



Upavon Parish Council Meeting

On Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7pm

Village Hall, Andover Road, Upavon

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

26/34	Absence apologies and Declaration of Interests Present: Chairman Anthony Gallagher (AG), Vice Chairman Andrew Flack (AF), Cllr Elaine Pepper (EP), Cllr Phil Garside (PG), Cllr Rebecca Lamb (RL), Bee Barff Clerk (BB), Paul Oatway WCC (PO), John Cabra and 11 members of the public. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Rosalind Ayling (RA).	
26/35	Minutes of previous meeting The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th May 2026 were approved and signed as a true copy by the Chairman (AG).	
26/36	Updates, questions and queries from the public I. Updates from PO – PO reported that following a recent review, proposed budget cuts introduced by the previous administration were rejected, resulting in the full reinstatement of funding. PO advised that the Local plan had been rejected by inspectors and that work is now underway to produce a new plan under the updated 2026 national planning system. Additionally, while national devolution plans are moving forward, PO indicated that Wiltshire's structural arrangements will remain unchanged. PO strongly emphasised the importance of the riverside park path to the community, affirming every resident's right to safe pedestrian access into the village. PO confirmed that with the £10,000 allocated by the Parish Council alongside £35,000 in funding secured from Wiltshire Council, the scheme is fully committed and will proceed. II. Avon Valley Surgery – In the absence of the representatives, this item was deferred to the next meeting. III. Trenchard Lines – Due to the absence of Lt Col JW, no report was received. IV. Village Hall – Due to the absence of the representatives, no report was received. V. Members of the Public – A member of the public raised a concern regarding planning application PL/2026/00474 (College Farm House), stating that while there was no major objection to the installation of solar panels provided, they were installed appropriately, he strongly objected to the proposed change of land use from agricultural to residential. Following discussion among Members, the Council noted one councillor's objection while the majority agreed to submit a representation. UPC resolved to submit a comment offering general	

	agreement in principle, but highlighting specific concerns regarding the proposed change of land use from agricultural to residential, requesting that this aspect be carefully reviewed by the planning authority. BB confirmed that the formal comment would be submitted and clarified to the public that the Parish Council's response is a statutory consultation submission rather than a final determination or full refusal, and that the ultimate decision rests with the Wiltshire Council case officer.	
26/37	Recruitment of Councillors AG explained two current Council vacancies and confirmed that applications for new members are actively welcomed.	
26/38	Finance I. Bank reconciliation 8th July 2026 had been circulated to the councillors along with a detailed form and bank statements. Account balances were recorded as £41,971.11 (Treasurer's Account), £57,390.60 (IA Savings Account), and £2,886.13 (Charities Account). Members noted that all accounts are fully reconciled with no petty cash or outstanding uncleared items to report.	
26/39	Councillor updates of work undertaken since last meeting: I. A345 Riverside Park pavement update – AF advised that Highways officers are actively liaising with BT and SSE regarding scheduling for the A345 Riverside Park pavement scheme. It is expected that construction will begin in September or October. AF highlighted again, given the current shifts in local council administration, the UPC was very fortunate to have gained timely approval for the project. II. SIDs police reporting – AF confirmed that the latest SID figures were forwarded to the police, and advised that the area has recently transitioned to a new Police Inspector. Latest statistics for the parish indicate eight crimes and five reported incidents. The Speed Enforcement Team's recent activities resulted in forty drivers directed to speed awareness courses, five fines issued, and five individuals referred to court. AF proposed again forming the local Community Speed watch team, highlighting that three volunteers are needed to make the initiative viable. Councillor EP volunteered to join the group. III. A342 Road condition and safety concerns – AG reported while some remedial patch repairs have been completed on the roads, significant concerns remain regarding their overall condition, which continues to be poor and unfit for purpose. PO supported this assessment, confirming that a meeting has been arranged to address the issue, with feedback to be provided at the next meeting. Following a request from RL regarding the potential to alter the local speed limit, including the 50mph on A345, PO explained that while the matter had been raised with relevant authorities, the feedback was unsupportive. AG expressed disappointment that a speed limit change was unlikely to progress. PO advised the Council to issue a formal representation on behalf of UPC to push the speed limit query further, offering to challenge the current stance with the relevant authorities. BB agreed to prepare the correspondence and send it to PO accordingly. IV. WVMC – Application to discharge Condition 5 (PL/2026/03322) – Representatives from the Whistledown View Management Company	

	(WVMC) and several local residents attended the meeting to speak on planning application PL/2026/03322. Sean, representing the residents, explained that the application had been submitted to seek the discharge of Condition 5, arguing that placing ongoing maintenance responsibilities for the hoggin path onto residents was unfair. It was noted that while Condition 5 originally specified that the developer construct an adoptable, tarmac shared footway and cycleway to Rushall, the condition was subsequently amended—without full consultation with the Parish Council—resulting in the construction of a hoggin path instead. Through a subsequent Deed of Variation to the Section 106 agreement, responsibility for maintaining this path was passed to WVMC and its members. Residents highlighted that the hoggin path represents an inferior substitute for the originally planned adoptable footway and asserted that Wiltshire Council should replace it. A resident further suggested that if Wiltshire Council does not assume responsibility for the path, Upavon Parish Council should consider doing so. The Council expressed agreement with the concerns raised by the residents. Following discussion, UPC voted unanimously in favour of submitting a formal response to the planning officer in support of the application. V. Fairfield Parking issues – AG recorded that parking issues in Fairfield have been resolved naturally as a result of the walk-in clinic's closure. VI. Overgrown hedges in the village – AG confirmed that property owners are legally responsible for maintaining boundary hedges adjacent to highways and footpaths, and agreed to contact the relevant homeowners directly. Residents were also encouraged to report overgrown public footpaths via the MyWilts app. VII. Sunday Bus Service – AG confirmed that a formal representation will be drafted and submitted in due course.	
26/40	Issues for discussion I. Farrier's field refurbishment – AG reported that construction works on the Farrier's Field refurbishment commenced this week and are scheduled for completion by the end of the week. A full final report will be presented to the Council at the next meeting. II. Village Coffee morning – Following a positive discussion between PG, AG, BB, and the owner of The Ship, plans were presented to launch a recurring Parish Council coffee morning starting Saturday 12th September at 10:00 AM with complimentary tea and coffee funded by UPC. The informal monthly sessions will allow residents to raise local issues directly with attending councillors ahead of formal council meetings held the following week. AF suggested extending invitations to representatives of local community groups. Full promotional details and notices will be published once arrangements are finalised. III. Widdington Farm Earth works - Upavon MX – PG reported that on 12th June, AG, PG, and BB met with MP Danny Kruger to address several concerns raised by local residents. Following this meeting, Wiltshire Council confirmed that newly appointed officer Hester Jay is actively managing the matter. A report received by Upavon Parish Council noted that investigations indicate the site has exceeded the permitted 14 days of annual use for motocross events, meaning any future events will require a formal planning application by 24th July 2026. BB clarified that the Parish Council's role is to gather information in response to resident enquiries to ensure accurate facts are communicated.	

	Councillors were requested to report any further incidents or concerns directly to the Clerk for immediate escalation to Wiltshire Council. IV. Village Gate Replacement – BB reported that the existing village gates have reached the end of their operational life. Following the receipt of two competitive quotes and incorporating a suggestion from AF, an application for funding to support the replacement of the village gates has been formally submitted to the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG). V. A345 50mph Sign – covered above, 26/39-III.	
26/41	Clerk's Report & Correspondence BB reported that routine administrative duties and day-to-day correspondence remain fully up to date. Regarding the Upavon MX site, BB noted that a constructive meeting had been held with Danny Kruger MP, following which a positive progress update was shared with Members. In response to a public query regarding incorrect signage at the riverside field, BB confirmed that the issue has been resolved, with new signage installed correctly designating the site as Church Meadow. Looking ahead to winter preparations, routine checks of local salt bins will commence shortly, members were asked to inform the Clerk if they notice any bins running low in the meantime.	
26/42	Reports from other bodies I. Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) – AF reported that the next LHFIG meeting is scheduled for October, noting that the group meets only three times per year II. Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) – The next PCAP meeting will take place on Thursday 16th July at Shalbourne Village Hall. AF and PG plan to attend. III. Pewsey Area Board – AF reported on the Pewsey Area Board meeting held on Monday 8th June, which AF attended. Discussions included proposals to close eight rural fire stations across Dorset and Wiltshire - including Bradford-on-Avon, Mere, Ramsbury, and Wilton. It was also noted that Pewsey Area Board meetings have been reduced to three per year.	
26/43	Future agenda items PG requested that Remembrance Sunday be added to the next agenda, following an offer from the owner of The Ship to host the lunch. BB agreed to obtain a quote alongside other options for consideration at the next meeting.	
26/44	Close – The meeting closed at 8.25pm.	

Bee Barff
Clerk to Upavon Parish Council

22/07/2026

Dates of future meetings all at 7pm
Wednesday, 16th September
Wednesday, 18th November