

Upton Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th of July, 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

26/092 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Councillors Gareth Thomas (chair), Michael Dawson, David Carter, Ann Fowler, Andy Pillow, Jeana Bennion.

Apologies: Councillor Bob Newton, Shropshire Councillor Mallon, Mr. Williams (Sundorne Castle Estate Manager).

Parish Clerk: Karen Smith-Wells.

Attending: Withington Parish Councillor Lesley Stone.

26/093 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS – Councillor Thomas opened the meeting by welcoming Councillor Lesley Stone from Withington Parish Council. He remarked how reassuring it is that neighbouring Parish Councils are willing to work alongside Upton Magna, in the run-up to Shropshire Council's Local Plan allocation of sites.

26/094 PUBLIC SESSION – The Chairman opened the floor to Councillor Stone who said that, although Withington is not faced with the possibility of major development as a result of the plan, it is fully aware that any development in Upton Magna will impact on their parish. Therefore, Withington Parish Council wishes to provide support for Upton Magna, where it can. Councillor Stone particularly talked about the new pressures that will impact on parts of their infrastructure, e.g., roads and sewerage facilities, both of which are already challenged. She also stated Withington's desire to retain the rural status of their parish.

26/095 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

26/096 MINUTES – It was proposed (DC), seconded (AF) and resolved that the Chair should sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th of June, 2026, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

26/097 LOCAL PLAN (AND SUNDORNE CASTLE ESTATE) – It was proposed (MD), seconded (DC) and resolved that the information gathered by the working group be drafted as formal answers to Shropshire Council's Scoping Consultation questions, and, once all Councillors have reviewed these, they should be submitted to Shropshire Council by the deadline of the 15th of July. **ACTION:** Councillor Carter to co-ordinate and submit the response. **ACTION:** Clerk to upload the word version of the Scoping Consultation onto the website for parishioners to complete.

It was agreed that the flyer recently distributed throughout the parish had been well-received and responses were being submitted to the Clerk.

Councillors discussed questions that have been received from worried parishioners. These questions concern the shock submission of suggested sites for development and the lack of information surrounding this. It was agreed that the Parish Council also lacks information but is hoping that the Estate Trustees will answer any questions it has. It was also noted with disappointment and concern that a number of families and residents have been given notice to quit their homes, which are owned by the Estate. Many of these are longstanding residents of the parish. Councillor Fowler reported that she has written to the local MP asking where these

people are to live. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to open a line of communication with the Trustees and to gain more information.

26/098 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MALLON (SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL) – Councillor Mallon's report (presented in his absence) was accepted. (See also minute 26/105a below). **ACTION:** Clerk to upload to the website.

26/099 REPORTS:

- a) **West Mercia Police** – Councillor Carter reported that he had met with PCSO Roberts, who had advised him that they, like the Parish Council, have contacted the school asking for the source of their information regarding the outside threat to pupils. They too have not received a reply to date, and will be contacting the school again next week. PCSO Roberts was advised about resident accounts of speeding on the road from the finger post to Haughmond Hill, and mentioned WMP would try to site a Trucam in the area when available.
- b) **SALC** – Nothing to report.
- c) **Memorial Hall** – The fete is taking place on the 12th of July but the Dog Show section has been cancelled due to the impending hot weather.
- d) **Footpaths** – Nothing to report.

26/100 PROGRESS REPORTS:

- a) **Shropshire Council Energy Scheme** – Councillor Carter confirmed that the transfer of street lighting power supply had taken place and Shropshire Council are the new suppliers. Councillor Carter was thanked for his hard work in arranging this, especially as it should result in a financial saving for the Parish Council.
- b) **Traffic Issues** – The Clerk reported that she had emailed the school Headteacher on the 26th of June, to ask for an update on a number of aspects regarding the proposed car park but had not received a reply to date. She had also been advised by Mr. Huw Williams (Sundorne Castle Estate Manager) that he also had not been provided with further information. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to Mr. H. Barnes, head of the School Governors.

26/101 MEMORIAL HALL FIELD – The Clerk reported that she had emailed Mr. Huw Williams to ask if it would be possible for the Parish Council to purchase the field. No information had been received to date. **ACTION:** Clerk to formally write to the Estate Manager to open the lines of communication, in the first instance. In the meantime, it was proposed (MD), seconded (AF) and resolved that the Parish Council registers the field as a "Village Green". **ACTION:** Councillor Thomas and the Clerk to carry this out as soon as possible.

26/102 THE HAUGHMOND – It was proposed (AF), seconded (DC) and resolved that the Parish Council applies to have the Haughmond declared an Asset of Community Value, in order to protect it in the future. **ACTION:** Clerk to submit an application.

26/103 "TOMMY" SILHOUETTES – It was proposed (AF), seconded (JB) and resolved that the Tommys will be installed in October (for the remembrance period) on the grassed area opposite the Haughmond. **ACTION:** Councillor Dawson to request that Mr. Brooker makes the brackets for them.

26/104 FINANCE:

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

AMOUNT	PAYMENT DETAILS
£11.99	Hugofox – website
£328.48	Clerk's June salary and expenses
£72.02	HMRC – PAYE
£7.00	Unity Bank charges
£15.00	Hire of Upton Magna Memorial Hall
£26.00	Mower petrol (repayable to R. Newton)
£13.80	Plaque adhesive (repayable to D. Carter)
£143.56	War memorial plaque (repayable to D. Carter)
£48.00	Flyers (repayable to D. Carter)
£248.23	Salc affiliation fee

It was noted here that £9.73 savings account interest had been received.

- b) **Bank Reconciliation, Accounting Spreadsheet and Budget** – It was proposed (DC), seconded (AP) and resolved that the bank reconciliation for the first quarter, prepared by the Clerk, be approved. It was also proposed (DC), seconded (AF) and resolved that the accounting spreadsheet, prepared by the Clerk, be approved. Councillors discussed the interim budget report, prepared by the Clerk.

26/105 PLANNING:

- a) **25/01638/FUL Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** – It was noted that the consultation deadline has been extended to the 20th of July. Councillor Mallon's report covered his dissatisfaction with the amount of time it is taking for this planning application to be considered. Councillor Carter reported that the Planning Officer dealing with this application has changed and that he had been in touch with him about the delays. A letter from Network Rail had been uploaded to Shropshire Council's planning register, recording "no objection" to the application. However, it was decided to appraise Network Rail of extra information, so that they can reassess their comment, if they wish.
- b) **26/02035/LBC Addition of rooflight at Walnut Cottage** – Nothing to report.
- c) **26/01611/FUL Installation of a substation south of the existing National Grid substation, Uffington** – It was proposed (MD), seconded (JB) and resolved that the Parish Council objects to this application as it is against development taking place on greenbelt land. **ACTION:** Clerk to post the objection on Shropshire Council's planning register.
- d) **Planning decisions published in advance of this meeting** – None.

26/106 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) The hedge at 4 Pelham Road has been cut back. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to thank the owner, and ask that it is maintained in future.
- b) Councillor Bennion reported that speeding vehicles are a problem in the village.
- c) Councillors discussed the untidiness of the village. It was agreed that the current hot weather is having an impact, and that litter is a problem (especially around the bench opposite the Haughmond) as it had been too hot for Councillor Bennion to carry out her voluntary litter picking.

26/107 CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Email regarding Haughmond Hill double yellow lines – It was agreed that the Parish Council has done all that it can and it is now a question of waiting for Shropshire Council to complete the formal process required, before the lines can be painted. **ACTION:** Clerk to reply to the sender.
- b) Email regarding Community “News” – It was agreed that the Parish Council stands by its requests regarding articles in the Community “News”. **ACTION:** Clerk to reply to the sender. It was also agreed that the request for a financial donation towards the publication be put on hold until the end of the year, and if the financial situation of the Parish Council is stable, it may be able to offer a donation.

26/108 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – No new ones.

The meeting closed at 21.05.

Date of next meeting: 10th September, 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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