

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Upton with Fishley Parish Council held on Thursday, 13th September 2012 in the Village Hall**

### **Present:**

Mr Crane                      Mr Armes                      Mrs Stocker  
Mr Boyle                      Mr Leonard-Morgan

The meeting started with a talk from Kevin Hart, from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, on the plans for the Upton area over the next year; the project is called the Bure Valley Living Landscape, which aims to create a corridor for wildlife, from Cockshoot Broad to the end of Upton Dyke. The plans include the restoration of Upton Broad, the restoration of grazing meadows and the introduction of wet features to encourage migrant birds to the area. The NWT plans to install a cattle grid on the concrete road to the marshes, with a pedestrian gate to one side. The main gate will also be shortened and then locked, again with an access gate to one side. A new signboard will be installed at the dyke car park, and at Upton Fen car park in Low Road. New footpaths are to be created along the edge of the fen to enable visitors to see more of the land. Mr Hart was thanked for attending the meeting.

There were six members of the public present. Matters raised included the new mooring posts at the dyke. James Carswell (District and County Councillor) expressed his support for The White Horse pub. He also gave a report on the decision by the Secretary of State to review the application for an incinerator at Kings Lynn and on the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy by Broadland District Council.

### **Apologies:**

Anne Whelpton

### **Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda:**

Wendy Stocker declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the planning application for her house.

### **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2012 were agreed to be correct, and were signed by Nicholas Crane, as Chairman of the Parish Council.

### **Matters Arising:**

1. The old school playing field has been cut. The current tenant wants to sub-let the field. It was agreed to advertise the field to allow residents to submit a tender.
2. The audit for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 has been completed by the external auditors without comment. The Annual Return has been posted on the Council's website.
3. The new mooring posts have been installed at the boat dyke.
4. Correspondence has been received from MP Keith Simpson about councillors' interests being published online; the Government insists that parish councillors' register of

disclosable interests must be published online. Declaration of interest forms have been completed by Nicholas Crane, Anne Whelpton, Philip Armes and William Leonard-Morgan. Broadland District Council advice is that councillors do not have to resign if they do not complete a declaration of interests form, but that it is an offence under the Localism Act.

5. A letter of thanks has been received from the East Anglian Air Ambulance for the recent donation.

**Correspondence:**

1. The Government plans to repeal the Local Government Act 1972 s.150(5) which requires two signatories on every payment for Parish Councils. This will enable online banking and the use of a debit card for the clerk. The councillors supported this, but agreed that additional financial controls will be needed.
2. The AGM of the Norfolk Association of Local Councils will take place on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> November.
3. Norfolk County Council sent notice that the maintenance of public rights of way is now the responsibility of Highways. It is important that residents report overgrown footpaths to NCC. Maintenance issues should be reported to the NCC customer helpline on 0344 800 8020
4. There was some discussion about the Government's plans to relax requirements for planning permission on extensions. It was agreed to write to MP Keith Simpson to express the Council's concern and to ask for further details.
5. Broadland District Council sent an agreement to renew the permission for recycling bins to be placed on the boat dyke car park. This was agreed and Nicholas Crane signed the agreement on behalf of the Council.

**Treasurer's Report:**

	£
Balance b/f at 12th July 2012	1,026.23
Correction	(0.02)

**Receipts:**

Transfer from repairs account for posts	2,928.00
Transfer from repairs account (int)	4.89
Transfer from savings account	2,000.00
Grazing	85.00
BDC – glass recycling	148.34
Burial fee	630.00
War Graves commission	20.00
Geoffrey Watling grant	1,000.00

**Cheques for payment:**

Transfer to play equipment account (grant)	1,000.00
Acle PC – share of expenses	73.39

P James – clerk’s fee and exps	306.03
HMRC – PAYE	69.40
Norfolk Pension Fund	94.61
Amis Piling – mooring posts	2,649.60
Playsafety – inspection	111.60
SJB Safety – boat dyke inspection	90.00
Garden Guardian – grasscutting	840.45
Mazars – external audit	<u>342.00</u>
Balance c/f at 13th September 2012	2,265.36
BSA	15,161.95
Play area funds	21,426.00
Repairs and Renewals Accounts	<u>35,188.00</u>
Total monies	<u>74,041.31</u>

The above payments were approved.

**New signatory:**

It was agreed to appoint Philip Armes as a signatory to the Council’s bank account with Barclays, together with Nicholas Crane and Anne Whelpton.

**Planning Matters:**

1. **Mr Stocker, 3 St Margaret’s Close** – single storey front extension and detached single garage. (Wendy Stocker declared a disclosable pecuniary interest, left the room and took no part in the discussion or voting.) The councillors had no objections to the plans.

Planning results from **Broadland District Council:**

i) **Upton Poultry Farm, The Windle** – erection of a 250kw wind turbine on 30m monopole (blade tip height 45m) (20120819) – full refusal.

**Village Hall and Playing Field:**

**New play equipment:**

Grants have been received totalling £22,332. £700 New Homes Grant has been received. The installation of the main equipment has started. It was agreed in addition to purchase a round-cornered concrete table tennis table for £2,675, a hexagonal bench for £450 and a bin for £275. The councillors thanked the clerk for her work in obtaining the grant funds.

**Old play equipment:**

The RoSPA inspection has been done; a few items need some maintenance. The equipment installers have agreed to repair the wobble bridge.

**Playing field:**

There have been complaints from the football club about the amounts of dog poo on the field. It was agreed to purchase some signs to ask people to keep their dogs on the lead and off the field.

**Village Hall:**

Nothing to report.

### **Insurance:**

The premium to insure play equipment is 43 pence per £100 + 6% tax. It was agreed to insure the new and older equipment, on a new for old basis.

### **Any Other Business:**

1. There was a report of reflective markers broken after the verge cutting. The clerk will report this to NCC.
2. The dog bin in Marsh Road needs re-fixing to a post. Bill Boyle offered to do this.
3. Philip Armes reported that he had found some gun cartridges on his land. The clerk will follow this up with the local Police.
4. The bins are full at the cemetery. The councillors will carry out an inspection shortly.
5. A resident has put in some edging around a grave at the cemetery. The clerk was asked to contact the family to explain that edgings are not permitted.
6. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 11th October 2012.

### **Boat Dyke and Staithe:**

**Revised lease:** the councillors considered a revised lease from the Environment Agency, in conjunction with the Council's comments and suggestions from the previous draft. The clerk then was asked to send the current lease, with the Council's comments to the Council's solicitor, Nick Hancox. Mr Hancox had advised that it was common, and inevitable, that the lease would be backdated as the Council had benefitted from the income during that time.

The Environment Agency sent a copy of the Land Registry entry for the dyke and a suggested mooring licence for the boatowners.

The clerk reported that the annual Health & Safety inspection had been done, with no recommendations for any change.

### **Boat Dyke Car Park:**

The area registered by the Environment Agency leaves the middle portion of the car park, between the two lines of trees, unregistered. It was agreed that Nicholas Crane should obtain advice on registering this land, and the pond, in the name of the Parish Council.

**At this point it was resolved under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude members of the public to consider the co-option of a new councillor.**

### **Co-option of New Councillor:**

Two residents had expressed an interest in being considered for co-option. After some discussion, it was agreed to co-opt Ginny Pitcher.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Signed.....  
Chairman

Dated: 11th October 2012.