Upton Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on

Thursday 8th of October, 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

26/126 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Councillors Gareth Thomas (chair), Michael Dawson, David Carter, Andy Pillow, Bob Newton, Jeana Bennion.
Apologies: Councillor Ann Fowler.
Parish Clerk: Karen Smith-Wells.
Attending: Shropshire Councillor Brendan Mallon, Sundorne Castle Estate Manager Huw Williams, Trustees of the Sundorne Castle Estate, plus 5 members of the public.

26/127 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS - The Chairman welcomed an increase in attendees.

26/128 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION - Two parishioners (whose property straddles the parish boundary between Upton Magna and Uffington) each read out prepared statements on the effect the proposed Haughmond Farm quarry will have on their lives, the lives of other parishioners in the vicinity, and the natural environment. They asked for the Parish Council's view on what is proposed and requested that it objects to the application. The parishioners were advised that, at the present time, the Parish Council held no opinion as it was yet to discuss it (see minute 26/134 below). However, the parishioners were assured that, although the proposed quarry will be located wholly in Uffington parish, as parishioners of Upton Magna, they will be helped where possible. The parishioners also advised that a working group is being formed by Uffington Parish Council and it will hopefully have representatives from Astley and Ercall Magna Parish Councils, as well as Upton Magna.

A third parishioner asked if the Parish Council would consider making a financial contribution towards a community meal for 60 to 80 people being organised for the end of December by the food share group and the Food Hub. **ACTION**: Clerk to send a grant application form to the parishioner. The parishioner also advised that a "community energy project group" is being formed with a view to pursuing community ownership of energy.

A fourth parishioner made a complaint to the Parish Council regarding an email (purportedly by the Parish Council) sent to the DVSA in July regarding the Dial-a-Ride scheme and, in particular, his conduct as a driver. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the subject had not been discussed at a meeting and, therefore, no email had been sent by the Parish Council. This was disputed by the parishioner. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should contact Mr. Langford (Dial-a-Ride) to ascertain the identity of the sender. If unsuccessful, she would contact the DVSA and, if also unsuccessful, it was suggested that the police be involved as the email appeared to have been sent by someone fraudulently representing the Parish Council. **ACTION:** Clerk to carry out those actions and report back.

26/129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None.

26/130 MINUTES – It was proposed (JB), seconded (DC) and resolved that the Chair should sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th of September, 2026, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

26/131 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN (including SEA Scoping Consultation) – Councillor Carter advised that this refers to Shropshire Council's initial phase of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process, where residents can submit comments on determining what Shropshire Council needs to assess, and give suggestions on environmental proposals that will guide the analysis within the SEA process. Residents should be sure that they are happy with Shropshire Council's approach and that they are putting the environment first. It was proposed (DC), seconded (MD) and resolved that the Parish Council supports the SEA Scoping process.

26/132 REPORT FROM TERN WARD, COUNCILLOR MALLON) – Councillor Mallon's report was reviewed by all present councillors and was accepted. **ACTION:** Clerk to upload to the website.

26/133 PROGRESS REPORTS ON ONGOING MATTERS:

a) **Traffic Issues** – This continues to be a problem. Mr. Williams advised that the car park application has still not been submitted by the school. Councillor Bennion advised that she has reported cars being parked on the pavements, on Fix-my-Street. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to write to Shropshire Council and West Mercia Police to request they visit at 08.45am and 15.15pm to witness the problem themselves.
b) **St. Lucia's school** – The Clerk confirmed she had replied to Mr. Barnes asking for more information but had not received a reply. However, Dr. Dawson had informally met with him the previous week. **ACTION:** Clerk to pursue a response to her email.

26/134 PROPOSED HAUGHMOND FARM QUARRY – It was confirmed that Councillors had attended the recent consultation meeting(s) held by Holcim, and it was thought that there were inconsistences between the meetings held in Uffington and in Upton Magna. It was agreed that as soon as there is an application to comment on, the Parish Council will support any of its parishioners affected. It was agreed that the working group being organised by Uffington Parish Council should be led by them, and responses given in a co-ordinated and structured manner, rather than each of the four parish councils submitting individual responses. It was proposed (MD), seconded (JB) and resolved that Councillor Thomas attends the meetings on behalf of the Upton Magna Parish Council, and is first point of contact for that and the campaign group.

26/135 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE:

a) **Renewal of de Quincey Fields green** – The Clerk advised that she has prepared the renewal documentation for this green and the Memorial Hall field, ready for submission on their due dates.

b) **Registration of the Haughmond** – The Parish Clerk advised that she had written to the owners of the Haughmond stating the Parish Council's intention to register the Haughmond. No reply had been received. **ACTION:** Parish Council Clerk submit the application to Shropshire Council.

26/136 FINANCE:

a) **Authorisation of payments** - It was proposed (DC), seconded (MD) and resolved that the following October payments be approved:

AMOUNT	PAYMENT DETAILS
£11.99	Hugo fox – website
£329.02	Clerk's September salary and expenses
£74.40	HMRC – PAYE
£7.00	Unity Bank charges
£8.45	WME – streetlight electricity
£15.00	UM Memorial Hall hire (September)

b) **Bank Reconciliation and accounting spreadsheets** – It was proposed (MD), seconded (AP) and resolved that the bank reconciliation for the second quarter and the associated accounting spreadsheets prepared by the Clerk be accepted.

26/137 PLANNING:

a) **26/01638/FUL Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** – It was noted that, since the last meeting, new documents had been uploaded to Shropshire Council's Planning Register, including a Smoke Plume Assessment, and a second well-worded, factual objection from a resident. It was further noted that this was the first time the significant smoke risks from a fire (and the impact the smoke would have on the A5, railway line, residential properties, and St. Lucia's School) have been raised. Councillors were very concerned that yet another extension to the decision had been applied and that an officer will make the final decision, rather than the planning committee. It was proposed (MD), seconded (DC) and resolved that the Clerk enters another objection comment on the Planning Register. **ACTION**: Clerk to compile the objection comment and submit, after approval by Councillors.
b) **26/01611/FUL Installation of a substation south of the existing National Grid substation, Uffington –** It was noted that no comments (other than that by this Parish Council) had been entered onto Shropshire Council's Planning Register.
c) **Planning decisions published in advance of this meeting** – None.

26/138 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) Dr. Dawson advised he has recently attended a Salc meeting and Councillors discussed his resulting report.
b) Councillor Bennion asked there was any progress on the Haughmond Hill double yellow lines and was reminded that the provision of them is subject to a legal process that the Parish Council is unable to influence any further.

26/139 OPCC TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY - It was agreed not to respond to this.

26/140 CORRESPONDENCE - None.

26/141 EMPLOYEE HOURS/STATUTORY HOLIDAYS - Due to the confidential nature of this item, the Chairman closed the meeting to the public. The Clerk also left the meeting for the discussion.

26/142 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – Haughmond Farm Quarry. Priorities for the coming year.

The meeting closed at 21.20.

Date of next meeting: 12th November, 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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