

# Upton Magna Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

### 24/81 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**Present:** Cllrs Phil Roberts (Chair), Dan Sims, Jeana Bennion, Lezley Picton, Andy Pillow, Bob Newton, Adam Kelly

**Apologies:** JulieAnne Lloyd

**Clerk:** Jennifer Turner.

**Attending :** None

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

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

Attached

### 24/85 REPORTS

- a) **West Mercia Police** – No update
- b) **SALC** – Chris Mellings has recently taken up the post of secretary to SLCC. A meeting was recently held where the following was discussed :  
The benefits of gov.uk email addresses – these are no more secure than other email addresses  
Street Lights, it is more expensive to disconnect street lights than repair and keep running.  
LED lamps are more climate friendly.
- c) **Footpaths** – Footpaths are unpassable, clerk to request update from Sundorne Estates regarding the issues reported. Clerk to ask Sundorne Estates if it would be possible to add a mesh between bollards on footpath to Quincy Fields to prevent children from riding out into the road without looking. It is noted that most children are not wearing helmets and do not have lights on their bikes.
- d) **Village hall** – Wi-Fi has not been installed as yet as BT cancelled the appointment

### 24/86 PROGRESS REPORTS

- a) **Street Lights** – Urgent repairs are needed in light of the children’s clubs running to 6pm. Parts have been ordered for one light, the repair should be completed very soon and we are awaiting prices from Scottish Power as part of the repair of the second light.

- b) **Fibre Project** – Contrary to previous information received Openreach are also offering fibre to residents in Upton Magna and need to gain further pledges. It was suggested they advertise this in the local magazine. PR to contact. Not all residents have received information by flyer.

**24/87 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) Some potholes have been filled, but these were only temporary repairs and have already deteriorated. JB to add information on road surfaces that are particularly poor to Fix My Street

**24/88 PLANNING**

- a) 24/04039/FUL Erection of two storey extension and single storey side extension with garden link to garage - approved

**24/89 FINANCE**

a) **Payments and receipts**

It was proposed PR), seconded (AP) and resolved that the following payments be approved:  
Bank Balance £8,959.89

Amount	Payment Details
300.00	Clerk’s salary and expenses
26.00	
75.00	HMRC
11.99	Hugo Fox
5.40	Unity Charges
41.21	Electricity
35.00	ICO
Amount	Income Details
	None

Councillors reviewed budgets for 2024-25 and discussed possible precept for 2025-26. Decision will be reviewed once information has been received from Shropshire County Council

**24/90 Any Other Business/Correspondence**

- a) Clerk order Male and Female silhouette (Tommy) £345

- b) Email received from MOP regarding notice for planned pole for Freedom Fibre. Clerk to advise MOP to contact supplier for further information as the Parish Council do not hold any information for this

**24/91 – Items for next agenda**

Precept confirmation

The meeting closed at 21.36

Date of the next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Jennifer Turner – Upton Magna Parish Council  
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## **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