

# Upton Magna Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

### 24/01 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**Present:** Cllrs Phil Roberts (Chair), Andy Brooker, Julieanne Lloyd, Michael Dawson, Dan Sims, Andy Pillow.

**Apologies:** Jeana Bennion

**Clerk:** Jennifer Turner.

### 24/02 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION – None.

### 24/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

**24/04 MINUTES** – It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November as a true and correct record of that meeting.

### 24/05 REPORT FROM CLLR. LEZLEY PICTON (SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL)

- SC is aiming to achieve 90% of the £51 million savings required, the remaining amount will be carried forward into 2024. This has been achieved by changing the way the council work and offering services in different ways, therefore resulting in most residents not noticing any difference.
- Discussions are ongoing with SALC to make it quicker and easier for Clerks to access information
- Report going to January Cabinet regarding
  - i. Shewsbury Movement Strategy, reducing unnecessary traffic through the town centre
  - ii. Sports Village Transformation including the addition of a competition swimming pool. There is no decision as yet on the future of Quarry Leisure Centre, however it will stay operational whilst the new swimming pool is constructed
  - iii. Increase in carparking charges to facilitate investments into carparks and Park & Ride

### 24/06 REPORTS

- a) **West Mercia Police** – None. Invited but DNA. It is noted that the Police force in this area are 15% understaffed
- b) **SALC** – None.
- c) **Footpaths** – No issues
- d) **Village hall** – There is no update regarding the WiFi. Fence painting is planning to take place when the weather improves. **ACTION:** AP to report to February meeting regarding WiFi.

### 24/07 PROGRESS REPORTS

- a) **Defibrillators** – A defibrillator in a softpack with a non-rechargeable battery and one adult pad is sited in the office at the school and as there is another sited outside of the shop it is not felt necessary to site another outside of the school. MD has checked and pads became out of date in 2022, however the defibrillator can still be used as only the stickiness of the pads is affected. The non-rechargeable battery lasts between 5-10 years. Care should be taken on who is responsible for these devices and

liability for them. AB suggested a check of these devices could be included on his annual walk through. Costs for replacements should be included in budgeting. **ACTION:** MD to discuss with HW possible cover of costs

- b) **Street Lights** – The light opposite the school is not working. Clerk to report to installers (Penguin Electrical) to facilitate a repair.
- c) **Smartwater** – No updates. **Action** – AB arranging replacements.

## 24/08 GENERAL PARISH & HIGHWAY MATTERS

*Please note: Most highway and general repair matters are best reported using **fixmystreet.com**. This will usually get the quickest results.*

- a) **Flood Water** – receded quickly
- b) **Ditches** – Have been cleared
- c) **Potholes** – Highways have been informed regarding current issues. There are a lot of pothole reports on fixmystreet, one particularly deep one has been filled with hardcore

## 24/09 PLANNING

- a) No **planning applications** were received in advance of this meeting.
- b) No **planning decisions** were published in advance of this meeting.

## 24/10 FINANCE

### a) Payments and receipts

It was proposed (PR), seconded (JB) and resolved that the following **payments** be approved:

AMOUNT	DETAILS	POWER TO SPEND
358.28	Clerk's salary and expenses	LGA 1972 s112
92.00	Previous Clerk's backpay	LGA 1972 s112
46.70	Electricity for street lighting (October) West Mercia Energy	Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980, s301
36.00	Grasscutting – Shrewsbury Council	LGA 1972 s142
11.99	Incorrect website fee (to be refunded)	LGA 1972 s142

- b) **Payments and receipts** - The above outstanding payments will be paid once access to the bank has been resolved.
- c) **Payroll** - The payroll needs to be accessed and recreated
- d) **Reconciliation** – Clerk to report once access to the bank and finance records has been established
- e) **Bank** – Clerk to facilitate access to Unity .
- f) **Precept** - Councillors discussed the 2024/25 budget. Budget is £2000 above current year precept. An agreement was reached ten years ago not to increase the precept until 2025 and it is now felt that a small increase is necessary. Proposed 6%, seconded – precept will be requested at £5,584. **ACTION:** Clerk to submit

## 24/11 Any Other Business/Correspondence

- a) It is possible for superfast broadband to be available in the wider village, this would be of benefit particularly to the large number of residents who work from home. However there are concerns regarding the number of people who would benefit and how the costs would be met. **Action** – Clerk to contact supplier to gather further information
- b) It is proposed to set up a Whatsapp group for Councillors to facilitate better communication. This would need to be open, transparent and for council business only
- c) **Village Fete/Family Fun Day 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024** – Clerk to add details of this online event on the website and on Facebook. Organisers would be grateful of any help

The meeting closed at 20.28pm.

Date of the next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer Turner – Upton Magna Parish Council  
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