



Waters Upton Parish Council

MINUTES of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of **Waters Upton** which was held via Zoom on **Wednesday, 28th April 2021** at **7.00p.m.**

PRESENT: Councillor: B Rothwell (Chairman)

In Attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk to the Council)
Councillor E Thomas
Councillor H Roberts
Councillor T Revitt
Councillor J Quin
Councillor S Bentley, TWC
Mr & Mrs R Wall
Mr & Mrs G Skeats
M Osborn
A Parkes
Mr & Mrs L Finzi

21/0001 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and the Parish Council very much appreciates the time that some residents give to attend the monthly meeting – this is important and will continue to be encouraged. The Chairman, Councillor Rothwell, opened the meeting.

21/0002 APOLOGIES

R Hughes, St John's Church
A Ames, Crudgington School
J Williams, Waters Upton Village Hall
A Lowe, St Michael's Church
PCSO I Collumbell, West Mercia Police

21/0003 MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2019 had been distributed and displayed in the village noticeboards. It was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Revitt , all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held in April 2019, be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there was no Annual Parish Meeting in 2020.

21/0004 MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

There were no matters arising.

21/0005 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman gave a report to the Meeting on the work throughout the year, a copy of the report is attached to the Minutes and is available on request. The report will be added to the website and will be forwarded for use in a future newsletter.

21/0006 UPL Europe Limited

The Chairman welcome Marc Willis, UK Agriculture R & D Station Manager. UPL Europe Limited has recently purchased Shray Hill Farm and land totalling 70 ha, which is to be a commercial farm wholly owned by IPL.

Marc showed a series of slides (copies are available) giving an outline of the work undertaken to date and an indication of the plans for the future.

Operation of field trials commenced in October 2020 and the development of the site has been in two phases. Phase one has concentrated on renovations to the property, which will be office space and Phase two (laboratories) will come forward in Mid 2021.

The land to the North of the site has created numerous plots (ie micro farms) and will see UK crops grown in 5 – 6 year rotations.

Marc had accepted the invitation to attend the meeting as a way of communicating with the Parish Council and the local residents. He accepts that this is a large company, however is fully aware of the surroundings and very much wants to be part of the community.

It was confirmed that there is to be no residency / overnight stays. There is a single bedroom with lounge / kitchen facilities which may be used if the owners visit and need to stay over.

They are a farm operation and want to retain, as much as possible, the features of the house and barns. Also local hedgerows are essential and will be maintained.

They focus on the soil structure, natural farming methods so they use less chemicals and no insecticides for sustainable farming. There will be borders around the fields, with wildflowers and will encourage bees, these will not be used by vehicles but may be a pedestrian route on occasions.

The main access to the land will be from Meeson Lane.

Members of the public had an opportunity to ask questions regarding the operations and planning applications. It was confirmed that the property is not listed and there is only one TPO Beech tree on the site. Ecological studies had been completed, but others will be undertaken as and when required. They have identified 3 species of bat and new bat boxes and a loft are to be provided. Drones will not operate off their land and at 25m from the ground they will focus on the crops. It is intended to hold open days, where residents are welcome to attend. Marc will attend future PC meetings and is pleased to be in touch with the community. Advance notification of drone use or spraying will be provided giving as much notice as possible.

21/0007 FINANCIAL REPORT

As with all local councils, we were prepared for a full year of providing services and facilities to the community using the precept funds as identified by the budget process for 2020/21. Unfortunately, no one could have been prepared for the arrival of the Covid 19 restrictions. However, due to a successful scheme of delegation, the Parish Council continued to complete all its statutory functions and time was taken to ensure that all policies were up to date and all contracts were revisited to ensure best value.

The general income received by the Parish Council was not affected and it is pleasing to report that the Current Account balance at the end of the financial year was £49,035.80. This obviously includes significant earmarked reserves for projects that will continue in this financial year and is subject to the Audit.

When considering the budget for 2021/22 and in particular the precept that will be collected via TWC as part of the Council Tax, Members were clear in their view that this year had been particularly challenging for many. Therefore Members unanimously agreed that there should be no increase. A precept of £25,060 was requested.

21/0008 TWC REPORT

A copy of the report provided by Councillor Stephen Bentley, Ward Member will be attached to the Minutes and will appear on the website.

21/0009 LOCAL GROUP & ORGANISATION REPORTS

- St Michael’s Church A copy of the report provided by A Lowe is available and will be attached to the Minutes and will appear on the website.
- St John’s Church R Hughes had submitted a report and a copy will be attached to the Minutes and on the website.
- St Mary’s Church No report
- Crudgington School Mr Ames had submitted a report, which will be available with the Minutes and on the website.
- Waters Upton Village Hall A copy of the report from the Management committee will be added to the minutes and available on the website.
- Neighbourhood Watch Huw Roberts had provided a report which will appear on the website and be attached to the Minutes.

21/0010 WEST MERCIA POLICE

PCSO I Collumbell had provided a report with details of local issues. It is hoped the he will be able to attend a Parish Council meeting in the future, when face to face meetings are acceptable.

21/0011 PARISH MATTERS

Moorbank Farm

It was agreed to invite the Manager to a future meeting.

Grass Track and Motorcross Events

Details of the dates and times of events would be obtained and discussions will take place with Planning and Licensing Officers. Residents remain concerned about the traffic, noise and disturbance for local residents, especially when two or more events are on the same day. Traffic travelling to the events is also a concern. Finally concerns were expressed about the return to public events, how can there be confidence that social distancing and maximum numbers are adhered to at this difficult time?

Crudgington Crossroads

Negotiations continue regarding the safety issues at the junction with a view to providing an island to make the junction safer. Shropshire Homes are currently dealing with TWC on this subject.

Waters Upton Hall

Cllr Thomas read a statement from a neighbour to the site, confirming information regarding the work that has taken place at the property, prior to planning consent being applied for or granted. The owner has now appealed the TWC decision to refuse planning permission due to the Listed Building Status.

Neighbours are encouraged to respond to the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that all relevant information is available for them to make an informed decision.

21/0012 NEXT MEETING

This meeting is followed by an April monthly meeting.

SignedDate