Upton Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on

Thursday 12th of November, 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

26/143 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Councillors Michael Dawson (Chair), David Carter, Andy Pillow, Ann Fowler, Bob Newton, Jeana Bennion.
Apologies: Councillor Gareth Thomas.
Parish Clerk: Karen Smith-Wells.
Attending: Shropshire Councillor Brendan Mallon, 5 members of the public.

26/144 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS - The Vice Chairman welcomed attendees and stated his intention to chair the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

26/145 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION – A parishioner advised the Parish Council that the creation of a new local energy club in under way, being aided by a company that specialises in organising such enterprises. Its aim is to achieve a reduction in energy for householders. The same parishioner also gave details of another new project, this time in conjunction with SATBAC (Shropshire and Telford Battery Assisted Communities). Further details will be included in the next edition of the Community News.

A second parishioner advised that a new Dial-a-Ride door to door service will run on week days and will charge individuals £20 per annum. Again, further details will be included in the next Community News.

Two further parishioners spoke about Haughmond Quarry. One questioned the date the current quarrying was meant to cease, as various documents give conflicting information. In addition, this parishioner pointed out their property is 160m from the boundary of the proposed rock crushing facility. To avoid the dangers associated with the transmission of silica dust particles, the World Health Organisation recommend the distance should be 1500m, but urges people to work towards 1000m as a minimum. The second parishioner advised that he had been refused a house valuation because of the impending application, plus he is concerned about the impact on the health of his family, especially one member who has a supressed immune system. Dr. Dawson reassured both speakers that the Parish Council will fully address the application once it has been officially submitted (Holcim has indicated that this will be before Christmas). Shropshire Council Mallon advised that the the Friends of Haughmond Hill Group is well-staffed and well-organised. He further suggested that Shrewsbury Town Council be approached for support as Haughmond Hill is an asset as a visitor attraction to the county.

26/146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Bennion declared an interest in agenda item 14, DVSA email.

26/147 MINUTES – It was proposed (DC), seconded (AF) and resolved that the Chair should sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th of October, 2026, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

26/148 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN – Nothing new to report.

26/149 PROPOSED HAUGHMOND FARM QUARRY – Dr. Dawson reiterated the Parish Council's intention to formally consider the planning application, once it has been submitted by Holcim.

26/150 REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR MALLON – Councillor Mallon's report was discussed by Councillors and accepted. **ACTION:** Clerk to upload to the website.

26/151 PROGRESS REPORTS ON ONGOING MATTERS:

a) Traffic Issues – The Clerk reported that, as instructed, she had requested both West Mercia Police and Shropshire Council Highways attend the area outside the school during pupil drop off and collection times. Shropshire Council did not reply. However, PCSO Robert had attended and witnessed the problem. He has suggested that the Parish Council considers applying for the provision of double yellow lines at strategic places and this was discussed by Councillors, with questions such as the length of time to provide them and how they would be policed being raised. Dr. Dawson reported that he had been advised by the Head of the School Governors that the planning application for the new car park would be submitted to Shropshire Council before Christmas. It was therefore agreed to keep this item on the agenda for discussion at the January meeting.

b) St. Lucia's school – The Clerk confirmed she had received a reply to her email to the Head of the School Governors about the community play equipment. In it, Mr Barnes stated the school holiday club (HC) is based in a demountable until the various toilet renovations in others building are complete. The main gates have been closed due to damage to the fence by the outdoor area but repairs should take place soon. Residents should ask to be let in through the gates and the HC team will work with them on timings when HC children are not on the main playground. It was agreed that it was not clear how visitors would know who to ask for access, if there was nobody visible. It was further agreed that the Clerk would pass Mr. Barnes' information on to the two parishioners who had raised the issue, so that they could see if there were still problems. **ACTION:** Clerk to email the parishioners.

26/152 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE – The Parish Clerk advised that, as instructed, she had submitted an application to register the Haughmond as an Asset of Community Value, to Shropshire Council on the 19th of October. It was noted that the deadline for the decision will be the 14th of December, at the latest.

26/153 FINANCE:

a) Authorisation of payments - It was proposed (AP), seconded (AF) and resolved that the following November payments be approved:

AMOUNT	PAYMENT DETAILS
£11.99	Hugo fox – website
£329.02	Clerk's November salary and expenses
£74.40	HMRC – PAYE
£7.00	Unity Bank charges
£50.00	Installation of Tommys
£15.00	UM Memorial Hall hire (October)
£15.84	Printer cartridge (repayable to Clerk)

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b) Draft budget for 2027/28 - Councillors discussed the draft budget prepared ed by the Clerk. It was agreed that all Councillors will address it fully before Christmas and put forward to the Clerk amendments/items for inclusion. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the budget needs to be finalised at the next meeting so that the precept bid can be agreed and, subsequently, submitted by the deadline of the end of January.

c) Grant Application – Councillors discussed a grant application received from the Memorial Hall Committee. It was agreed that, unfortunately, the Parish Council was unable to support the application as legislation states that any grant money awarded must be spent wholly on the parish and its parishioners. In this instance, the applicant could not guarantee that people from outside of the parish may be attending the proposed event.

26/154 PLANNING:

a) 26/01638/FUL Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – The Parish Clerk confirmed she had, as instructed, added a second objection comment to Shropshire Council's planning register. It was noted that a large number of additional objections had been added recently, primarily from parents of children attending St. Lucia's school. It was agreed to wait for any further comments from consultees by their deadline date of the 20th of November.

b) 26/01611/FUL Installation of a substation south of the existing National Grid substation, Uffington – It was confirmed that this application has been withdrawn by the applicant.

c) 26/03971/FUL Conversion of roof space at 41 de Quincey Fields – It was agreed that the Parish Council had no comment to make on this application.

d) Planning decisions published in advance of this meeting – None.

26/155 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) Light at the Grange – The streetlight at this location is almost completely obscured by a hedge. **ACTION**: Parish Clerk to write to the occupants of the Grange to ask that they cut back the hedge as soon as possible.

b) Litter Picking – Councillors discussed the invitation for the parish to join the 2027 Great British Litter Picking Scheme. It was decided not to enrol the Parish Council as Councillors Bennion and Fowler already litter pick frequently and throughout the whole of the year.

c) CJ Wildbird Food offer – Councillor Carter reported he had secured a 20% discount on all products (except binoculars) for Upton Magna parishioners. It was agreed that this should be publicised via Whatsapp and the website.

26/156 DVSA EMAIL – Councillors discussed this issue and it was agreed it is necessary to investigate further in order to establish the facts surrounding the situation.

26/157 PARISH CLERK APPRAISAL – Due to meeting time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

26/158 CORRESPONDENCE - None.

26/159 DECEMBER/JANUARY MEETING DATE: It was agreed that the next meeting date should move from the 10th of December to the 7th of January 2027.

26/160 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – Parish Clerk Appraisal, 2027/28 final budget, precept bid, Code of Conduct, .gov.uk email addresses.

The meeting closed at 21.40.

Date of next meeting: 7th January, 2027 at 7.30pm.

Signed:_____ Date: _____

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

5 Allgold Drive, Shrewsbury, SY2 5NN Email: clerkuptonmagna@btinternet.com

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