ULLESTHORPE
Parish Council

Email: **clerk@ullesthorpeparishcouncil.gov.uk**

All Councillors were summoned to a **Meeting of Ullesthorpe Parish Council on Monday 5th October 2026 at 7.30 pm at the Ullesthorpe Village Hall**.

Present:
Councillors Simon Smith, Linda Buckland and Hugh Edgley plus District and County Councillor Rosita Page. Also the Clerk.

Minutes - The business transacted at the meeting was as follows:

Preliminary:

26-148 To receive apologies from members of council and accept valid reasons for absence.
Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr Kavanagh.

26-149 Declarations of interest

a. To receive members' declarations of interest
Cllr Smith declared an interest in any matters relating to the Baldwins Charity, Joint Burial Committee, Mark Smith Education Charity and Ullesthorpe Preschool. Cllr Edgley declared an interest in any matters relating to the Village Hall and Mark Smith Charity. Cllr Buckland declared an interest in any matters related to the Baldwins Charity.

b. To receive and consider members' requests for dispensations
Dispensations granted for Cllrs Smith, Edgley, and Buckland to discuss and vote on items relating to their declared interests.

26-150 To receive an update on the casual vacancy and the possible appointment of additional Councillors.
The clerk has a meeting with someone to see if they are interested in applying. A draft poster was reviewed and agreed for posting on the noticeboard.

Public Participation Session (15 minutes)

26-151 To adjourn the meeting for contributions from other representatives and members of the Public.
No members of the public were present.

Council Session:

26-152 To sign as accurate the minutes of the meetings held on 7th September 2026.
Cllr Smith proposed, Cllr Buckland seconded, minutes approved.

26-153 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.
Covered under relevant items below.

26-154 Matters arising from District and County Councillor Rosita Page.
Cllr Page has been in regular contact via phone and email throughout the month with the councillors and the acting clerk, updating and advising on issues concerning UPC and assisting with any concerns UPC have raised.
Cllr Page has committed approximately £20k of her award member grant to the Congregational Church for a lift and approximately £2k to the Playing Fields Association for playing field equipment.

26-155 Financial Matters:

a. To note the bank reconciliation to end September 2026.

The reconciled balance on the Parish Council bank accounts on 25th September 2026 is £45,696.58. Signed by Cllr Smith.

b. To approve accounts for payment.

Date	Payee	Inv. No.	For	Amount	Chq no.
05/10/2026	R Twiss		Clerk Net wages for September	£294.88	1685
05/10/2026	HMRC		Aug PAYE	£89.40	1686
				£384.28	

Cllr Smith proposed listed accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Edgley. Accounts approved for payment and cheques issued.

c. To note receipts.

Date	Payer	Ref.	For	Amount
28/08/2026	Natwest	GRS 35408944	Reserve Account Interest	£10.48
02/09/2026	HMRC	VTR XMV 1260001011760	VAT Refund 2025-26	£1,971.43
09/09/2026	Harborough District Council		Precept Q2	£11,816.50
				£13,798.41

d. To discuss 2027 Precept and Financial Accounts for Q1 and Q2.

The 2027 Precept and Financial Accounts for Q1 and Q2 were discussed. Clerk to distribute the above report to Cllrs with the budget figures.

A discussion took place re replacing the old notice boards. Cllr Smith will send old quotations for this to the clerk so they can be refreshed.

e. Other financial matters.

A discussion took place regarding monies owed to DTM. UPC provided 6 x bases and benches to the PFA out of our S106 money. As they were being installed someone from the PFA committee approached the contractor (DTM) asking for an additional base for a memorial bench, which DTM installed. DTM has not yet been paid for this additional base. UPC cannot authorise payment for the additional base as it is outside S106 funding, so the PFA therefore needs to pay for this but DTM has no PFA address to send the invoice to. It was agreed that the clerk should send an email from the Parish Council to the Playing Fields Association explaining the situation and ask for an address for the PFA which DTM can send the invoice to for the additional base, and for the PFA to please pay this invoice as soon as possible. Also please reply to our email by 31/10/26 to ensure that the paper trail for this is complete.

Sunday 8th November is the Remembrance Service at St Peters in Claybrooke. Cllr Smith proposed that we provide a wreath from UPC plus a £50 donation to the Royal British Legion. Cllr Edgley seconded, carried unanimously. Clerk to email Brian Fowler to arrange this.

Clerk provided an update on work needed to refurbish the village sign. Clerk to ask for quotations.

It was noted that we need to precept for elections in May 2027 in next year's budget.

26-156 Planning Matters:

a. To discuss new planning applications.

None

b. To discuss updates on The Harborough Local Plan.
The Harborough Local Plan is expected to be completed by December. When subsequent planning applications are submitted parish councils will have an opportunity to comment.

c. To discuss the potential opportunity for a Neighbourhood Planning Grant.
UPC doesn't have an existing Neighbourhood Plan so does not qualify for a Top Up Grant. Cllr Page advised that to produce a Neighbourhood Plan from scratch would cost UPC c. £30k as there is very little grant money available.

d. Any other planning matters.
An email dated 24th September 2026 from Ian Kemp (Programme Officer for the Harborough Local Plan) sent to individuals who submitted comments earlier in the process was discussed. The current situation is that the inspectors asked c.300 questions which HDC answered, and the Stage 2 Hearing Sessions commence on Tuesday 10th November, with the deadline for submission of written statements relating to the inspector's questions of Friday 16th October. We can comment as individuals or as a parish council.

26-157 Correspondence
Further correspondence has taken place with the resident awaiting the tree work in the railway cutting.

An email was received regarding an Admissions Consultation from The Inspiring Primaries Academy Trust. Clerk to reply asking why they are sending this to UPC.

26-158 Updates from sub-committees.

a. To discuss recent Joint Burial Committee minutes.
Clerk to email the clerk at the JBC asking to be sent a copy of all JBC minutes in future so we can be sure that our records are complete regarding legal requirements.

b. To discuss and vote on the proposed increases in Joint Burial Committee charges to take effect from January 2027.
Clerk to ask the clerk at the JBC what the proposed increases are from January 2027 so UPC can vote on this and document properly. We will then forward any minuted confirmation to the JBC to close the legal paperwork loop.

c. Any other updates from sub-committees
No other updates at this time.

26-159 To discuss update on submission of nominations for HDC Annual Community Awards.
The Congregational Church team were finalists in the awards but unfortunately they did not win.

26-160 To review the Standing Orders.
The limitation on effort relating to data enquiries was discussed. Clerk to draft amended SOs and distribute to Cllrs for review before the next meeting, where SOs will be moved up the agenda.

26-161 To discuss procurement of a letter box for parish correspondence.
Deferred

26-162 To discuss village maintenance.

a. To discuss updates on hedges needing cutting.
Clerk to chase up cutting of the hedges around the junction of Manor Road and Station Road.

Cllr Buckland provided details of hedges needing cutting on Frolesworth Road at the entrance to Mill road. Clerk to contact HDC for a copy of the electoral register so we can identify responsibility for maintenance. Clerk to then contact the resident responsible for these hedges to request that they are cut.

b. Any other village maintenance matters.

A resident has asked for the brambles etc. adjacent to the pavement on Station Road at the junction with Main Street to be cut. Clerk to email photographs to Cllr Page for her to ask LCC to do this.

The nettles in the railway cutting are returning. Clerk to check if treatment was included in the quotation and inform Cllr Smith.

26-163 To discuss progress on the S106 application spend.

The sign is in progress.

26-164 Any other business.

The new .gov.uk email addresses are now available for use. Clerk to email the new UPC email addresses to Cllr Page.

26-165 To consider items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

Standing Orders to be placed early on the agenda.
Wreath and donation.
Precept 2027-8 including potential JBC increase.

26-166 To consider the date and time of the next meeting.

Monday 2nd November 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10.28pm

SIMON SMITH **CHAIRMAN** **2nd November 2026**