

## UPPER ARLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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### The Minutes of the Meeting of Upper Arley Parish Council held at Shatterford Village Hall on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

**Present:** Chairman Cllr G Rickhuss, Cllr Mrs T Lawley, Cllr Mrs S Rickhuss, Cllr Mrs L Snodgrass, Cllr Mrs L Woolgar, Cllr J Lawley, Cllr J Middleton and Cllr A Potter.

**In Attendance:** Mrs A Preece (Clerk), County Cllr Mrs R Vale, District Cllr J Byng, Cllr D Killingworth and one member of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Vice Chairman Cllr A Cheadle, Cllr Mrs A Coleman, Cllr R Coleman and Cllr P Harrison, the Local Policing Team, Mr and Mrs Humphries.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Middleton declared an other disclosable interest in agenda item 11 b) being a planning application in relation to Oak Tree Farm, Pound Green.

The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes.

**3. Community Policing:** No Police Officers able to attend but a report had been provided. There have been two incidents of note since the last meeting, the theft of quad bike in Shatterford and an attempted burglary in Pound Green.

**4. Dispensations:** No requests for a dispensation received by the Clerk.

**5. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at Arley Memorial Hall were approved.

**6. District and County Council Matters:** Cllr Mrs Vale gave her report which included an update on Upper Arley School following the unsatisfactory Ofsted report. There is now a new board of Governors, a lot of hard work is going on to address the issues raised and the School needs support from the community to continue to progress.

Cllr Byng advised there had been no change with regard to the Localism agenda from the current District Council administration. He had also been contacted by a resident asking if the Parish Council could consider providing a Christmas tree for Arley Village next Christmas. He advised that Bewdley and Stourport Town Councils were against the amendments to car parking charges being proposed by the Wyre Forest District Council new administration, Cllr Coleman had provided a copy of the letter being sent by Bewdley Town Council in relation to this issue which was circulated to Members.

Cllr Mrs Vale had requested a meeting with the Leader of Wyre Forest District Council (along with Bewdley Town Councillors) to discuss the proposed car parking charges but this request was not granted.

Cllr Killingworth advised that he had been re-elected Chairman of Wyre Forest and Worcestershire CALC and is also on the National Council. He is concerned District Councils are trying to transfer services to Parish Councils without funding and will be raising the issue with the National Committee.

**7. Items Requiring Discussion/Decision:**

a. Vehicle Activated Signs: Members confirmed the vehicle activated sign at Pound Green had been installed and was in working order. Cllr Cheadle was unable to attend the meeting but had left a request with the Clerk to see if a survey could be arranged to ascertain whether the new sign had had any effect on the speed of vehicles travelling towards Pound Green. Members agreed that this should be arranged at a later date if possible.

**8. Service Reports:**

a. Lengthsman Report: Contractors time sheet circulated. Clerk has written to advise Contractor that the contract is to be re-tendered as a matter of good practice. The advertisement for the contract would be issued shortly.

b. Parish Paths: Work had been completed and grant claimed for current financial year.

**9. Highways Issues:** A request for a grit bin in Beacon Lane has been received, however a previous request for the exact same location had been refused by County Highways. Cllr J Lawley reported flooding at the entrance to Hextons Lane. Cllr Mrs Rickhuss raised her concerns and commented on the state of the A442 from Shatterford Lakes to the bottom of the Birch Bank.

**10. Financial Report and Payment of Accounts.**

a. Council noted bank balances at the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

b. Council approved payments as per the list with addition of the following payments

Janitorial Direct £101.22 for toilet consumables and Westcotec £1,419.00 for conversion and installation of the vehicle activated sign

c. Members ratified the following payment:

Public Conveniences Cleaning 1.1.20	£260.00	BACS
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d. Payments and Receipts Account: Members noted the payment and receipts account for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

e. Parish Precept: Members resolved to set the Parish precept for the 2020-2021 financial year at a level which would result in no increase in the Council Tax.

**11. Planning and Development Control:**

a. Planning Applications Received

19/0795/FULL DREAM SKERRY POUND GREEN ARLEY  
Erection of Oak framed, timber clad garden store outbuilding following demolition of existing. No objection.

b. Planning Applications Consulted on since Last Meeting

19/0788/FULL OAK TREE FARM POUND GREEN ARLEY Conversion of agricultural building to form 2 dwellings, including replacement roof and alterations to building.

c. Planning Decisions Received

None

**12. Correspondence for Information:** Clerk read out the correspondence report.

**13. Clerk's Report:** Clerk read out the report.

14. **Councillor's Reports and items for future agendas:** As covered in agenda item 9 Cllr Mrs Rickhuss is concerned about the state of the Birch Bank and is intending on making a recording to provide evidence of the state of the road, plus the trees and bank which appear to be disintegrating. Clerk to forward to County Highways for action.
15. **Date of Next Meeting – 7.00 p.m. Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Arley Memorial Hall.**

*The meeting closed at 20.40.p.m.*

*Signed .....*

*Chairman to Upper Arley Parish Council*

Notes of Public Question Time

One member of the public was in attendance, an update was given on the progress of Upper Arley School and a request for support from the Parish Council.

Two other issues were raised by letter – hedgerow removed from the curtilage of Ye Old New Inn and the poor state of the road surface down Bannut Tree bank.