

Upton Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th of May, 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

26/058 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies: Councillor Michael Dawson.

Parish Clerk: Karen Smith-Wells.

Attending: Shropshire Councillor Mallon. Sundorne Castle Estate Manager Huw Williams. One member of the public.

26/059 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

26/060 PUBLIC SESSION – Information provided at the Annual Meeting held previously.

26/061 MINUTES – It was proposed (DC), seconded (AF) and resolved that the Chair should sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of April, 2026, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

26/062 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MALLON (SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL) – Councillor Mallon's report had been presented in the previous Annual Meeting. **ACTION:** Clerk to place on the website.

26/063 REPORTS:

- a) **West Mercia Police** – Councillor Carter reported that PCSO Roberts had advised him that there had not been any crime reported in the parish since the last meeting. Trucam speeding cameras had been monitoring speed in the village since the beginning of the week. Although not in the parish, to raise awareness, PCSO Roberts warned of recent car thefts nearby. A black Mercedes containing two masked men had stolen keyless, high-performance cars from Attingham and Allscott.
- b) **SALC** – Nothing to report.
- c) **Footpaths** – It was noted that young children with bikes had been seen in crop fields away from the paths. They had also taken a spade, probably with the intention of building a bike ramp. It was suggested that the Sundorne Castle Estate Manager, if he wishes, contacts the school. It was further noted that several paths cannot be sprayed out until there is a windless day, and also that one or two paths had been included in recent ploughing, which had made them difficult to use. Mr. Williams agreed to rectify this.
- d) **Village Hall** – Information provided at the Annual Meeting held previously.

26/064 PROGRESS REPORTS:

- a) **Shropshire Council Energy Scheme** – Councillor Carter advised that this is being progressed but hampered by difficulties in obtaining comprehensive information from Shropshire Council. However, a change in SC advisor had indicated that financial savings will be made, if the Parish Council enters the scheme. To achieve this, Councillor Carter needs to obtain technical information about the streetlights. It was proposed (DC), seconded (AP) and resolved that, once he has the information and

it proves that we will pay less for energy under this scheme, he should be allowed to sign up, without further approval at a future meeting. **ACTION:** DC to continue to progress.

- b) **War Memorial and Plaque** – Councillor Carter reported that Shropshire Council’s Planning Register shows that no consultees have raised an objection to the application. Councillors Carter and Fowler had produced an article for the Community News, introducing a competition for parishioners to come up with wording for the memorial plaque. The closing date for entries is the 10th of June, after which the Parish Council will choose the winning entry. Following that, quotations for supply of the plaque will be obtained. It was noted here that the Diocese have acknowledged that the land close to the church lychgate is owned by the Parish Council and Reverend Naylor has offered to bless the War Memorial once it is place.
- c) **Haughmond Hill Parking** – Shropshire Councillor Mallon confirmed that Shropshire Council will introduce double yellow lines on both sides of the road that runs past the Haughmond car park. These will be in place before the end of the financial year. Councillor Mallon was thanked for his work in achieving this for the parish.

26/065 ST. LUCIA’S SCHOOL

- a) **Car park/traffic issues** – This is continuing to be a significant problem, and it was noted that the school traffic is now starting to cause issues on Pelham Road too. The Sundorne Castle Estate Manager was invited to update Councillors on progress with the provision of a new car park. He reported that the school have given their preferred location as opposite the school, on land between the Haughmond and the pumping station. The Estate have agreed to this and Mr. Williams is waiting for specification and funding details from the school. It was also discussed here, the problems that had been caused by the holding of a 10k run from Upton Magna to Shrewsbury Quarry. This was organised by an outside body and it was agreed that a similar future event must be managed more professionally.
- b) **Proposed Nursery** – The provision of this has been agreed and will increase traffic. It was suggested that staggered arrival times for pupils would help.
- c) **Admissions** – It was agreed that Shropshire Council’s reply to the Parish Council’s letter had not addressed the issues raised (e.g., fear of a serious accident involving a child), focussing instead on quoting legislation concerning pupil admissions.

26/066 STRIP OF LAND, PELHAM ROAD – This is the only Shropshire Council owned asset in the Parish. It was agreed the Parish Council has no responsibility for it and that there would be no value in acquiring it.

26/067 FINANCE:

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

AMOUNT	PAYMENT DETAILS
£11.99	Hugofox – website
£319.48	Clerk’s April salary and expenses
£72.02	HMRC – PAYE
£7.00	Unity Bank charges
£49.75	Streetlight electricity
£15.00	Hire of Upton Magna Memorial Hall
£45.00	Hire of memorial hall (Jan, Feb, March)

It was noted here that the 2026/27 precept of £8335.00 had been received.

- b) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (including Declaration of Exemption)** – It was proposed (DC), seconded (AP) and resolved that the Parish Council approves the draft 2025/26 AGAR compiled by the Parish Clerk. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to engage with the internal auditor. It was proposed (JB), seconded (DC) and resolved that the Parish Council declares itself exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit. **ACTION:** Clerk to email the Certificate of Exemption to PKF Littlejohn (external auditors) before the deadline of 30th June.
- c) **Insurance** – The Clerk reported that the renewal quotation had been provided based on the assumption that the Parish Council was still receiving a precept under £7,500 (this had not been the case in 2025/26 too). She had therefore asked for a revised quotation and this had resulted in an increase to £264.00 for this financial year. It was proposed (AF), seconded (JB) and resolved that the revised quotation be accepted. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to liaise with Zurich Insurance and raise the payment.

26/068 PLANNING:

- a) **25/01638/FUL Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** – Councillor Mallon confirmed that no extension had been proposed and the application was still in limbo.
- b) **26/01048/FUL Siting of war memorial in Upton Magna** – Consultee comments had been recorded on Shropshire Council's Planning Register. To date, no objections had been submitted.
- c) **Planning decisions published in advance of this meeting** – none.

26/069 REVIEW OF POLICIES:

- a) **Health and Safety** – It was proposed (AF), seconded (DC) and resolved that the updated policy be adopted. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to upload to the website.

26/070 GENERAL PARISH & HIGHWAY MATTERS:

Please note: Most highway and general repair matters are best reported using [fixmystreet.com](https://www.fixmystreet.com) as this will usually get the quickest results.

- a) The Sundorne Castle Estate Manager gave details of an anticipated application to extend Haughmond Quarry, as the existing site only has 5 to 7 years of production left. Although the plant will remain in its current location, the new quarrying area will be located on the opposite side of the road i.e., the Haughmond Abbey side. This will give a further 20 years of production.
- b) Councillor Bennion reported that the verge and hedge at Haughton Crossroads is very overgrown and restricting motorists' vision. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to report to the Forestry Commission.
- c) It was noted that the hedge belonging to Cruck Cottage requires cutting back, as it is hampering pedestrians. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to write to the owners of Cruck Cottage.

26/071 CORRESPONDENCE - Councillors discussed an email from SALC which gave details of available training in Martyn's Law. It was agreed that, at the present time, the Parish Council is unlikely to organise events that meet the standard tier of 200+ people. However, it will continue to monitor the legislation and take action if and when it becomes necessary.

26/072 MEETING DATES AND FREQUENCY 2026/27

- a) **Meeting frequency** – Councillors discussed reducing the number of meetings to 6 per year, i.e., bi-monthly. However, it was agreed to keep to monthly meetings but not hold one in January when the weather is poor. Therefore, as there is already no meetings held in August, there will be 10 monthly meetings in 2026/27.
- b) **Meeting dates** – It was agreed that the 2026/27 meeting dates should be: 11th June, 9th July, 10th September, 8th October, 12th November, 10th December, 11th February, 11th March, 8th April, 13th May. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to book the Memorial Hall for these dates and put the information on the website.

26/073 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – Land values.

The meeting closed at 20.59.

Date of next meeting: 11th June, 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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