

Upton Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

23/001 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Clerk: Alison Utting

Also: SC Cllr Lezley Picton, Huw Williams (Sundorne Estate Manager).

23/002 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION – None.

23/003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

23/004 MINUTES – It was agreed that the Chairman should sign the minutes of 10th November 2022 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

23/005 REPORT FROM CLLR. LEZLEY PICTON (SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL)

Shropshire Council's proposed precept is + 4.99% (which includes 2% for adult social care). SC is looking into doubling Council Tax for some second homes. A discussion document has been shared regarding proposed changes to national planning policy – Clerk to share with Cllrs. The subsidised tree scheme is running again. The boundary review (electoral wards) currently under consultation is bound to mean big changes for the Tern Division.

JB asked if there was any progress with the trial 20mph area for the village – none yet.

PR raised an issue about missed refuse collections. Cllr Picton said that there are now CCTV cameras on all refuse & recycling vehicles which can be checked centrally in real time – so do phone in any missed collections ASAP. The wagon can be sent back immediately if the video shows that the bins were out but not emptied.

AB raised the issue of the bent metal barrier on Benjay Lane that still hasn't been fixed. Cllr Picton asked for the job reference to be forwarded to her and she will chase.

23/006 OTHER REPORTS

- a) **Police** – Our **new Officer for Shrewsbury Rural East** is PC2579 Simon Lewis. He can be contacted at simon.lewis@westmercia.police.uk. On request, UMPC meeting dates for 2023 were sent via Lyn Birch.
- b) **Village Hall** – Cllrs are concerned that the Village Hall **fence replacement** has still not happened and that the earmarked grant towards this is still sitting in UMPC's account. Woodland Trust may still have the materials for the originally proposed wooden fence. AB suggested that it may be better to go for metal estate fencing as it would be more robust and long-lasting. HW happy to help with facilitating quotes and work. Cllrs agreed that it would be good to have it done before the Coronation in May, if at all possible. AB mentioned that the **Family Social Nights** at the Village Hall need supporting. Clerk is happy to share publicity for these on the website and Facebook. The Parish Council could consider a grant towards this and/or other community events (e.g. Talent Show) if an application form is submitted. Clerk to contact Village Hall Committee, sharing the above comments.
- c) **Footpaths** – The group is meeting with Huw Williams next week.

23/007 PROGRESS REPORT

- a) **Neighbourhood Fund spending (Jubilee)** – Grant application for churchyard footpath lighting has been received (see item 23/010c).
- b) **Electricity supplier** – The switch to West Mercia Energy went through on 27/09/2022. First invoices have now been received and seem to show a significant saving on our monthly lighting costs.
- c) **Parking issues** – Inconsiderate parking continues to be a problem. JB pointed out that children had been forced to walk on the road on the way to carol services because of vehicles parked on the kerbs and JL confirmed that this is an ongoing problem for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs. Clerk to highlight this matter in the local newsletter.

23/008 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) JB reported that there had been more incidents of **vandalism at the school**, generally over weekends. The school had been advised to report these to the police and to the parish council. AB suggested that CCTV cameras can be obtained very cheaply and may help to stop this.
- b) Concerns were raised over the number of **accidents that happen on the road between Horton and Astley**. Several vehicles left the road and overturned during the Christmas / New Year period. Although this is just outside the parish, Cllrs agreed to write in support of speed control measures to the police, the Police & Crime Commissioner, and Shropshire Council.
- c) JB reported **damage to the surface of the footway between Corner House and the Old Post Office**. To be reported on fixmystreet.com (AB).
- d) PR pointed out that the footway work being carried out by Shropshire Council (by The School House) has not been completed because of gravel from a driveway. HW to assist in getting this cleared so that Highways can be contacted to complete the work. MD reported that the BT manhole covers have been repaired.
- e) JB reported problems with **road surface drainage by the Business Park**. The gullies draining into the ditch need digging out. HW to see whether the Estate can help with this, or report it to Highways via fixmystreet.com.
- f) JB requested that the **road outside the school needs sweeping**. Clerk to report.

23/009 PLANNING

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

23/010 FINANCE

- a) The grant application for footpath lighting at the Lychgate was approved (£364.00). This means that there is now £136 remaining in the Parish Council's Jubilee Fund (plus £221 in the Neighbourhood Fund).
- b) **Payments and receipts**
Council noted the following **payments** made in December 2022:

| Amount | Details | Power to spend |
|--------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 215.79 | Clerk's salary (November) | LGA 1972 s112 |
| 18.00 | Banking charges | LGA 1972 s111 |

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

| Amount | Details | Legal Power |
|--------|---|---|
| 311.34 | Clerk's salary (December) and expenses | LGA 1972 s112 and LGA (financial provisions) 1963 s5. |
| 117.20 | PAYE (months 7 and 8) | LGA 1972 s112 |
| 63.87 | Electricity for street lighting (27/09/2022 - 30/11/2022) | Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980, s301 |
| 22.56 | Microsoft365 | LGA 1972 s142 |
| 20.00 | Room hire (Oct- Dec) | LGA 1972, s134 (1-3) |
| 364.00 | Grant for lighting installation at Lychgate | Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3 Highways Act 1980, s301 |

Council noted the following **receipts**:

| Amount | Details |
|--------|---|
| 18.80 | Microsoft365 contribution from Hadnall Parish Council (Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec) |

- c) Council received and approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
- d) Council agreed the **budget** for 2023-24 (separate document).
- e) Council agreed to request a **precept** of £5268 (Prop: AB. Sec: DS. All in favour).
This means a 0% change for households, holding the Parish Council precept at an average of £34.77 per year per household. Councillors felt that they had sufficient reserves to avoid the need for an increase this year. They hoped that this would help everyone dealing with the impact of the current financial crisis.

23/011 CORRESPONDENCE

Helen Morgan MP – Drawing attention to Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund, deadline 20th January.

Shropshire Council – Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy, assessing unsafe walking routes to school, Ironbridge Gorge conservation strategy – consultations running. See SC website.

RoW Officer - The Shropshire Council (Bridleway 10 (part), Parish of Upton Magna) Public Path Diversion Order 2018: Confirmation of public path diversion order.

ALC – training calendar 2023

Highways - Pelham Road (End Of) To The Parks Farm Junction, Withington - to be closed for one day on 29th March (Severn Trent) and for one day on 14th April (National Grid, tree trimming works).

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

**NEXT MEETING – Thursday 9th March 2023, 7.30pm at St Lucia’s School
(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THIS MEETING)**

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