nothing reported.

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

Cllr Mr. Dale Boyce declared an interest in this item.

Robyns Nest- Council to support Paul Jeffery's letter to Mr. Hall

Councillor Donna Semmens asked the Council if a letter could be written to Borough Council regarding the fact OPC is regarded as a consultee for planning, but often their views are ignored. This is reference to application at the bottom of Whetstone Way for 26 more affordable housing on an exception site. The council agreed. Chairman and Cllr Donna Semmens to write letter and send to Mr. Hall and copied to Cllr Jim Moriarty.

4.6 To receive the report from the Allotment Working Party: - The Clerk has written to Mr. Sieley to give him notice to leave his tenancy on 30th November 2023. He has currently dumped Pumpkin waste on it. Mr. Joe Robancana has looked at it and has noticed there's not just pumpkin waste, but wood and nails and the drainage hasn't been kept clear.

He is willing to take on the land rent free till next October to get the field back to its original state and then pay £160.00 per acre plus drainage costs- The Council agreed to this proposal.

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. Street scene officers are due to visit Outwell in December. Please report any issues that are listed on the email sent.

4.7.4. A new noticeboard and bench are required, Clerk to look for quotes. CC Chris Crofts has offered £1,000.00 from his community funding to help towards cost. The council duly accepted this.

4.8 To receive the Norfolk County Councillor's Report - always keeps the Council up to date via email.

4.9 Borough Councillor Mr. Chris Crofts reported that meetings with officers and Chairman are occurring at this time, even increasing to two a month to get caught up. He informed the Council that 70 sites for travellers in the Borough are required in the next two years. There is a six-week period of application for the whole Borough. He encourages OPC to take advantage of the CIL money available to help towards costs.

4.10 Outwell Parish Council Web Site is updated monthly-

4.11 To consider agenda items for the next meeting 29.11.2023.

4.12 Date of next scheduled meeting – Tuesday 5th November 2023 at 7pm at Upwell Village Hall, New Road, Upwell

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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