

Upton Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th July 2022 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

22/054 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Phil Roberts (Chair), Jeana Bennion, Andy Brooker, Michael Dawson, Andy Pillow.

Apologies: None.

Clerk: Alison Utting

Also: SC Cllr Lezley Picton, Alan Granger (Sundorne Castle Estate Manager), five members of the public (candidates for co-option).

22/055 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Alan Granger confirmed that he is leaving at the end of August. Councillors are very sorry to see him go and grateful for all that he has done, especially in helping to improve the local footpaths network.

22/056 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Existing councillors were very impressed with all of the candidates. Voting was by signed ballot and the following candidates were elected by majority: Julieanne Lloyd and Daniel Sims. The two co-opted councillors signed their declarations of office and took their seats on the parish council for the remainder of the meeting. The other candidates left at this point.

22/057 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The new councillors are to submit their pecuniary interest forms to the Monitoring Officer within one month of this meeting. Other councillors are reminded to check that their own forms are up-to-date. There is a link to the register on our website.

There were no declarations of interest specific to this agenda.

22/058 MINUTES – It was agreed that the Chairman should sign the minutes of 23rd June 2022 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

22/059 REPORT FROM CLLR. LEZLEY PICTON (SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL)

Cllr Picton discussed the findings of the Independent Inquiry Telford Child Sexual Exploitation (IITCSE), published on Tuesday 12 July. She stressed that Shropshire Council's Children's Services have recently been rated 'Good', even with 400+ extra children added recently.

Shropshire is currently the holiday let 'top of the pops', with a huge number of properties being used for Air BnB, etc. This is causing major problems for people looking for homes, especially those trying to rent. SC is looking into ways (and lobbying the government) to tackle this.

On a brighter note, we are also 'top of the pops' for welcoming Ukrainian refugees.

22/060 OTHER REPORTS

- a) There was no report or attending officer from **West Mercia Police**. The Police & Crime Commissioner has asked each council to complete a survey. PR agreed to do this on behalf of the council.
- b) MD reported back from the **Parish Footpaths Group**: The Rights of Way at Hunkington Farm are now clear, with thanks to AG for his help on this. AG has also been instrumental in solving the problem of the 'orphan' bridleway 0439/13W/1 that ran north alongside our parish boundary and then into Withington parish and stopped at a field boundary. SCE have put in a permissive path connection with the nearby footpath 0437/26/1 which takes it onto the Upton Magna/Withington road (Sandy Lane).
MD pointed out that the parish now has a user-friendly network of footpaths, of which we can be proud.

22/061 PROGRESS REPORT

- a) **SmartWater** – No more recent sign-ups. AB has reported problems with the method of fixing that the 'We Don't Buy Crime' team has used to put up the SmartWater signs (basically, double-sided tape!). This has been reported by the Clerk. Cllrs thanked AB for his work in fixing the fallen signs properly.
- b) **Blocked footpaths** – See 22/060 above.
- c) **Jubilee events and benches** – Four benches were purchased using the money set aside for the Jubilee: Two were donated to the Village Hall, one donated to the Sensory Garden in St Lucia's Churchyard, and one has been installed opposite the school and is now part of UMPC's Asset Register.

- d) **Neighbourhood Fund spending** – The four benches cost £1556 plus VAT. Once the V Hall grant of £444 (item 22/065c) has been paid, there will be £500 remaining to be spent this year (Jubilee). There is a further £221 available in the Fund.
- e) **Electricity for street lighting** – Waiting for quotes.

22/062 GENERAL PARISH & HIGHWAY MATTERS

*Please note: Most highway and general repair matters are best reported using **fixmystreet.com**. This will usually get the quickest results.*

- a) There is a problem with an **overgrown hedge** affecting use of the footpath outside Near Cottage and Cruck Cottage. AG to respond to the former. Clerk to contact householder regarding the latter.
- b) Assessing **damage to the footway** along from the school is on SC's schedule of works (see planned closures 22/066).
- c) **Parking outside the school** has caused more difficulties for drivers and pedestrians recently, with drivers leaving vehicles half on pavements and close to the junction. JB reported that the school has also received complaints and has tried asking parents to park more safely. LP reported that enforcement officers will be out and about soon. Having discussed options, the Parish Council decided to try to effect change by writing letters to parents, the pub, and via the church magazine. If things do not improve, the Parish Council will consider putting parking restrictions in place.
- d) It was noted that **pupil numbers at St Lucia's** have been falling.

22/063 MAINTENANCE MATTERS

- a) **Fingerpost planter and grass** – Firstly, Cllrs recorded huge thanks to Margaret and friends for all of their work to date in keeping this patch looking so good. Cllrs then discussed the various benefits of 're-wilding' this area, compared with continuing with the current style of grass-cutting and planting. It was decided to continue with the current system.
- b) **Sycamore tree** outside Porch House. It was agreed to add this to the annual UMPC inspection list and that if any significant change was observed then a proper assessment would be requested.

22/064 PLANNING

- a) To consider the following planning application(s):
22/02726/FUL Preston Boats Farm, Preston, Shrewsbury SY4 4TB

Proposal: Erection of a grain store, alteration to existing access point and new access track, and provision of weighbridge. UMPC response: No comment.

- b) No other planning applications were received in advance of this meeting.
- c) To note the following planning decisions published by Shropshire Council:

22/02061/FUL 2 De Quincey Fields, Upton Magna SY4 4US

Proposal: Erection of a two-storey side extension and rear single-storey extension to existing garage. SC decision: Grant Permission

22/01678/FUL Gate House, Upton Magna SY4 4TZ

Proposal: Erection of a field shelter in a corner of the field (pasture) adjacent to our house. SC decision: Grant Permission

22/01624/FUL 3 Frank Crosse Drive, Upton Magna SY4 4TS

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension and internal alterations SC decision: Grant Permission

22/00751/FUL Forge Farm, Upton Magna SY4 4UD

Proposal: Erection of agricultural building for grain storage SC decision: Grant Permission

- d) No other planning decisions were published in advance of this meeting.

21/065 FINANCE

- a) Council approved the **grant application** of £444 from the village hall committee (Jubilee celebration events).

b) **Payments and receipts**

Council noted the following **payments** made in June 2022:

| Amount | Details | Power to spend |
|---------|--|---|
| 207.90 | Clerk's salary (May) | LGA 1972 s112 |
| 241.00 | Insurance | Employers' Liability Act 1969 LGA 1972 s111 |
| 173.84 | Electricity for streetlighting April & May | Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980, s301 |
| 1867.20 | Jubilee benches | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10 |
| 18.00 | Banking charges | LGA 1972 s111 |

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

| Amount | Details | Legal Power |
|--------|--|---|
| 231.57 | Clerk's salary (June + adjustment) | LGA 1972 s112 |
| 73.10 | Clerk's refundable expenses | LGA (financial provisions) 1963 s5. |
| 108.00 | PAYE (months 3 and 4) | LGA 1972 s112 |
| 88.20 | Electricity for street lighting (June) | Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980, s301 |
| 22.56 | Microsoft365 | LGA 1972 s142 |

| | | |
|--------|--|------------------------------------|
| 34.56 | Email yearly fee | LGA 1972 s142 |
| 30.00 | Room hire for meetings (April – June) | LGA 1972, s134 (1-3) |
| 42.44 | Fuel for mowers (churchyard) | Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10 |
| 100.00 | Election fee (May 2021) | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 60.00 | Internal audit 2021-22 | Audit and Accounts Regulation 2015 |
| 444.00 | Grant to V Hall committee (Jubilee events) | Neighbourhood Fund |

- c) Council received and approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
d) Council agreed to revise the **budget** for 2022-23 (to be considered at September meeting).

22/066 CORRESPONDENCE

Shropshire Council - Shropshire Carers Support Team survey – shared on Facebook.

OPDEnergy – Proposed solar farm development (Uffington). Presentation at Uffington PC meeting on 11th July. There will be another opportunity to meet with OPDEnergy representatives in mid-September.

SC Leader Lezley Picton – Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27 consultation – sent by email to all Cllrs.

Highways – planned road closures

Between Upton Magna Business Park and the Pelham Road junction. 1 to 3 August, 9.30am to 4.00pm. Investigate footway void.

End of Church Road, Uffington to junction with B4380. 14th August 2022 (one day). Purpose: Road Closure - Severn Trent Water, new water connection.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NEXT MEETING – Thursday 8th September, 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Alison Utting – Upton Magna Parish Council
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