**Upton Snodsbury Parish Council**

**Parish Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday 12th January 2016, 7.30pm Upton Snodsbury Village Hall**

**Parish Councillors Present :** Paul Seymour (PS) (Chair), Roger Peart (RP) (Vice Chair), Jim Round (JR) , Catherine Milner (CM), Debbie Waters (DW)

**Clerk:** Debbie Waters (Acting) **RFO**: Terry Eagle (TE) **In attendance:** Linda Robinson (LR)

**16/1 Apologies –** Sandra Jennings and Rob Adams

**16/2 Minutes:** Approval of minutes from meeting 17th November 2015 JR – Proposed the minutes correct RP – Seconded – Approved

At this point PS suggested skipping to 16/6 in order for Linda to be able to leave to attend any other meetings. No necessary tonight but the meeting proceeded with Linda’s report anyway.

**16/6 District Councillor Reports from Linda Robinson**

LR mentioned the Queen’s Birthday celebrations and asked if the Parish Council had considered recent correspondence. The Parish Council confirmed that a street party on the weekend 11th/12th June was being considered. LR confirmed that a free road closure is available for this event.

LR also mentioned that villages with beacons are being encouraged to light them in April on Thursday 21st.

LR advised that a follow up email with regards Riral Isolation and the door knock in 2015 should have been sent to the clerk. DW confirmed that this had not been received and LR advised she would request this to be resent to DW.

The meeting then moved back to agenda.

**16/3 Finance Report**

TE confirmed that the Parish finances were in good shape and nothing had changed from the information provided to the Finance Meeting the previous week. TE formally presented his letter of resignation from the post of RFO reference the impending appointment of a new clerk for the Parish. He confirmed that he is willing to help the Parish Council in any way he can going forward. PS thanked Terry for his contribution to the RFO role over the past few months, this was unanimously echoed by all of the Councillors.

**16/4 Precept**

CM confirmed that the Coucillors had held a finance meeting attended by all, to assess the budget requirements against planned expenses for 2016/17.

CM advised that the proposal was to increase the precept from £3683 by £544 to £4227, this would equate to an approximate increase of £2 per year for a Band D property.

CM confirmed that she had spoken to both CALC and Wychavon, there are no guidelines and no referendum currently, so no reason not to propose this increase.

Comments from the floor were received with regards the current financial position, reserve, balance and the fact that there is also money available to be applied for from the New Homes Bonus funding.

RP commented that the list of New Homes bonus ideas received from the residents, will easily use the money available and more likely will exceed what is available.

JR commented that we should keep sight of what we need to spend and what would be nice to spend. The budget has been assessed on what we need to spend including the commitment made to support USPRA.

PS commented that Upton Snodsbury is far behind other Parishes with regards its precept, and LR confirmed that this is indeed the case.

TE commented from the floor that the Police Commissioner had also sent an email advising that they are considering a 1.9% increase to the police’s share of the council tax bill to protect the number of police officers in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.

LR confirmed that the message from the public to Wychavon has been that people would rather pay a little extra rather than have any further services cut.

CM proposed to request a budget of £4227

JR seconded

Vote - Unanimous

DW to send the paperwork to Wychavon

**16/5 Correspondence Received**

DW confirmed that correspondence had been received with regards the Patrons Lunch being held in the Mall on Sunday 12th June. The whole country is being encouraged to participate on this weekend to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday.The Parish Council are proposing a possible street party over the weekend 11th/12th June to join the celebrations. There are several points that require checking with the church, us there a wedding booked that weekend?, is there a church service that Sunday?, would it be possible to have the bells rung?

PS will lead the sub committee, RP will speak to Jeff to cover off the Church questions, TE is happy to join the party committee. Village Hall Committee, Church Hall Committee, and USPRA all to be contacted to join in with the planning.

Thursday 21st which has been identified as the beacon lighting day falls within the same week as St George’s day, so celebrations could be coincided.

RP reported that Mr Matthews in Cowsden had had some neighborhood watch correspondence that although Upton Snodsbury is relatively crime free, Inkberrow and Evesham which are both close by do have more crime.

**16/7 Crime Report**

Nothing to report in November. In December a wreath and some jars of jam were stolen from Windy Ridge, and there was also an item of jewellery stolen from the pub. The Police Community Support Officer confirmed both parties affected had been given security advise.

**16/8 Progress reports from Parish Activities:** Brief updates:

**a) PS - Grass cutting**.

PS advised that tenders are in for consideration as to who will cut the village grass, the contract is to be reassigned for 2016/17 in the next few months. TE confirmed that he would drop the grass verge map for the village to PS.

**b) TE – Lengthsman**

TE advised that direction had been received from the County Council for the lengthsman to concentrate on grips at this time. TE confirmed that this is happening and the grips in the village are all clear. RP commented that the grips at the top of Cowsden do need some attention still. A resident has been spoken to already about depositing rubbish in this area.

TE confirmed that unfortunately the charging unit for the VAS was faulty and had been thrown away, he had contacted the company that supplied it but there is now no opportunity to claim under any warranty. Currently the Lengthsman charges £10 a month to charge the battery this money could be saved if the village bought its own charger. This can be done cheaply from Halfords. PS to arrange and liaise with the lengthsman. TE confirmed that Alan is no longer the lengthsman for Grafton Flyford, we do share a VAS with them which is moved between the villages by Alan. He will continue to do this for the time being.

**c) JR – Highways/School**

JR advised that he has a governors meeting imminently and will report back as to what the school are proposing to do in relation to the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations.

JR reported that the school are very happy with their new room.

With regards the recent complaint on the plethora of signs along the main road, the signs seem to have somewhat reduced in number , although this is thought to be as a result of the hedges being cut recently.

LR confirmed that advertising signs are actually a planning issue, and the enforcement officer can be contacted for support if required.

TE advised that a post had been removed ???? it was confirmed that the lengthman could replace it.

TE reported that since Owls End Lane had been resurfaced it is regularly being covered in water, which as the weather gets colder is likely to become very dangerous if it freezes. TE has spoken to resident Mr Sheridan who has agreed to block up one of the pipes in his wall that discharges run off water into the lane.TE also advised that there is a run off from the field as well which the local residents are going to attempt to redirect to the drain with a couple of trowels of concrete.

TE reported that there is a culvert problem behind Cutts Pool. The ditch is brimming over and a considerable amount of water is running down the footpath there. JR will speak to Highways to resolve.

**d) Footpaths – RP**

RP advised that David Matthews will be returning to the post of Footpath Warden for the village. Hilary the current warden is aware and the position will be formalized next week. CM recalled that the Parish Council had previously had to ratify the appointment so it was suggested that whilst the meeting was in progress a vote was taken so that it was done.

CM proposed to ratify the appointment of David Matthews as the new village Footpath Warden

RP Seconded

Vote – Unanimous

**e) Rural Communities Programme**

CM confirmed that New Homes Bonus can be linked in with this project. Portable projector, Tethering for Wifi. We can do things to improve facilities. LR mentioned that the 3 parishes hall in Grafton has Wifi and they had a grant.

CM to investigate further

**16/9 Planning**

**W/15/02712/PN Urmston Lodge** – Approved

**W/15/02619/LB Rose Cottage –** Withdrawn

**W/15/02664/PP Linden Cottage** – Approved

**W/15/026550/CU Cowsden Bank Farm** – Approved

**W/15/03169/PN** Cowsden Bank Farm – DW advised notification received last night nothing is yet on line

RP commented that a circular email had been received from the Chicken Farm committee advising that the environmental report on Frogmore Farm may not now be ready until February.

**16/10 AOB**

**New Homes Bonus**

DW advised that the top ideas were

1. Improvements to facilities available for the village hall
2. Park – It was suggested that Sport England could be contacted re the resurfacing of the petonque court
3. Car Park – This was discussed at length. Resurfacing would need infrastructure improvements as otherwise could cause other issues. It was agreed the present surface is ok. The run off of water into the school could do with possible further improvement although some of this has been addressed by the new build.

Costings to be sorted and application put in. LR to be copied on the application.

LR advised that large projects can also be considered as sometimes matched funding can be available. Some other villages have gone down this route.

Wifi/Projectors and Dog bins are admissible. Dog bin is also important.

**Parish Clerk**

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that Nicola Harding will be joining the village as Parish Clerk. Nicola has been clerk for Pinvin for 10 years so will bring a wealth of experience to the role.

PS proposed an official thank you to Debbie for the work she has done over the last 14 months covering the clerks role, she can now finally return to concentrating on Parish Councillor duties.

**Sandbags**

CM raised the question “Should we consider buy additional sandbags for the village?”

CM has the pump – Red Lion House

There are some sand bags at the shop some at Cutts Pool and some at the School. It was discussed and decided that we have sufficient currently in the village should more be required this could be raised again.

**16/11 Dates of Next Meeting Tuesday 8th March 7.30 pm**