

## UPPER ARLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of Upper Arley Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 at Arley Memorial Hall. The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Chairman Cllr G Rickhuss, Cllr Mrs S Rickhuss, Cllr Mrs L Snodgrass, Cllr I Latimer JP, Cllr J Lawley, Cllr H Link, and Cllr A Potter.

In Attendance: Mrs A Preece (Clerk), District Cllr J Byng, District Cllr P Harrison, County/District Cllr D Morehead and PCSO Jeni Bray.

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs T Lawley and Cllr S McLachlan.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None.

**3. Community Policing:** PCSO Jeni Bray gave her report. She apologised for not attending the previous meeting but had been called to an incident en route to the meeting. There was one incident to report regarding poachers in fields off Arley Lane on the 28<sup>th</sup> August, a report had been passed to the Rural Crime Team.

Cllr Snodgrass enquired about a traffic accident on Arley Lane from the previous month, PCSO Bray advised that an arrest had been made and the matter is still being dealt with by the Police.

One priority was set for the next three months; speeding in Pound Green down towards the riverside, this issue had been raised by residents from a previous meeting. Clerk to contact the Safer Roads Partnership.

No members of the public were in attendance for Public Question Time.
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**The meeting was reconvened to conduct the following items of business:**

**4. Dispensations:** No dispensation requests received.

**5. Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at Arley Memorial Hall were approved.

**6. District and County Council Matters:** Cllr Morehead advised that the drains on Pound Green side of the river had all been inspected, he has also personally checked himself and all the drains were now clear. He asked that any further referrals include the 'what3words' reference so the exact location of the drain can be pinpointed. The gullies had been swept on the Upper Arley side of the river. Repair work on the chains on the quayside had been completed and the barriers for the footbridge were also now in place.

Cllr Byng provided a response to a query from the previous meeting concerning vehicles exiting the Safari Park and turning right across the dual track road, instead of being directed to turn left towards the traffic island at Cachems End. Cllr Byng explained that this could not be permitted as it would place too much pressure on the already busy traffic island.

Cllr Morehead gave an update, from a District perspective, on the amendments to the National Planning Framework. The current Local Plan goes up to 2036, in that Plan the average number of houses to be built per year is 276, the revised figure is 617, which over the remainder of the life of the Plan, is an additional 4,000 homes.

The District Council is also being pressured by 'duty to cooperate', which is where neighbouring Local Authorities, who do not have the space to increase their housing numbers, approach neighbouring Local Authorities to see if they can build some houses to cover their allocation.

There will be a full Council meeting the following Wednesday to lobby MP Mark Garnier to raise this issue in Parliament. Mark Garnier is also fully supportive of residents contacting the Government with regard to the changes to the winter fuel payment.

Cllr Harrison advised that the original Lea Castle planning approval was for 600 houses with an additional 800 surrounding the original development, this should mean the site should qualify for a primary school and a Doctors surgery to be located there.

## **7. Service Reports:**

- a) Lengthsman: Lengthsman timesheets were circulated for Members perusal.

**8. Highways Issues:** Cllr Link reported that some of the road signs on the A442 between Shatterford and Kidderminster need cleaning/replacing or repairing. Cllr Mrs Snodgrass reported that a bollard had been knocked over just before the entrance to Hillfields Farm which needs attention. Cllr Link asked for an update on the repairs to the drain opposite Shatterford Village Hall which had not been repaired as the water was still running across the road.

## **9. Financial Report and Payment of Accounts:**

- a) Members noted the bank balances at the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- b) Members approved payments as per the schedule.
- c) Members ratified payments as per the list.
- d) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24: Members noted the completion of audit for the 2023/2024 financial year by external Auditor PKF Littlejohn.
- e) Memorial Wreath: Members approved the purchase of two Memorial wreaths for Remembrance Day (Remembrance Sunday falls on the 10th of November 2024).
- f) Donations: Members resolved to make donations to Alveley First Responders and Wyre Forest First Responders in support of the excellent services they provide to residents of the Parish.

**10. Planning and Development Control:**

a) Planning Applications Received

None.

b) Additional Planning Applications or other Planning Matters.

None.

c) Planning Decisions Received

24/0395/HOU 7 Arley Lane Goods Green Shatterford

Proposed part single storey and part two storey rear extensions. Withdrawn.

**11. Meeting Dates for 2025:** Members approved the draft meeting dates for 2025.

**12. Clerk's Report:** Clerks report on ongoing items noted.

**13. Correspondence for Information:** Members noted correspondence report received from the Clerk.

**14. Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas:** Cllr Mrs Rickhuss reported that there was a bough of a tree hanging down on the A442 at the bottom of the Birch Bank.

Cllr Link advised that the overgrown trees on Beacon Lane (as previously reported) had still not been cut back and the dead tree bough outside Hillfields Lodge on the A442 had also still not been dealt with.

Cllr Latimer advised that there was a quiz night on the 16<sup>th</sup> November at St. Georges Hall in Bewdley for his Mayoral Charities should Members be interested in taking part. He advised that the Halloween trains would be coming to Arley Station during the last week in October. Members were invited to take a look around Arley Station, prior notification of a visit was advised so that Cllr Latimer could make sure he was present.

**15. Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Shatterford Village Hall commencing at 7.00 p.m.

*The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.*

*Signed .....*

*Chairman to Upper Arley Parish Council Cllr G Rickhuss*

Notes of Public Question Time

No members in attendance for Public Question Time.