

The **Minutes** of the meeting of **Upchurch Parish Council** held in Upchurch Village Hall on **3rd March 2022**

Present: Cllr Tyrone Ripley (Chairman), Cllr Pam Denny (Vice Chair), Cllr Ernie Berntsen, Cllr Helen Boakes, Cllr John Bodycomb, Cllr Gerry Lewin, Cllr Gary Rosewell; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were County Councillor Mike Baldock, Ward Member Richard Palmer and eight members of the public.

Cllr Ripley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

153. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Alan Horton (at another meeting) and Cllr Neil Sheppard (work); apologies accepted.

154. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

155. Minutes of the meeting on 3rd February 2022

Cllr Lewin **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2022, as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Denny: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Ripley duly signed the minutes as a true record.

Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

#1- There has been a meeting with the Swale Planning Officer and his architect and it has been decided to submit amendments for the planning application for Burntwick.

Cllr Ripley said that this could not be discussed as it was not on the agenda.

#2- Can there be fencing around the building works at 116 Oak Lane; there is mud everywhere and also vehicles are being parked everywhere making it difficult for traffic to get past the parked vehicles. There are also bonfires.

KCCllr Baldock reported that he had also received comments and the Enforcement Officer had made a site visit.

ACTION: *Cllr Rosewell to report to the case officer.*

KCCllr Baldock reported that Kent County Council has put through its budget, there is a huge cut in bus services; at the moment Upchurch is not affected and the proposal is out for consultation. The whole principle is worrying; Upchurch and Lower Halstow have had cuts to the bus services in the last few years. Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council are trying to get feeder services from the villages to the main routes. The Community Wardens are very effective as they are able to identify vulnerable people earlier and this saves money. There is a significant increase in the KCC Highways budget, although this is still not enough. There are a lot of concrete roads in Kent which are now exceeding their life expectancy; in Kent we have a lot of continental lorries passing through. There has been a problem with SEN transport services and this is mostly resolved. The policy on subsidised buses needs to be reviewed; currently pupils must go to the nearest school and if a grammar school is the appropriate school then young people should be supported. The whole of the Isle of Sheppey does not qualify for assistance to a grammar school as the nearest school is deemed to be Oasis; the criteria needs to be the nearest appropriate school. Consideration is being given

to introducing more quiet lanes with a speed limit of 20mph and reduce maintenance; this would encourage more cyclists and horse riders, there are a couple of lanes in Upchurch which would be suitable. The next Swale West Parishes meeting is on Tuesday 22 March at 7pm in Hartlip Village Hall, there will be a speaker from Age UK concerning tackling rural loneliness.

Cllr Ripley thanked KCCllr Baldock for attending and for his report.

SBCllr Palmer said it has been a quiet month. Some residents have been in contact regarding concerns with the SEN transport, Kent County Council admitted there had been an error due to the change of service provider, this has now been resolved.

Cllr Ripley thanked SBCllr Palmer for attending and for his report.

#3- I live in Wallbridge Lane and am concerned about the trees on the edge of the Golf Course, one tree came down during Storm Eunice and hit the front of a house, thankfully no one was hurt but it did bring down a power line. Wallbridge Lane was without power for three days. I have contacted the Golf Club several times requesting that the trees be reduced in height but there has been no response.

KCCllr Baldock said that he would look into the matter.

Cllr Ripley said the Parish Council will also write to the Golf Club requesting them to take action.

Cllr Boakes reported that her husband had helped clear the fallen tree, the tree was rotten.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Golf Club.

#4- I moved into Wallbridge Lane last year and am concerned about the trees, there is a risk to life.

Cllr Berntsen said the Golf Club is duty bound to display its Public Liability Certificate, the insurers could be contacted to add this to the risk.

The meeting was reconvened.

..... **156. Correspondence**

i. To appoint two Parish Council Representatives to the Upchurch Village Hall Management Committee

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to appoint Cllr Lewin as the Parish Council Representative to the Upchurch Village Hall Management Committee.

ii. To consider request to contribute towards the fence between the Village Hall car park and church yard

Cllr Ripley said the fence is the Council's responsibility and a quotation has been received for the works.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Clive Belsom for £115 to replace the chestnut posts and the paling to be reinstated once the new posts are in place.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Church and Village Hall Committee of the decision.

157. Planning

Cllr Lewin **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2022 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Bodycomb: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Rosewell.

Ref: 19/505263/FULL

Address: Kaynes Farm Breach Lane Upchurch Ken

Proposal: Retrospective application for siting of a portacabin for residential use of the site by a gypsy/traveller, in association with existing smallholding and equine facilities.

Ref: 21/506357/FULL

Address: 116 Oak Lane Upchurch Kent ME9 7A

Proposal: Proposed 1 year temporary permission for 2no. detached garages for use as residential accommodation during the construction of 2no. new dwellings, previously approved under application 20/505179/FULL

Cllr Rosewell informed Members that these applications will be considered on 10 March at Swale Planning Committee.

ACTION: Cllr Rosewell to attend meeting.

158. General Purposes Committee

Cllr Lewin **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2022 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Denny: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Ripley.

Cllr Ripley informed Councillors that St Johns College has agreed to permit the installation of a multi-use games area at the Recreation Ground should the Council wish to pursue this with a public consultation and funding. A grant application has been submitted to the FCC Communities fund for a Trim Trail and climbing frame

159. Allotments

Cllr Bodycomb informed Members that there were no issues.

160. Finance

i. To receive finance report

Cllr Lewin said the Council Tax bills have been delivered and show that Upchurch Parish Council has reduced its Precept by 20.5% for a Band D property.

ii. Payments for approval

Payee	Reason	Amount
HR Services Partnership Ltd <i>Paid out of meeting</i>	HR support	£876.00
Business Stream	Allotment water	£13.74
Mr D Kew <i>Chq no: 3000015</i>	Wheelie bins and waste bags	£28.96
Upchurch Village Hall	Hall hire- February	£56.00
CPRE	Subscription	£36.00
Mr J Arnold	Sundries for Oak Lane defibrillator	£14.29
Staff	Salary	£600.34
HMRC	PAYE & NI	£164.58
Administration	Expenses	£35.63
Administration	Reimbursement toner cartridge	£63.28
Mr T Honeyman	Litter picker- February	£106.92
KALC	Dynamic Councillor Course and Creating a Social Media Strategy course	£102.00
Oakleaf Ltd	Installation of defibrillator	£459.60

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make the payments.

161. Paddock and Recreation Ground

Woodland Trail- to consider quotation and receive an update

Cllr Ripley reported that the grant funding applications for the Woodland Trail has been successful. The first contribution for this project was from the Queenborough Fishery Trust and SBC Western Area Committee has agreed to fund the balance.

ACTION: Clerk to thank the Western Area Committee.

Cllr Denny **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation from Sustainable Garden Solutions Ltd for £4,699.20 for a Woodland Trail: **SECONDED** by Cllr Berntsen: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Ripley said the boards will need proofing.

162. Burial Ground and Churchyard

Cllr Boakes reported that the notice board is damaged.

Cllr Ripley said a new notice board is needed.

ACTION: Cllr Ripley to obtain quotations.

Cllr Boakes said that after the storm the fence between the churchyard and car park had come down. A branch of the yew tree had also come down. The brambles near St Mary's View are overgrown.

Cllr Ripley said the church likes the natural habitat.

Cllr Lewin said the brambles do not impede the graves.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the contractor to remove the fallen branch.

163. Highways and Street Lighting

Cllr Berntsen reported that he is still negotiating with the contractor regarding a maintenance contract for the streetlights. Synergy with Newington Parish Council has been discussed with the contractor and he is open to the suggestion with a view to discounts for two contracts. A new contract for energy supply is being looked into and EDF are trying to obtain a rebate. The damaged light has been repaired. The new light for the traffic calming at 116 Oak Lane is progressing and consideration is being given as to where they can draw the electricity supply from. The certificate has been issued and prices will be subject to review.

Cllr Ripley reported that the bollards for Chaffes Lane will be installed although a date is to be fixed.

164. Footpaths

There was nothing to report.

165. Environment

i. To receive an update

Cllr Ripley informed Members that Amethyst cannot guarantee delivery of planters by 4 June.

ii. The Great British Spring Clean 2022

Cllr Ripley said the Great British Spring Clean is on 25 March-10 April 2022, the Council has always been involved in the initiative and has been led by Cllr Horton.

ACTION: Cllr Horton to co-ordinate the Spring Clean.

iii. To consider continuing with Tikspac rental agreement

Cllr Ripley said the Council had previously paid for two units, the new contract will cost £700 per annum or the Council can purchase bags at £69 (2,500) + carriage £7.95.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to purchase bags when needed.

166. Defibrillator

Cllr Ripley said the contractor will connect the defibrillator at the beginning of March. Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Neil Sheppard and former Councillor John Arnold for their sterling work on the project.

167. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022

Cllr Ripley informed Members that Swale Borough Council has awarded a grant of £500 towards the Jubilee celebrations. The Council will not organise anything for the Sunday and residents will be permitted to have their picnics at the Recreation Ground.

168. Reports from representatives

i) Village Hall Representative

Cllr Lewin reported that the Annual General Meeting is on 14 April.

ii) KALC

Cllr Ripley said all communications from KALC and the Swale Area Committee are circulated to Councillors.

iii) Police Liaison Officer

Cllr Lewin said the PCSO has sent a report which said there have been no incidents in the village. The Police surgeries are continuing at Snaffles.

Cllr Boakes said that she had been a victim of theft and the PCSO had visited that day.

It was agreed that Cllr Boakes be the Police Liaison Officer.

169. Matters arising

Cllr Ripley said the June Parish Council meeting is on the same evening as the beacon lighting and this will be rearranged to 9 June.

It was agreed that Cllr Bodycomb post the notices on the notice board near the Co-op.

Cllr Rosewell reported that during Storm Eunice, several large pieces of polystyrene came off Woolley's Field and pieces are now littering the wharf, Lower Road and Otterham Quay Lane. Medway Council have declined to address the issue; the Environment Agency will not do anything. Can Swale Borough Council help as, although the building site is in Medway, this is littering in the borough?

170. Date of next meeting- Thursday 7th April 2022 at 7.30pm at Upchurch Village Hall

Cllr Ripley said the Annual Parish Meeting will be on 28th April.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.37pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 7th April 2022