



## Upavon Parish Council Meeting On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7pm

Village Hall, Andover Road, Upavon

### MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

25/56	<b>Absence apologies and Declaration of Interests</b> Present: Chairman Anthony Gallagher (AG), Vice-Chairman Andrew Flack (AF), Cllr Elaine Pepper (EP), Cllr Phil Garside (PG), Cllr Tom Bradshaw (TB), Cllr Rosalind Ayling (RA), Bee Barff Clerk (BB), Paul Oatway WCC (PO), Lt Col Jeffrey Williams (JW) and 10 members of the public. Apologies: apologies were received from Cllr Rebecca Lamb (RL), Village Hall Chair Lesley Dolan, several residents of Farriers Field.	
25/57	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 were approved and signed as a true copy by the Chairman (AG).	
25/58	<b>Updates, questions and queries from the public</b> <b>I. Updates from PO</b> – PO reported that the new administration is considering the introduction of wind turbines across the county. He advised that this is likely to have less impact on the Pewsey area and more impact on the western part of Wiltshire. PO confirmed that he does not support this proposal. PO also advised that Wiltshire Council has been allocated £6.9 million in government grant funding between 2026 and 2031 for bus stop upgrades. The Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Plan has now been signed off by the new administration. The plan sets out 26 priorities and 301 actions to be delivered over the next 10 years, including wildflower initiatives, reinstatement of hedgerows across the county, working with local farmers, and a sustained tree-planting programme. PO confirmed that the new administration intends to bring forward an agenda item to increase council tax on second homes, which he supports. PO highlighted that the Council's new waste strategy will have a significant impact on residents. A public consultation is planned for June 2025, with implementation proposed for 2027. The proposals include moving from fortnightly to three-weekly household waste collections, introducing a booking system for visits to recycling centres, and issuing each household with two food waste bins (one indoor and one outdoor). Food waste would be required to be disposed of in these bins, with inspections proposed to ensure compliance. Finally, PO reported that Wiltshire Council continues to invest significantly in road maintenance. Planned resurfacing works include the route from the Woodbridge Inn to Alton Barnes, and from Alton Barnes to Wilcot.	

	<p><b>II. Trenchard Lines</b> – Lt Col Jeffery Williams (JW), the newly appointed successor, attended the meeting. He reported that the Army across the wider area is currently undergoing restructuring, with Upavon and Netheravon now forming a single garrison. JW advised that Chatterbox, the pre-school learning facility and activities for local children, is in need of additional support. AG and PO suggested applying for an Area Board grant, and PO confirmed he would provide further information to assist with this. JW thanked the Parish Council for the invitation to the Remembrance Service. AG expressed appreciation for the attendance of service personnel and noted that improved liaison opportunities would be explored following future ceremonies. JW reported that there have been a small number of minor thefts and break-ins at MOD sites in the area, resulting in increased vigilance. He advised residents to remain alert and avoid placing themselves at risk. Traffic congestion at the camp entrance during morning and evening peak times was also highlighted. JW confirmed that potential solutions are currently under review, including possible redesign of fencing and the junction layout. JW further noted that defence activities are continuing to modernise. The two airfields at Upavon and Netheravon are being used for a range of experimental activities, including drone operations, while gliding and parachuting activities will continue. He added that there may be changes to the number of assets stored on site, although nothing has yet been confirmed.</p> <p><b>III. Village Hall Updates</b> – Lesley was unable to attend the meeting, Amanda, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, provided the following update. Following four months of advertising and discussions with villagers, limited progress has been made in forming a new committee. One individual has expressed interest in taking on the role of Secretary; however, aside from this, no further volunteers have come forward or responded positively to requests. Amanda reported that a small number of regular hall users have indicated that, if no one else comes forward, they would be willing to assist as a last resort to prevent the hall from closing. While the committee is grateful for this support, it was noted that a handover to a willing and committed team would be preferable. Lesley plans to meet individually with these individuals before Christmas to explain the responsibilities involved. A further meeting will then be arranged with all parties to address any questions and to plan for a potential changeover in mid-February 2026.</p> <p><b>IV. Members of the Public</b> – None.</p>	
25/59	<p><b>Recruitment of Councillors</b> – AG advised that UPC currently has two vacancies and encouraged anyone interested in joining the Council to contact the Clerk.</p>	
25/60	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>I. <b>Bank reconciliation 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025</b> was shared and approved. BB reported balances as follows: Treasurer's Account: £41,807.92, Savings Account (CIL &amp; S106): £50,696.17 (including £20,000 Farrier's Field playground refurbishment fund), Charities Account: £2,768.25. BB also confirmed that £1,232.00</p>	

	<p>from the Curry Lunch income was held as petty cash at the time the bank reconciliation was circulated on 3rd December and has since been deposited into the Council's bank account.</p> <p><b>II. Cheques to sign</b> – A cheque for £601.56 was signed and issued to SSAFA as a donation following the Curry Lunch. AG expressed thanks to everyone who made the effort to attend and support the Curry Lunch event.</p>	
25/61	<p><b>Councillor updates of work undertaken since last meeting:</b></p> <p><b>I. A345 Riverside Park pavement update</b> – AF reported that the estimated costs for all elements of the Riverside Park footpath project have now been finalised. The total project cost is £45,041.44, which includes legal fees for the road closure, relocation of poles and the SID post, and required safety audits. UPC has indicated its intention to proceed with a substantive funding. AF proposed that UPC contribute £10,000 towards the project, alongside proposed contributions of £5,000 each from the Area Board and LHFIG, and that a funding bid be submitted to Wiltshire Council. PO confirmed his strong support for the project and stated that, should the funding bid not be successful this year, he would continue to support the project until it is delivered. He also advised that a £10,000 parish contribution would significantly strengthen the application compared to others, based on contribution ratios. A member of the public asked whether road crossing had been considered, as the path will be located on the west side of the road. Another member of the public commented that visibility for crossing at this location is good. A vote was held: five councillors voted in favour and one against. The proposal was therefore agreed. AF confirmed that he will submit the funding application with PO's support.</p> <p><b>II. SIDs police reporting</b> – AF reported that the police have now acknowledged the SID reports and are aware of speeding in the area. Reviews are being undertaken, and enforcement officers will be attending to monitor and address the issue.</p> <p><b>III. Rights of Way &amp; Landmark update</b> – AG confirmed that all footpaths are currently clear. Any concerns regarding the condition of the footpaths should be reported to the clerk.</p> <p><b>IV. A342 Road condition and safety concerns</b> – AF and PO reported that this will be reviewed following a meeting with the Highways engineers.</p> <p><b>V. Fairfield Parking issues</b> – RA reported that there has been no improvement regarding parking issues, nor has the hedge, which was due to be addressed by September, been resolved. It was agreed that the surgery will need to be approached again. AG will contact Anna Morton to seek her cooperation.</p> <p><b>VI. Smoke Nuisance</b> – AG reported that since the Environment Agency contacted the owner to advise on their responsibilities, no further complaints have been received. Residents were reminded to use the MyWilts app to report any future issues.</p>	
25/62	<b>Issues for discussion</b>	

	<p>I. <b>Farrier's field refurbishment</b> – AG reported that the survey has been completed and that UPC has considered all comments received. UPC has not yet made a decision on the next steps. AG assured residents that any future plans will be communicated to them prior to implementation.</p> <p>II. <b>Village Coffee morning</b> – remains on hold and will be carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>III. <b>SWAST appeal – donation of £300</b> – AG reported that he will contact the local SWAST volunteer team to give a presentation at the next meeting, so the UPC can consider the request.</p>	SWAST letter
25/63	<p><b>Clerk's Report &amp; Correspondence</b></p> <p>BB reported that she was unfortunately unavailable for just over two weeks due to a family medical emergency but is now fully up to date with all outstanding matters. The Curry Lunch 2025 event was held successfully in November. The final report and bank reconciliation have been circulated to councillors. A cheque for £601.56, representing a donation to SSAFA, was presented at this meeting for signature. Net proceeds of £1,232.00 have been deposited into the Council's bank account.</p>	
25/64	<p><b>Reports from other bodies</b></p> <p>I. <b>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</b> – AF reported that Rushall is submitting an application for the third phase of the Elm Road footpath, the final section of the work.</p> <p>II. <b>Pewsey Area Board</b> – AF reported that the last meeting was held in September. He confirmed that UPC intends to apply for Blue Bus funding again in the coming year.</p>	
25/65	<p><b>Future agenda items</b></p> <p>PO provided an update on devolution. The Heart of Wessex proposal is being reconsidered by the Government. Wiltshire Council will remain as Wiltshire Council, but there may be a mayoral role overseeing the local authorities within the area. Nothing has yet been confirmed, and PO will keep UPC informed as the process progresses. JW added that Upavon Camp has extensive facilities which are currently underutilised. He expressed his willingness to make these facilities accessible to local residents and to support youth activities. A member of the public commented that the Farrier's Field survey lacked sufficient content and expressed disappointment. AG apologised for the delay in this process and assured that updates would be provided soon. Another member of the public enquired about responsibility for the wall running from Whistledown to near the surgery. AG confirmed that he would contact the Church Warden to clarify this.</p>	
25/66	<p><b>Close</b> – The meeting closed at 8.02pm.</p>	

Bee Barff  
Clerk to Upavon Parish Council

**Dates of future meetings all at 7pm**

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday, 13th May (including the Annual Meeting)

Wednesday, 15th July

Wednesday, 16th September

Wednesday, 18th November