

Upton Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 23rd January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

24/81 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Phil Roberts (Chair), Jeana Bennion, Bob Newton

Apologies: JulieAnne Lloyd, Dan Simms, Andy Pillow, Lezley Picton, Adam Kelly

Clerk: Jennifer Turner.

Attending : None

Prior to the start of the meeting, Councillors shared a moment of reflection in memory of the late Sue Woods

24/82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

24/83 PUBLIC SESSION - None

24/83 MINUTES – It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2024 as a true and correct record of that meeting. (Proposed JB, seconded RN)

24/84 REPORT FROM CLLR. LEZLEY PICTON (SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL) –

Attached

24/85 REPORTS

- a) **West Mercia Police** – No update
- b) **SALC** – No update
- c) **Footpaths** – Awaiting update from Sundorne Estates
- d) **Village hall** – Wi-Fi has been installed

24/86 PROGRESS REPORTS

- a) **Street Lights** – Both street lights have now been repaired and are fully working on timers. Awaiting fitting of deflector on one near to telephone exchange
- b) **Fibre Project** – No update other than email received to be forwarded by PR

24/87 GENERAL PARISH & HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

- a) Major breakdown of road surface by The Hollows, reported several times. General drainage issues noted.
- b) Closed culvert on Pelham Road, causing excessive flooding and ice patches. To be reported on Fix my street

24/88 PLANNING

24/04767/FUL Creation of single storey, rear and side extension to form additional living space
 LOCATION: 1 De Quincey Fields, Upton Magna, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 4US. - Approved

24/89 FINANCE

a) **Payments and receipts**

It was proposed (PR), seconded (BN) and resolved that the following payments be approved:
 Bank Balance £7,998.79

Amount	Payment Details
300.00	Clerk's salary and expenses
26.00	
300.00	Dec and Jan
26.00	
75.00	HMRC
75.00	Dec and Jan
11.99	Hugo Fox
11.99	Dec and Jan
12.00	Unity Charges
44.85	Electricity
43.27	Dec and Jan
350.00	RBL figures
1692.00	Potters
Amount	Income Details
	None

Councillors reviewed budgets for 2024-25 and discussed possible precept for 2025-26. Agreed to increase precept to £7600 (proposed PR seconded JB)

24/90 Any Other Business/Correspondence

- a) PR – Severn Trent have notified closure of Pelham Road on 9th March, this is a possible abuse of emergency powers and has been reported
- b) Email received from BT – PR to forward to Councillors
- c) PR – issue reported on Fix my Street was closed down, PR reported to LP. PR to share response

d) PR – Residents had notice and a meeting regarding the possible siting of a battery storage unit at Forge Farm. No planning received as yet.

24/91 – Items for next agenda

The meeting closed at 20.15

Date of the next meeting: 13th February 2025 at 7.30pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Jennifer Turner – Upton Magna Parish Council
The Old Malthouse, Llandinam, Powys, SY17 5BY
uptonmagnaparishcouncil@gmail.com 07534 990237

Shropshire Councillor Report – Upton Magna Parish Council – November 2024

Finance

The Council's financial position at the end of Quarter 2 has seen a marginal improvement on Q1. Finance is still very tight, and all efforts are being made to bring down the current overspend by the end of the 24/25 financial year. However, as you have heard me say many times, we have a plan, we are sticking to this plan, and it is this plan that will see us become a sustainable council.

Following the Government's Autumn Statement on 30th October we are not expecting an uplift in the funding settlement. You may hear of an extra £600m for Social Care but these funds (Burdens Funding) are to cover NHS / Local Government increased National Insurance costs. Sadly, there is no burdens funding for all our third-party providers, such as providers of domiciliary care, nursing homes staff, waste etc. The companies will have to find the additional costs themselves, they will then, in turn, approach the Council – it's a very vicious circle.

Devolution

The Government will be publishing a white paper at the end of this month which will pave the way for the fundamental changes they will be making to Local Government. Whilst various snippets have been released the County Council Network understands that these changes will/could include the creation of new Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and new Unitary authorities signalling the demise of District Councils. It has been mooted that the role of Police and Crime Commissioners will be abolished with this role being undertaken by the Mayor of the MCA. Similarly, the Mayor would become the Chair of the Integrated Health System, paving the way for Social Care (not sure if this includes Children's Social Care as it hasn't been mentioned) to also be subsumed into either the NHS or controlled by the MCA. MCA's already control transport, economic growth etc and it is being suggested that housing and strategic planning will also be part of the MCA role. The Strategic Planning function would include spacial planning i.e. the development of a regional growth plan to replace the current Local Plan that is drawn up by top tier authorities. (NB See Local Plan Information). The planning function would also determine significant applications such as wind, solar, roads and large developments.

By the December meeting will know more, we may even know which other authority(s) the Government will place Shropshire with. It isn't an opt in, it will be mandatory.

Shropshire's Local Plan

We were extremely surprised and disappointed when we received the letter from the Planning Inspectorate telling us that they were halting current proceedings. They have said they will outline their reasons why in a follow up letter. It is felt that the doubling of our housing target could well have something to do with this as it has happened in two other authorities whose numbers have doubled and who were at a similar stage.

Government Consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Meetings

I sent out an email to all Parish Council Clerks on 25th October regarding details of a consultation on possible changes to the rules regarding attendance at Parish Council meetings. The link is below.

Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK

My own personal view is that no one size fits all. For upper tier authorities I believe that voting members should be in the room, but that special dispensations could be made for specific circumstances, the same would apply to proxy voting.

With regards to Town and Parish Councils some councils currently operate a hybrid system where members of the public can join remotely and ask questions if they so wish. Other councils do not or cannot. Of course, it relies on access to the internet being available and having the equipment to be able to offer a hybrid solution.

However, whatever your thoughts are, I thought you might wish to take part in the consultation.

Lezley