# Minutes of the Meeting of Upton with Fishley Parish Council held on Thursday,

# 4th January 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

## Present:

Philip Armes (Chairman)

Debbie Durrant (Vice-Chairman)

Laura Davey, William Leonard-Morgan and Lee Smith

Also present: Pauline James (Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

**Apologies:**

Nigel Brennan (also district councillor) and Ian Cook

## Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda and Requests for Dispensations:

Debbie Durrant informed the meeting that her company has expressed an interest in installing the solar panels at the site being considered under Planning.

**Minutes:**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th December 2023 were agreed to be correct, with one alteration, and were signed by Philip Armes, as Chairman of the Parish Council.

**Matters Arising:**

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| 1.  | Norfolk Wildlife Trust reported that UK Power Networks have visited their site to establish the viability of installing the electricity supply to the drainage pump around the reserve, rather than across it.  The cables used to go overground but were frequently affected by high winds, so were removed. The pump at the end of the concrete road on the marshes is currently run with diesel. Norfolk Wildlife Trust staff had reported that they work to a specification agreed with Natural England. The clerk was asked to contact Natural England to ask how successful the scheme had been to flood the marshes in order to attract wading birds. |
| 2. | The clerk shared the Broads Drainage Board map of the area, as requested. |
| 3. | The clerk has reported the overgrown ditch to the north of Prince of Wales Road to the Broads Internal Drainage Board and the blocked culvert under the road to Norfolk County Council. |
| 4. | The clerk was successful in obtaining the £300 grant from BDC for planting projects, which could be used for Keith’s meadow. The £595 grant from BDC for the hedging along the south boundary at Keith’s Meadow has been received. |

**Correspondence:**

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| 1. | The recent Royal British Legion poppy campaign raised over £11,000 for the Acle and district area. |
| 2. | Norfolk Association of Local Councils is running a service to set up a gov.uk domain name, website and unlimited email addresses for all councillors and clerks. The cost is £56pa for the domain name, and £70pa for the administration of the website. Training and support is available without charge. |
| 3. | Broadland District Council decided not to confirm the proposed TPO on trees on land east and west of Marsh Road. This was noted. |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

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| **Receipts:** |  £ |
| Mooring fees | 96.40 |
| NCC – recycling credits | 134.48 |
| Grazing  | 102.83 |
| BDC – grant for hedging at Keith’s Meadow | 595.00 |
| Memorial fees | 45.00 |
| Bank interest – quarterly | 790.27 |
| **January payments:** |  |
| Information Commissioner – annual fee DD | 35.00 |
| Pauline James – clerk’s fee and expenses | 173.80 |
|  Standing order | 300.00 |
| Norfolk Pension Fund – E’ers and E’ees | 166.39 |
| HMRC – PAYE | 108.40 |
| Acle PC – share of costs | 28.23 |
| URM – recycling collection | 12.96 |
| Felthorpe Nurseries – hedging plants | 594.00 |
| Balance c/f as at 4th January 2024 | 226,389.68 |

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| The reserve for the boat dyke is £117,114 and earmarked reserves are £106,097. General, unallocated reserves are therefore £3,178.William Leonard-Morgan had checked the December online payments to the relevant bank statement, and the clerk’s bank reconciliation dated 31st December 2023. There were no questions on the Actual v Budget report to date. The payments were approved. |

## Planning:

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| 1. | i) Horizon Craft, Acle Bridge – redevelopment of site to provide café and additional moorings - BA 2023/044.The councillors had no objections in principle, but they expressed concerns about highways safety, ensuring dark skies, landscaping, the visual impact on the area, the size of any signage, and the need to divert the public footpath which currently crosses the site. |

## Cemetery and Churchyard:

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| 1. |  An email had been received saying that someone tripped over manhole cover on the main access path. The clerk will check this and add some hazard tape temporarily while a longer-term solution is investigated. |
| 2. | Lee Smith reported that someone will move the Council’s bin from the cemetery to the front of the site for collection, at the same time as the Church’s bin.  |

## Boat Dyke and car park:

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| 1. | The clerk sent reports of smell of sewage at boat dyke to the Environment Agency and to the Broads Drainage Board. The EA are treating it as an FOI request. The councillors thought perhaps the sewage pumping station in the car park might not be working properly. The clerk will report this to Anglian Water. |
| 2. | Philip Armes reported that Ian Hilton will remove some dead and dying trees in the car park shortly. |

**Village hall, car park, play area and playing field:**

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| 1 | The clerk read out a report from the Village Hall committee, including Christmas events and the forthcoming Coffee and Chat morning on 12th January. |

 **Keith’s Meadow (Old School Playing Field) and New Allotments:**

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| 1. | Simon Taylor has seven mixed fruit trees which have been donated for the meadow. This was noted. |
| 2. | The clerk was asked to prepare a suitable set of rules for the proposed allotments on the site. |

**Highways and Pond:**

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| 1. | The repeated flooding in Church Road has been reported to Norfolk County Council.Nicholas Crane has confirmed that the pond in by The Lodge in Church Road is owned by the farm and that they do clear it out regularly, and will do so again in the Summer.  |

**Any Other Business:**

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| 1. | The councillors were very pleased to note that Ginny Pitchers, former parish councillor, former parish clerk, former trustee for the Village Hall and general volunteer around the village, had been awarded a British Empire Medal in the New Year’s Honours, for services to Upton with Fishley. |

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 1st February at 7.30pm, in the village hall. All residents are very welcome to attend, to raise local issues.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Signed:………………………………………. Dated:………………………………..

Chairman