Up Hatherley Parish Council: Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting

Venue: **Village Hall, Cold Pool Lane**
Date: **Tuesday, 10th October 2026 at 7.30 pm.**
Present:

Name	Organisation	Role
S. Bamford	UHPC	Chair
P. Worsley	UHPC	Vice-Chair
A. Bamford	UHPC	Councillor
A. Goldsby	UHPC	Councillor
R. Whyborn	UHPC	Councillor
J. Furley	UHPC	Councillor
S. Gutteridge	UHPC	Councillor
J. Sankey	UHPC	Councillor
Y. Doane	UHPC	Councillor

Name	Organisation	Role
VACANT	UHPC	Councillor
VACANT	UHPC	Councillor
VACANT	UHPC	Councillor
VACANT	UHPC	Councillor
K. Oakey	UHPC	Clerk
13 Parishioners		

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Role
D. Willcox	UHPC	Councillor
N. Holden	UHPC	Councillor
M. Ede	UHPC	Councillor

Contents

Welcome 2
Declaration of Members' Interests 2
Community Governance Review 2
Strategic and Local Plan: 3
Date of next meeting 4

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No.	Item / Detail	Action
1.	**Welcome** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and noted the apologies. She explained that this was an extra meeting following two important issues that need further discussion following the last meeting in September.	
2.	**Declaration of Members' Interests** • Cllr S Bamford noted her interest in the changes proposed in Sunnyfield Lane, Cllr Worsley and Cllr A. Bamford noted the same. • No other declarations noted.	
3.	**Community Governance Review** To discuss the forthcoming Cheltenham BC Full Council paper recommending the formation of "Up Hatherley with Benhall and The Reddings Parish Council", once published. Although Local Government (LGR) is on hold Cheltenham BC are still looking at options for what happens post LGR. In particular they are keen to protect many of the important assets in Cheltenham including the parks and open spaces, which could become neglected under the new proposals as they will be remote for the new unitary council. A consultation has taken place looking at how the unparished areas in Cheltenham could be arranged and Cheltenham are taking a paper to Council next week. The proposal for Up Hatherley is that it is joined by Benhall and The Reddings, and the Chair has spoken with representatives of both areas and generally this is seen as a positive move. In particular this could be a stop gap arrangement with both areas eventually breaking off and forming their own parishes once they have sufficient knowledge on the process involved. Cllr A. Bamford informed members that parishes will be even more important under the Unitary arrangement as they will be the ones with the knowledge and closeness to the issues, with a unitary being remote from the areas. The new parished area could be around 9,000 residents, and would come with additional members representing the new areas. Members expressed concern that there would be more responsibility on existing members, however they were reassured that this shouldn't be the case as there would be more members representing the new areas. However a bigger parish will need more staff resources, but with a bigger taxbase more money would be available to pay for this. Cllr Whyborn informed the meeting that the intention / expectation is that all areas will be parished under the new unitary. He asked what our role is currently in the decision by Cheltenham and the Chair informed him that at this stage it was just to note our support for the proposals. She therefore proposed that we support the Cheltenham BC proposals, and Cllr Worsley seconded this. A vote was taken and all were in favour, however Cllr Gutteridge noted his ongoing concern about extra responsibility falling on current councillors.	

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4. Strategic and Local Plan:

- Principles and approach to next stage of consultation

The Chair reported that following a short discussion at the last parish council meeting it was agreed that we would get together to discuss latest proposals in more detail. She informed the meeting that around a decade ago we responded to the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and were successful in getting the Chargrove triangle removed from the JCS. However the next version is the Strategic local Plan (SLP). We have responded to the first two parts of this and the next phase of consultation is expected shortly with a tight deadline as the expectation is submissions need to be with central government by 31st December 2026. No plan could result in a free for all with developers being able to determine where houses should go. It is important that there is a plan in place, even if we have to compromise in a few areas.

Cllr A Bamford informed the meeting that over 43k houses are required. As a result the greenbelt is now under increased pressure. As the next phase of the consultation has yet to be released it is difficult to know what it will look like, however it is likely Chargrove will be included so we need to agree our position.

The Chair asked members for their views, and the following was raised:

- Oppose on principle
- Outright opposition won't win
- Need best result for Up Hatherley
- Last time there were other areas on the table, not sure that is the case now
- Need a defensible greenbelt boundary and to maintain the rural nature of Chargrove Lane
- Infrastructure is important and must be right and sustainable
- Need to defend what matters to us
- Access to countryside is fundamental and should be protected
- Need to create rules as part of our response.

The Chair confirmed that Shurdington were keen to maintain the boundary, and reminded all present that all the rural land under discussion is within Shurdington or Badgeworth parish councils and not part of Up Hatherley.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public to gain their views. She also invited those interested to drop their details to the Clerk and also sent around a sheet to collect details of those that wanted to continue to be involved.

The following queries were raised:

- If a response isn't submitted does that mean we lose everything? If so definitely need a compromise that could be accepted. How do we compile the evidence to defend the parish.
- Can we suggest an alternative, and could the proposed number of houses for this area increase is other areas are successfully defending their boundaries.

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	• Could brownfield sites not be used as the density on these sites could be more and so would take away a lot of the pressures for the more rural areas. • Do houses already being built not count towards the target. • Up Hatherley Way has been very successful and should remain as a distributor road. • If the parish council opposes the plan why does that make a difference regarding infrastructure? Surely this is about housing and not infrastructure at this stage? Following all the discussions and queries raised the Chair summarised as follows: • We need to maintain the rural nature of Chargrove lane as it is a great resource for the wellbeing of the local population • There is already a nature reserve along the lane that should be protected • Bats and Owls along the lane need protecting • The Perry orchards should be protected • We need to continue to identify sites of special interest and all encouraged to look at ideas to do so, eg bat surveys etc • Sunnyfield Lane is also a great resource for walking • We need to ensure we do have a Plan B to push back should Chargrove be included in the plan. The Chair confirmed that at the next meeting of the parish council it is likely that the consultation will be available, and she encouraged all to respond. Maintaining the rural nature and leisure of the lane is paramount. Cllr Worsley thanked the Chair and Cllr A Bamford for all the work that they have done to date on this, and this was echoed by all at the meeting. The Chair thanked all those present for attending, and agreed that the parish council will join up and liaise with Hastag as previously.	
5.	**Date of next meeting** • The meeting closed at 8.50pm and the next meeting will be 3rd November **……** **3 November 2026** **Chair**	

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