

UPAVON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 16th May 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall, followed by a Parish Council Meeting

Present: Paul Cowan, Chairman, (PC), Julie Swansborough (JS), Robert Bruce, Vice Chairman, (RB), Russell Appleton, (RA), Noel Maskell, (NM), Ralph Hilliard, (RHi), Claire Himbury, (CH), Jon Mulroy, (JM), John Cabra, (JC), Pat Eyre, (Clerk) (PE) Robert Hall, Wiltshire Council, (RH),

Members of the Public - Stuart Nutt, Malcolm Reading

Apologies - Eric Hagon, (EH), Peter Williams, (PW), Paula Brown, (UCG), (PB)

(WC = Wiltshire Council) (UCG = Upavon Community Group)

(The meeting started with an Adjournment in order that Cllr. Robert Hall could speak regarding the planning issues involved in Aster Housing's application to build 5 houses at Avon Square. For further details please see Minutes of Parish Council Meeting which followed this APM).

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18.5.11 were signed and agreed as a true record.
2. Matters Arising - there were no matters arising.
3. Paul Cowan gave the Chairman's report, which was accepted by the Committee. There had been several changes during the last year and the following were thanked for their work for the Council - Paul Baggaley, who left following an injury which prevented him from collecting refuse, John Stevens for all his voluntary work in maintaining the playing fields and helping with refuse collecting when necessary, Tony Willman who had been a valued member of the Council but had resigned due to work and family commitments and also Mick Cotton, former Camp Commandant at Trenchard Lines who had forged strong links with the village which now needed to be re-formed following his retirement.

Two new co-opted members of the Council were welcomed and thanked for their work - Claire Himbury and Jon Mulroy.

Fred Needham, who had taken over the refuse collection, was also welcomed.

Much of the Council's work during the past year was concerned with Planning and Development matters - the ploughing of the footpath to Rushall, which had still not been re-instated, the building of 3 new houses, one in Pewsey Road and 2 in Devizes Road, several extensions and alterations, the proposal of development at Whistledown Farm, the proposal to build 5 houses in Avon Square and the possible development of the Garage site (on which planning application needs to be renewed).

There have been some disappointments during the year - particularly the re-occurring vandalism at the Playing Fields by the few which affects the whole community, the

loss of bus routes where the Council had been unable to influence decisions, the volume of traffic and the increase in speeding which was still a major concern, the withdrawal of school crossing provision at Down View, which remains a major concern. A further concern is the amount of repair and restoration needed to the equipment on the Playing Fields and the lack of funding needed. It was hoped that some grants may become available from various bodies, in particular the Fields in Trust scheme for the re-naming of fields as Queen Elizabeth II fields in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Quotations were being asked for.

Successes had been - the very successful and enjoyable Villagers' Day - Robert Bruce and his 'team' were thanked for all their hard work. The red phone boxes had been restored and were now ready for use as information centres. The team of litter pickers, led by Julie Swansborough, Russ Appleton and Peter Williams were thanked for all their hard work in keeping the village tidy. Russ was also thanked for all his hard work in helping to maintain the Playgrounds and their equipment. Noel Maskell was thanked for his perseverance in establishing the footpath to Riverside and the hard standing at the bus stop. Thanks were also due to Paula Brown and the UCG Committee for all their hard work at the school. It was also emphasised that they were always in need of other volunteers to work with them.

Thanks were also due to Wiltshire Council, the police, bailiffs, Parish Councillors and everyone who had help to solve the long standing problem of 'abandoned' vehicles etc. in Avon Square.

Council had also been instrumental in the proposed Aster housing development being deferred pending consideration of several aspects of the application such as parking provision, houses being made available on a shared equity basis, contributions to the community according to the '106' clause and changes in the design.

Future projects included the Diamond Jubilee and Villager's Day events, the upgrading of the play equipment in both Playing Fields, the proposed footpath to Riverside and links to local community bodies such as PCAP, PAB, Pewsey Campus, Transport, Police and Social Services. Jon Mulroy was thanked for his attendance at their various meetings and for his reports.

It was reported that Council had been able to reduce the Precept over the last 6 years.

Councillors were reminded that there would be an election next year.

4. Police Community Support Officer Joe Sadd presented the Police Report, a copy of which is attached.

Reports had also been received from the Village Hall Committee and the PCC, copies of which are attached.

Paula Brown was not present but had been asked to submit the annual UCG report and audited accounts. These were expected in due course.

5. A.O.B. - there was no other business.

All Council members agreed to remain as Councillors. Paul Cowan was unanimously elected as Chairman. He agreed to continue in this role for another year. Robert Bruce was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman. Members agreed to remain in their current working groups.

Robert Bruce expressed thanks to Paul for all his work as Chairman and Pat Eyre was thanked for her work as Clerk.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.