

Upton Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on

Thursday 10th of September, 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

26/109 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Councillors Gareth Thomas (chair), Michael Dawson, David Carter, Andy Pillow, Jeana Bennion.

Apologies: Councillors Ann Fowler, Bob Newton, Parish Clerk: Karen Smith-Wells. Shropshire Councillor Brendan Mallon.

Attending: Sundorne Castle Estate Manager Huw Williams, plus a member of the public.

26/110 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS – With the absence of the Parish Clerk, a number of councillors took notes and offered them to Councillor Carter for consolidation. Councillor Thomas mentioned that there was a great deal of conversation regarding the school's development work and he looked forward to updates and clarifications.

26/111 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION – A member of the public queried the absence of some individual comments in the summary of the Local Plan survey. There were some people that mentioned the desire for individual housing, specifically for the elderly in the hope they would not have to leave the village at a future point when their current home proved to be no longer suitable. The point was understood and explained that the initial request (regarding council and resident feedback) was not at that level of housing-type-detail yet.

26/112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Pillow announced an interest (re: 26/120c).

26/113 MINUTES – It was proposed (DC), seconded (JB) and resolved that the Chair should sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of July, 2026, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

26/114 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN (Including the Sundorne Castle Estate (SCE) response and an email from a parishioner) – Tackling the first point within the July minutes, the chair asked if anyone had further comments regarding the plots offered for potential development by SCE. Councillor Carter summarised that the estate has every right to submit their land for consideration. The second point in the July minutes was resident concern, regarding the sale of rental properties by SCE. We received a letter from a local resident about the structure of conversation within the July minutes, the Parish Council reviewed and were comfortable that the information was clear and accurate. This was proposed (MD), seconded (AP) and resolved that those minutes were documented appropriately that each of the two points were placed in separate paragraphs and therefore, to be considered by all, separate. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond to parishioner.

26/115 REPORT FROM TERN WARD, COUNCILLOR MALLON) – Councillor Mallon's report was externally reviewed by all present councillors and was accepted. **ACTION:** Clerk to upload to the website.

26/116 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

a) **West Mercia Police** – Nothing to report from our parish PCSO Stuart Roberts.

- b) **SALC** – No SALC meetings this quarter - Nothing to report.
- c) **Memorial Hall** – No update was forwarded by the Memorial Hall Committee.
- d) **Footpaths** – Nothing to report.

26/117 PROGRESS REPORTS ON ONGOING MATTERS:

- a) **Traffic Issues** – Councillor Bennion raised ongoing concern regarding young children without helmets or supervision on electric bikes and electric scooters on roads in the village. We have not received any further update regarding the school car park which, of course, would greatly alleviate village traffic issues. We have been advised that the current traffic monitoring tubes (around the school) have been installed by Shropshire Council to collect current road behaviour data. **ACTION:** Councillor Thomas has requested a copy of the Upton Magna traffic survey when available.
- b) **Possible purchase of Memorial Hall field (including Estate response)** - The parish council received a formal response from the trustees of Sundorne Castle Estate and the summary is that at this point, they do not wish to sell the land.
- c) **Tommy Silhouettes** The process to reintroduce these (in time for Armistice Day) is in place.
- d) **St. Lucia's school (including School Governor correspondence)** - We have received communications/concerns from a number of residents but we do not have enough information to assist. Points were namely:
 - I. Access to the community play equipment after school hours.
 - II. What is happening regarding street parking congestion, especially during school term time and the latest on the proposed school car park?
 - III. Questions/curiosity over the new school fences and the new building.

We thank the school chair of governors for his reply, but our concerns remain unwavering. If there is a risk of negative outside influences to children (both inside and outside of school hours) it is without question a community issue and parishioners have every right to air any concerns with their parish council. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond. It was suggested that we do need better communications between the school and community. **ACTION:** Councillor Dawson to liaise with the head of the school governors regarding this.

26/118 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE:

- a) **Renewal of de Quincey Fields green** - Councillors unanimously agreed to renew both the de Quincey Fields Green and the Memorial Hall Field as ongoing Assets of Community Value. Proposed (MD), seconded (DC) and resolved to be progressed. **ACTION:** Parish Council Clerk to progress (Note: the Memorial Hall field is due for renewal in January 2027)
- b) **Registration of the Haughmond** - Parish Councillors unanimously agreed that our Parish Clerk should initially write to the owner of the Haughmond (Alta Asset Management), to declare our intentions. **ACTION:** Parish Council Clerk to progress.

26/119 FINANCE:

- a) **Approval of NALC Pay Award** - Agreed the approval of the NALC pay award against the role our Parish Clerk performs. Proposed (MD), seconded (DC) and resolved to progress with immediate effect.
- b) **Authorisation of payments** - It was proposed (JB), seconded (MD) and resolved that the following July/August payments be approved:

AMOUNT	PAYMENT DETAILS
£23.98	Hugo fox – website (2 months)
£681.48	Clerk's June salary and expenses (2 months – inc. backpay)
£156.02	HMRC – PAYE (2 months)
£14.00	Unity Bank charges (2 months)
£7.20	Sainsburys – stamps (repayable to Clerk)
£15.00	UM Memorial Hall hire (July)

26/120 PLANNING:

- a) **25/01638/FUL Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** – No further development – situation has been raised with Upton Magna Councillors to Tanya Miles (CEO of Shropshire Council) on the 24th August 2026.
- b) **26/01611/FUL Installation of a substation south of the existing National Grid substation, Uffington** – No decision yet, since July's Parish Council Meeting.
- c) **Planning decisions published in advance of this meeting** – 26/02978/TCA Tree maintenance at Brock House. The Parish Council supported the application for this work to proceed.

26/121 REVISED POLICIES:

The following seven policies were updated and approved en masse: Freedom of Information, Data Protection, Complaints, Vexatious Complaints, Equality and Diversity, Grievance and Discipline, and Councillors Code of Conduct. It was proposed (DC), seconded (AP) and resolved that these should supersede all previous revisions. **ACTION:** Clerk to upload these onto the UMPC website.

26/122 GENERAL PARISH & HIGHWAY MATTERS:

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

- a) A small working party organised by councillor Bennion reviewed and cleaned a number of road signs within the village. Noticeable damage was reported on 'Fix-My-Street'.
- b) Councillor Bennion asked the chairman if the Haughmond Hill double yellow lines situation could be progressed. **ACTION:** Councillor Thomas to progress.

26/123 CORRESPONDENCE:

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting:

- a) Emails regarding play equipment located at the school – we have received multiple emails regarding access for the community outside of standard school hours. **ACTION:** Clerk to ascertain what the process for access is, together with the maintenance protocols.
- b) Email regarding the Haughmond.
- c) Email regarding the new school fencing.

Points b & c are combined, and after Councillor discussions on the above, the Parish Council approved that the Clerk (current and future) should send appropriate generic response letters, politely explaining the limitations of a Parish Council's jurisdiction, and also clarifying the conservation area boundaries.

d) There was a short discussion regarding the community invitation to a public event/meeting regarding the Haughmond quarry extension – 17/09/26 – This has already been publicised via the **Upton Magna Parish Council 'Updates'** WhatsApp group and a reminder will go out before the 17th September.

26/124 MISREPRESENTATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

This was to discuss the recent activities inaccurately accredited to the Parish Council (Dial-a-Ride) from our MP. It appears that there was confusion on their side on who the local Parish Councillors are, and her Facebook page has been resolved with a corrective statement.

26/125 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- a) Parish Council's priorities for the coming year.
- b) To include litter-picking on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 20.44

Date of next meeting: 8th October, 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

K.M Smith-Wells – Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Upton Magna Parish Council
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