

Minutes of Meeting of Upton Parish Council

Held on 10th September at 6.30 pm
Upton Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Fran A'Brook (in the Chair), Councillor David Williams, Councillor Libby Warden, Councillor Howard Shaw, Councillor Karen Telling, Councillor/Parish Clerk Val Thompstone, District Councillor Steven Pugsley.

1 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Frances Nicholson

2 Declarations of Interest

None

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairperson.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10th May 2024 were approved by the Chairperson.

4 Planning Matters

No new planning matters to discuss.

Since completing and submitting the Breach of Planning Form on 31/10/23 (Ref SWT558501627) the Parish Council has had no further communication about works at St James. District Councillor Pugsley has been chasing information but has not heard anything. He will continue to pursue this on behalf of the Parish Council.

5 Update on Parish Lane

It appears that some plants and trees have now been replaced and the land is now looking better. There has been no response to the letter sent to the contractors who conducted the tree felling.

6 Highways

6.1 Wimbleball Lake Signs

The erection of signs to Wimbleball Lake has been completed. Drivers of all vehicles are now directed up to Roborough Gate, away from Henstown Road, the lane to Upton Farm, and the route through Cuckold's Combe. All Upton Parish Councillors are happy with the new signage.

6.2 Overhanging Trees

Trees along the verge towards Haddon Hill continue to be an issue. Highways advised they have a tree specialist who can assess trees likely to topple, but nothing further has been heard concerning this. However, many of these trees are on private land and will be the landowner's responsibility. The Chairperson will contact the landowner to discuss further.

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6 Highways (cont'd)

6.3 Speed Indication Devices (SIDs)

- 6.3.1 Councillor Davies has been advised that we can now apply for grant funding (maximum available is £5,000).
- 6.3.2 At least one Councillor will need to attend a training course of the use of these SIDs at cost of £258.
- 6.3.3 Need to decide if we wish to have solar or battery power.
- 6.3.4 Need to decide on locations
- 6.3.5 Need to decide on length of time in each location
- 6.3.6 Need to decide which Councillor will go on the training course
- 6.3.7 Need to decide what we would like on the actual signs (speed travelling or 'emoji')

7 Village Hall

- 7.1 Coffee mornings continue to be held on the third Tuesday of every month. In September Claire Pound, of Home-Start West Somerset, will be joining us to talk about the charity. Home-Start West Somerset works with families from Minehead, Dunster, Porlock, Dulverton and Watchet right through to Stogursey and everywhere in between. They offer support, friendship, and practical support to parents with young children in their local community. For more information (<https://www.homestart-westsomerset.org.uk>)
- 7.2 A craft afternoon, held on 5th September, saw ladies from Upton and beyond make several types of Corn Dolly.
- 7.3 Further events were discussed:
 - Quiz Night on 9th November
 - Craft Fair on 19th November (held in conjunction with the monthly coffee morning)
 - Christmas Lunch on 8th December

8 Finances

8.1 Cheques as detailed on SO16 signed

- 8.1.1 £10.00 Hire of Upton Village Hall (payable to Upton Village Hall)
 - 8.1.2 £45.70 SALC Affiliation Fee April 2024 – March 2025
 - 8.1.3 £47.96* 4 x £11.99 (total = £35.97) Hugo Fox Website Hosting for May, June, July, August 2024 (payable to Parish Clerk)
 - 8.1.4 £110.00* Stephen Mills – New Posts for Parish Notice Board – supply and fit
 - 8.1.5 £48.00* Parish Online Subscription (Parish Mapping)
 - 8.1.6 £4.42* Somerset Association of Local Councils (to bring 2022-23 payment into line and therefore rectify error)
 - 8.1.7 £179.56* Community First Insurance for 2024/2025
 - 8.1.8 £43.19* 123Reg – Domain Name Registration 'uptonvillageexmoor'
- £433.13 Cheque number NatWest 000125 to reimburse Parish Clerk

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9 Update from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Pugsley advised that there were several changes being suggested and that the current roles of District and County Councillors may be changed to be replaced by Unitary Councillors. These changes may take place in two and a half years, and we will be kept informed.

10 Any other business

- 10.1 The Chairperson requested that anyone living near a grit/sand/salt bin please check the contents to ensure there are adequate supplies for the winter.
- 10.2 The George at Brompton Regis: Councillor Pugsley advised that it is likely the owners will get planning permission, but they will first have to try to sell it as a going concern (pub) before they could get 'change of use'.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15pm

11 Dates of next meetings

- Tuesday 26th November 2024 (6.00pm start)
- Tuesday 11th February 2025 (6.00pm start)
- Tuesday 13th May 2025 to include Annual Meeting (6.00pm start)
- Tuesday 9th September 2025 (6.00pm start)