

# Upton Magna Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall**

At 6.30pm, the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was announced.  
The meeting commenced with a minute's silence.

### **22/067 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**Apologies:** None.

**Clerk:** Alison Utting

**Also:** SC Cllr Lezley Picton

**22/068 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION** – None.

**22/069 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None.

**22/070 MINUTES** – It was agreed that the Chairman should sign the minutes of 14th July 2022 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### **22/071 REPORT FROM CLLR. LEZLEY PICTON (SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL)**

Cllr Picton shared information about books of condolence, etc.

Purple bins - These have now been distributed to those who put in a request for them. Owners of the new bins should note that there is a blank space on the front of the bin for you to put your address (using permanent marker).

Shropshire Council, like many other district and unitary councils, is facing a massive deficit under present conditions and is therefore reviewing its budget. Cllr Picton warned that funds will have to be concentrated on essential services, at the cost of other optional expenditure.

*Cllr Picton left the meeting after this item.*

**22/072 OTHER REPORTS** – None.

### **22/073 PROGRESS REPORT**

- a) **SmartWater** – Ongoing.
- b) **Neighbourhood Fund spending (Jubilee)** – Cllrs voted to authorise a donation of <£500 for new strimming equipment.
- c) **Electricity for street lighting** – Only one company was able to provide a quote - West Mercia Energy, a purchasing organisation endorsed by Shropshire Council. Although they cannot offer any savings on the energy tariff, they do have much lower standing charges. Therefore, their estimated costs for the parish council would be £680 p.a. of which £113 is standing charges. NPower (current provider) charges are c. £1080 p.a. of which around £750 is standing charges. Council agreed to move to WME (paying by Direct Debit) and mandates were signed.
- d) **Parking issues** – Following letters to parents, pub employees, and an article in the parish newsletter, there has been some improvement. The parish council will continue to monitor the situation.

### **22/074 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) It was noted that **pupil numbers at St Lucia's** are slightly higher than expected, with five more children having enrolled.
- b) Some residents had been concerned by **antisocial behaviour** and minor vandalism that had occurred during the summer months. Councillors heard that this has now abated. Councillors would like everyone in the village to know that they are always happy to be approached with any concerns and will do their best to get support from relevant sources if it is needed. Contact details for all parish councillors are on the website.
- c) JL expressed concern about the dangerous behaviour of some **cyclists** in the village and surrounding lanes.
- d) AB reported that the edge of the road is collapsing into the ditch, up past the shoot lodge. He will report this.

### **22/075 MAINTENANCE MATTERS**

- a) **Footway** between The Parsonage and School House. A resident has had communication with Highways regarding the incomplete work and damage done. The Parish Council has heard nothing. Clerk to contact Highways.
- b) It was noted that the resident of The Porch House will shortly be moving away. Councillors expressed their gratitude for all that this lady has done over the years in keeping the small green at the front of her house looking so lovely. Letter to be sent.

**22/076 ACTION ON ENERGY CONSERVATION** – MD reported that a public meeting has already been set up by a resident. This will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. ~~Cllrs agreed to support and advertise this event.~~ The Council agreed to advertise this event.

**22/077 PLANNING**

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

**21/078 FINANCE**

a) **Payments and receipts**

Council noted the following **payments** made in August 2022:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
215.79	Clerk's salary (July)	LGA 1972 s112
90.54	Electricity for streetlighting (July)	Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980, s301

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Legal Power
215.79	Clerk's salary (August)	LGA 1972 s112
44.00	Clerk's refundable expenses	LGA (financial provisions) 1963 s5.
107.80	PAYE (months 5 and 6)	LGA 1972 s112
90.48	Electricity for street lighting (June)	Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980, s301
22.56	Microsoft365	LGA 1972 s142
18.00	Banking charges	LGA 1972 s111
90.00	Parts for mowers (churchyard)	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10

Council noted the following **receipts**:

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
9.40	Microsoft365 contribution from Hadnall Parish Council
134.58	Reclaimed VAT

- b) Council received and approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
- c) Council approved the revised **budget** for 2022-23 (mid-year revision).

## **22/079 CORRESPONDENCE**

**Shropshire Council Free Community Tree Scheme** – Feedback was requested on earlier distribution – Alan Granger responded to this. More trees, including larger ‘feathered’ trees, are available to anyone with a patch of land, via the SC website.

**Forestry England** – undergoing an assessment of forest management in October.

**Shropshire Village Halls** – conference returns, Saturday 24 September at Little Wenlock Village Hall.

**Community Matters / West Mercia Police** – Do we have or want a Neighbourhood Watch group and/or a Rural Watch group?

**NALC** – Civility and Respect Project. Councils are invited to set an agenda item and resolve to sign up.

Responses were received from residents to letters sent out last time.

### **Highways – planned road closures**

*Pelham Road End Of To The Parks Farm Junction, Withington* 26th – 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. Road Closure - Cadent Gas, lay new service to the Old Vicarage.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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

**NEXT MEETING – Thursday 10th November, 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.**

Alison Utting – Upton Magna Parish Council  
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