



Upavon Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

On Wednesday 14th May 2025 Followed by AGM

Village Hall, Andover Road, Upavon

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.12pm.

1	Absence apologies and Declaration of Interests Present: Chairman Anthony Gallagher (AG), Vice Chairman Andrew Flack (AF), Phil Garside (PG), Rosalind Ayling (RA), Rebecca Lamb (RL), Tom Bradshaw (TB), Bee Barff Clerk (BB), Grant Ingleton Lt Col (GI), PCSO Jonathan Mills, John Cabra and 12 members of the public. Apologies: Apologies were received from Paul Oatway WCC (PO).	
2	Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday 15 th May 2024 were approved and signed as a true copy by the Chairman. (AG).	
3	External Reports I. Churchwarden's report – Linda Ward Linda Ward thanked the Chair and the Council for their continued generous support of the church, noting contributions of £750 towards the maintenance of the cemetery and £250 to assist with the delivery of the Together magazine. She reported that plans to install running water and toilet facilities in the church have been postponed. A recent inspection in 2024 highlighted the need for approximately £70,000 in repairs and maintenance over the next ten years, which must take priority before any new facilities can be introduced. Linda added that any future donations towards this essential work would be gratefully received. II. Village Hall Committee – Lesley Lesley reported that the Village Hall continues to be well used by regular groups. While usage tends to quieten during the summer months due to outdoor activities, the hall remains open and available for new bookings. She noted that ongoing running costs, particularly for Wi-Fi and electricity, amount to over £150 per month. Therefore, the committee greatly appreciates the continued support from Upavon Parish Council. Lesley extended thanks to County Councillor Paul Oatway for his support and encouragement in securing Area Board funding, which enabled the repair of the rear section of the hall roof. She also reported that long-serving Treasurer Polly has stepped down. Following a challenging search, during which the possibility of closure was even considered, a new Treasurer	

	<p>has now been appointed. Lesley was pleased to confirm that the committee is continuing to run the hall.</p> <p>BB apologised that, although the annual donation cheques for the Church and the Village Hall have been issued, she was unable to bring it to the meeting. It will be delivered later this week to the Church Treasurer / Lesley.</p> <p>III. Trenchard Lines – Grant Ingleton Lt Col</p> <p>Grant informed that he has three months remaining in his current role before retirement. A successor has not yet been appointed, but he will share this information as soon as it becomes available. He reported that progress is still being made on the new housing within the camp. Two sites are expected to be completed by September, with the entire project scheduled for completion by the end of 2026. Speeding within the area remains an ongoing issue. Grant also mentioned that the Army Gliding Club is open to villagers at the weekend. Upavon Camp continues to be very active, currently accommodating around 1,500 military personnel and 168 family quarters. Troop movements in and out of the camp are ongoing.</p> <p>AG stated that Upavon Parish Council is keen to maintain a cooperative relationship with Trenchard Lines.</p>	
4	<p>Chairman's Report 2024/25 – CLB</p> <p>Charles Leigh-Bennett summarised his report in three words: Privileged, Pleasure, Pain. He expressed that it had been a privilege to work with such a committed group of people. However, he acknowledged that with a small number of Parish Councillors, it had not always been easy to manage the full range of responsibilities. He took a moment to thank each member individually for their contribution and dedication.</p> <p>CLB was pleased that Upavon Parish Council had been able to secure a reliable and dedicated Clerk, as well as benefit from the ongoing support of County Councillor Paul Oatway. He reflected on how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds had been used to deliver a number of community projects, including the installation of the outdoor gym, table tennis table, boules court, playground upgrades, and picnic benches—initiatives guided by feedback from the village questionnaire. He shared his regret that the large project to provide changing facilities at the Upper Playing Field had to be postponed. He stressed the importance of this project, particularly in supporting the village's young people, and expressed his hope that it would be resumed and successfully completed in the future. CLB also noted that the remaining CIL funds are earmarked to support the creation of a pathway from Riverside Park.</p> <p>He thanked all villagers who attended the meeting and encouraged their continued support going forward. To conclude, RA presented Charles with a thank-you card and a gift, collected personally from the councillors, in recognition of his service.</p>	
5	<p>Questions and closure</p> <p>AG invited PCSO Jonathan Mills to speak. JM acknowledged that speeding remains the main issue affecting Upavon. However, he noted that aside from this, there have been no major incidents of concern, and the village remains a very safe place. AF added that he will remain in contact with JM regarding information on the SID.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7:52pm.</p>	

Bee Barff
Clerk to Upavon Parish Council

23/05/2025

Dates of future meetings all at 7pm
Wednesday 16th July 2025
Wednesday 17th September 2025
Wednesday 19th November 2025