



Upavon Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 20th November 2024 7pm

Village Hall, Andover Road, Upavon

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

24/062	Absence apologies and Declaration of Interests (CLB) Present: Chairman Charles Leigh-Bennett (CLB), Vice-Chairman Andrew Flack (AF), Anthony Gallagher (AG), Rebecca Lamb (RL), Phil Garside (PG), Bee Barff Clerk (BB), Grant Ingleton Lt Col (GI), Paul Oatway WCC (PO), Lesley Dolan Village Hall Committee, PCSO Jonathan Mills, John Cabra and 19 members of the public. Apologies: Apologies were received from Tom Bradshaw (TB), Rosalind Ayling (RA).	
24/063	Minutes of previous meeting (CLB) The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 18 th September 2024 were approved and signed as a true copy by the Chairman. (CLB).	
24/064	General Updates I. Updates from PO PO provided an update on secured funding of just under £3 million for the Household Support Scheme, which assists individuals on benefits or those over 66. PO encouraged anyone aware of someone who might benefit from this support to contact him directly. £21 million has been allocated for highway improvements in 2024–2025, and a further £7 million has been invested in bus services to increase routes, operating hours, and frequency. However, there will be a £3 fare increase. PO highlighted the "Wiltshire Connect" service, designed to meet rural transport needs. Residents can use the app to arrange bus transport directly from their front door. AG raised concerns about the condition of the bridge supports. PO reported that highway engineers had inspected the area but were unable to identify the issue and will revisit it. II. Trenchard Lines GI highlighted that the Wiltshire Connect Bus service reaches the camp, making it an ideal option for residents. The water issue at the camp remains a work in progress. The construction of 202 bed spaces is expected to be completed and occupied by the end of 2025, with no additional planning projects anticipated afterward. Improvement of internet speeds and phone coverage continues to be problematic, but efforts are ongoing to find a solution. New smart bulbs have been planted along the roadside for spring, as requested by the Chairman. The Army Gliding Club welcomes anyone interested in a tester flight. The Army will ease into the	

	<p>Christmas period, with activities winding down from 13th December and resuming on 6th January.</p> <p>III. Village Hall</p> <p>LD reported that three new members have joined the Village Hall Committee. Two recent fundraising events were successful: Bingo Night raised £795 for the Wiltshire Ambulance. The Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £275. LD emphasised that all profits from Village Hall events are donated to charities. A 90-minute defibrillator training course had to be cancelled due to low attendance. The Games Night was also cancelled because of insufficient ticket sales. An Open Evening will be held on 13th December, with complimentary drinks and nibbles. Attendees are encouraged to bring ideas for events they would like to see at the hall. A flat roof repair is required, with an estimated cost of £7,000–£8,000. Funding applications are currently being pursued to cover this expense.</p>	
<p>24/065</p>	<p>Recruitment of Councillors</p> <p>The Council is seeking new councillors, especially in light of the upcoming retirement of the Chair in May. A member of the public offered her services, and BB encouraged her to submit an application via email.</p>	
<p>24/066</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>The bank reconciliation for 13th November 2024 has been shared and approved. A cheque for £720.00 for Curry Lunch food has been signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chair. Additionally, a cheque for £604.62, representing the profit from the Curry Lunch event, has been signed for donation to SSAFA.</p>	
<p>24/067</p>	<p>Councillor updates of work undertaken since last meeting:</p> <p>I. SIDs police reporting (AF)</p> <p>AF was unable to report as he has been absent for a while. He will get in touch with John Cabra for updates.</p> <p>II. Potential raised pavement (current white line only) corner of Jarvis Street (AF)</p> <p>AF mentioned that this issue was raised at the recent LHFIG meeting. The original planning application for the Little Thatch did not include the raised pavement. The estimated cost of the raised pavement is £11,000, which UPC could not agree to proceed with.</p> <p>III. Rights of Way & Landmarc update (TG/CLB)</p> <p>AG reported that Wiltshire Council has removed the large fly-tipped rubbish, although some debris remains. UPC has received a quote from Hurdcott Landscapes Ltd to clear the remaining debris behind Watson Close, at a cost of £250 + VAT. All councillors agreed to proceed with this. BB will inform Hurdcott and proceed with the work. Although this path is a public right of way, it is owned by the MOD, and maintenance is managed by Landmarc. Following the recent fly-tipping clearance, Landmarc will be able to carry out clearances twice yearly.</p> <p>CLB also mentioned receiving a complaint from the public regarding the bench halfway up Andover Road, which previously offered a great view but is now blocked by hedges.</p>	

	<p>CLB has not yet spoken to the farmer, but once permission is granted, Last Landscaping, our maintenance company, could reduce the height of the hedges by cutting them back.</p> <p>IV. CIL money UPC has completed the updates to the upper and lower playground areas, including the outdoor gym, table tennis, picnic benches, and the construction of the boules court.</p> <p>V. Community Centre / Blue bus With £20,000 remaining of CIL money, UPC is seeking match funding for a football pitch changing room and storage, as the Old School site is planned for future development into affordable housing, though the timeline is currently unknown. CLB emphasised that these remaining funds should be used to provide amusement for the children, as Blue Bus is a temporary solution. If the match funding is not successful, the funds will be considered for other possible projects. AG suggested exploring other ideas and AF proposed discussing further options at the next meeting.</p> <p>VI. Remembrance Sunday UPC held a Curry Lunch at the Village Hall, and CLB reported that it was a successful event, raising funds to support SSAFA. BB read the details of the Curry Lunch report for 2024, which outlined how the funds were used and raised. The report is available online on the UPC website. BB also informed that the profit of £604.62 has been issued by cheque, signed at the meeting earlier, and will be sent to SSAFA.</p>	<p>Appx.1 Curry Lunch report 2024</p>
<p>24/068</p>	<p>Issues for discussion</p> <p>I. WC Rural Play area and land transfers Continuing from the last meeting report, BB informed that UPC has been offered the opportunity to take over Farrier's Field playground, the allotment, and Alexander Fields. This transfer originally included a play area contribution of £12,907.52 and S106 revenue funds of £6,636.40. UPC held a meeting with the WC Streetscene area manager and Mr. Andrews to clarify the land boundaries and ownership details. Following further discussions with WC about the playground development, it was confirmed that the contribution will be raised to £20,000. However, the S106 revenue funds have been reduced to £4,382.56, as some of the funds have now been allocated for this year's maintenance. All councillors agreed to formally accept this project, and BB will inform WC of this decision. BB also mentioned that UPC has received several drawings of playground development ideas from the young residents of the area. Along with these suggestions, UPC has received plans from development companies and will discuss further once the project proceeds.</p> <p>II. Village Hall donation BB informed that UPC held a meeting with the Village Hall Committee last month regarding the council's annual donation to the Village Hall. At this meeting, the council agreed to increase the annual donation from £250, subject to budget confirmation and UPC's free usage of the hall for a</p>	<p>Appx.2 Farrier's field playground developme nts ideas</p>

	<p>set period of time. This will be discussed further at the Councillors' budget meeting, and the details will be shared at the next meeting to confirm the donation amount.</p> <p>III. Whistledown pathway (Yellow brick road) RL reported that she had reached out to Redcliff to follow up on the current situation regarding the maintenance of the pathway, along with BB's previous letter to them. It was revealed that the pathway had been constructed in the wrong location, not where the farmers had originally agreed. Additionally, the Whistledown service provider was unaware that maintaining the pathway was their responsibility. RL reviewed the property deeds and confirmed that the responsibility for maintaining the path lies with the Whistledown View management company. However, the land itself is owned by Wiltshire Council (WC). RL emphasised that it is unfair to impose this responsibility solely on the 45 houses in the estate. A lengthy discussion followed, with debate around the path's placement, maintenance responsibilities, and legal implications. Several actions were identified, including: seeking input and potential funding from Wiltshire Council, forming a Whistledown community group to assist with grant applications, reviewing the history of the path's construction and placement, and examining the original planning documents. RL suggested that UPC consider taking over the path. PO also mentioned that he had requested WC planning officer Jonathan James to revisit the site and reconsider WC assuming responsibility for the path. PO also requested the Rights of Way officer to visit the site to explore the adoption of the footpath. UPC agreed to defer a decision until further information is received from Wiltshire Council's planning officer.</p> <p>IV. Grey flags pavement As the original plan was no longer feasible, PO requested plans and costings for creating a pathway on the opposite side of the road from Wiltshire Council's (WC) planning department. AF received the initial plans and costings, and the officers are now awaiting UPC's response. PO stated that if UPC is willing to proceed with constructing the path on the other side of the road, he could support the project with a grant from the 2025/2026 budget, which would include £5,000 funding from UPC and £44,000 from WC. All councillors agreed to proceed with this plan, and PO confirmed he would take the necessary actions immediately. A member of the public expressed appreciation for PO's efforts in addressing this matter.</p> <p>V. Watson Close Waste Clearance Covered above, 24/067, III. A member of public reported that the Watson close grit bin need to be filled.</p>	
24/069	<p>Clerk's Report & Correspondence BB reported that UPC had recently been contacted by the Area Board regarding the Blue Bus funding, which was awarded to UPC last year but had not been claimed. BB confirmed that all necessary paperwork has now been completed, and the £1,500.00 funding will be credited to the bank account shortly. BB also provided an update on winter preparations,</p>	

	noting that requests for salt bags and gel packs have been submitted to WC. These will be distributed to grit bins around the village upon receipt. Additionally, BB has been working on the CIL report, which had not been completed for several years. A budget meeting is scheduled for early December to prepare the Precept, which will be confirmed at the next meeting in January.	
24/070	Reports from other bodies – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) – no updates, next meeting will be held in February. II. Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) – N/A III. Pewsey Area Board – the next meeting will be held on Monday 25th November, AF will be attending. 	
24/071	Questions and queries from the public PCSO Jonathan Mills, who covers the entire Pewsey Vale area, provided a brief update on local incidents. A member of the public raised concerns about parking issues around the surgery, and UPC confirmed they would look into the matter. John Cabra noted that information about the Army Gliding Club is also available on the UPC website under the 'Amenities' section. Another member of the public highlighted parking issues at Watson Close. AF encouraged her to email the clerk with details of the enquiry. There were also several questions about the Boules court, which AG addressed.	
24/072	Close The meeting closed at 8.39pm.	

Bee Barff
Clerk to Upavon Parish Council

28/11/2024

Dates of future meetings on 2025 all at 7pm

- Wednesday, 15th January
- Wednesday, 12th March
- Wednesday, 14th May (including the Annual Meeting)
- Wednesday, 16th July
- Wednesday, 17th September
- Wednesday, 19th November