



UPAVON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

10th JANUARY 2024 AT 7PM

In the Village Hall, Andover Road, Upavon

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

24/001	Absence apologies and Declaration of Interests (CLB) Present: Chairman Charles Leigh-Bennett (CLB), Vice Chairman Andrew Flack (AF), Anthony Gallagher (AG), Tom Bradshaw (TB), Bee Barff (BB) clerk, Grant Ingleton Lt Col., Chris Wickham Police Sergeant, Anna Morton from Avon Valley Practice, Paul Oatway WCC (PO) and 8 members of the public. Apologies: No apologies were received.	
24/002	Minutes of previous meeting (CLB) The minutes of the previous meeting, dated 15th November 2023, and the extraordinary meeting on 6th December 2023, were read and signed as a true copy by the Chairman, Charles Leigh-Bennett (CLB).	
24/003	Updates, questions and queries from the public I. Updates from PO Paul Oatway provided an update on Wiltshire Council's financial status, expressing confidence in its stability. Wiltshire Council allocates £18 million annually to Highways, supplemented by an additional £5 million from the government, with an extra £1 million reserved. Notably, Pewsey community area, identified with the most challenging road conditions in Wiltshire, is receiving substantial funding. The area has witnessed numerous road resurfacing projects, with more planned. Recent flooding incidents affecting surrounding villages prompted Wiltshire Council to allocate additional resources to assist the Parish Council in developing a comprehensive flood plan. In terms of council tax, a 4.99% increase is anticipated this year, followed by a 2.99% increase next year. A member of the public raised concerns about potholes on Devizes Road and the road to Pewsey. PO acknowledged the issue, assuring that it has been reported, and efforts are underway to address and resolve the matter. He pledged to persist in addressing these concerns and keep the community informed about progress. II. Trenchard Lines GI reported on the recent water issues before Christmas, confirming that they have been successfully addressed and had no adverse effects on the village or the Avon River.	

Regarding the ongoing rebasing project, progress has been made, although there were challenges with planning permission related to a listed building. Efforts are underway to resolve sewage issues, and the entire project is projected to be completed by the end of 2025.

In terms of road safety, speed-aware signs have been installed on both sides of the road 342, contributing to successful traffic management.

Additionally, Trenchard Lines is exploring a solar farm plan that has the potential to generate 14% of the camp's power, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

III. Anna from Avon Valley Practice

Anna from Avon Valley Practice provided a comprehensive overview of the current status and future plans of the practice. She highlighted key points as follows:

Anna will be a regular participant in the Jan/July UPC meeting, offering updates every six months.

The practice has welcomed a new doctor, Anthony, while Doc Green is transitioning from full-time to part-time status effective next April. Various new roles have been introduced, including the addition of a Pharmacy technician.

Avon Valley Practice operates as a Training practice, offering both walk-in and phone call services. In contrast to other GP practices, the focus is on 'face-to-face' appointments, with 30-40 people seen daily. The practice exceeds the minimal NHS general rule and emphasizes same-day care, particularly for telephone appointments. Innovations such as the Mole clinic and optimizing appointments for specific needs are being explored.

Despite the increased complexity in Primary care post-COVID, Avon Valley Practice remains committed and resilient, boasting a solid, well-established team. While the practice has expanded in size, additional funding is still required to meet growing demands.

Avon Valley Practice conducts Live Q&A sessions, popular among the community, and encourages more participation. Questions from Councillors regarding the dispensary machine were addressed, with some to be followed up in the next meeting. Anna also informed about the availability of a Monday evening at the AVP and weekend walk-in centre in Salisbury.

Anna acknowledged an issue with the new phone line, reported to NHS England, and assured the community that the matter is being addressed. The launch of the online service, System Connect, is anticipated sometime in February/March.

IV. Members of the Public

A member of the public proposed the idea of organizing a summer event and inquired about the possibility of utilizing the

	<p>Community Centre. CLB expressed the council's willingness to consider the suggestion, also mentioned that the Community Centre is currently subject to Wiltshire Council's new development plan, which is pending confirmation.</p> <p>Police Sergeant Chris Wickham provided a local parish report update during the meeting. Notable instances of speeding in the area have been observed and reported to the police. Data collected from Upavon SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) has contributed to this awareness. A visit from the community speed enforcement team has taken place, and further plans are in progress to address this concern. Community consultations are actively promoted, providing residents with opportunities to voice their concerns and contribute to local policing efforts. The rural crime team has acknowledged incidents of hare coursing in the local area and is actively dealing with the matter.</p> <p>A member of the public requested the next Parish steward visit to include the cleaning of Butchers Alley. CLB acknowledged the request and agreed to facilitate the cleaning of the area.</p>	
24/004	<p>Recruitment of Councillors</p> <p>Councillor Rebecca Lamb, newly co-opted during the previous emergency meeting, was formally introduced by CLB.</p> <p>CLB encouraged community members to consider joining the council, emphasizing the importance of diverse representation. Additionally, CLB mentioned that there is a potential candidate who will be introduced in the upcoming meeting.</p>	
24/005	<p>Finance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Bank reconciliation 2nd January 2024 – circulated to the councillors and all agreed. II. Budget 2024/2025 including Precept – BB provided an explanation of the budget for 2024/2025, indicating that it will mirror the previous year. Consequently, the Precept for the upcoming year will remain at £31,000, consistent with the 2023/2024 figure. John Cabra raised a pertinent point regarding a significant increase in the Microsoft Office fee for the upcoming year, totalling an additional £200. BB acknowledged this observation and promptly confirmed that the additional expense will be duly covered within the budget. All councillors confirmed their agreement, and CLB signed the necessary paperwork. BB will promptly submit the documentation to Wiltshire Council. III. Cheques for signature - No cheques were presented for signature at this time. 	

24/006	<p>Councillor updates of work undertaken since last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. I. The Triangle Traffic Management Update (AF): AF reported the progress on The Triangle traffic management, including the completion of major work such as light and hood installation, and the repainting of road markings. The project is nearing completion. II. SIDs Police Reporting (AF): All data related to Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) has been collected and forwarded to Wiltshire Police. The Speed Enforcement Officer is expected to visit as a result of this reporting. III. Potential Raised Pavement on Jarvis Street (AF): The matter was presented at the last LHFIG meeting in October and will continue to be discussed at the upcoming LHFIG meeting. IV. IV. Rights of Way & Landmarc Update (TG/CLB): No action has been taken yet, but the current state remains passable. Dredging has been conducted on the part of the ditch outside Vicarage Lane, with progress made and plans for further continuation. V. Proposed A345 Riverside Park to Village Centre Pavement Update (CLB/AF): Awaiting outcomes from Wiltshire Council; the engineer has been appointed. The concerns of the public have been acknowledged, and efforts to obtain updates from Wiltshire Council are ongoing. VI. Andover Road Playground Update (CLB): Six new trees have been planted by Simon Last. CLB is organizing a meeting with Louise Newman to explore potential developments with the football pitch. PO advised that WC can provide funding support for the project. VII. Lower Playground Update (CLB): Tree trimming has been undertaken in the lower playground area. 	
24/007	<p>Issues for discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Public Bins UPC has been contacted by Andrea Begent, Street Scene Engineer from Wiltshire Council, regarding the reallocation of two bins to Butchers Alley and the footpath towards the Whistle Down. WC has refused responsibility for these bins, and it has been noted that three dog bins, directly paid for by UPC to the private company idVerde, have been placed in County waste. AG and Chairman CLB are scheduled to meet with Andrea on coming Friday, the 12th, at 1 pm to discuss the issue and seek resolution. II. 3 remaining Geese Concerns have been raised regarding the three remaining geese after the incident, which were reported to be in the care of an individual and taken to the 	

	<p>Wildlife Hospital. The Wildlife Hospital has indicated that the geese will not be released to the village unless there is a secure infrastructure in place for their safety. CLB has spoken with Joe Wookey, the landowner where the geese used to reside, who is open to suggestions for their return. John Tighe suggested that if the village wishes to have the geese back, a proper plan must be devised, including introducing them to a new flock of geese. JT has a contact to obtain more geese if needed.</p> <p>Acknowledging that such plans would incur costs, JT proposed fundraising, questioning whether UPC could contribute. CLB agreed with the suggestion and committed to discussing it with JW. CW mentioned that his team would assist in coordinating with the Wildlife Hospital to facilitate the geese's return. Amanda Wernham, a member of the public, expressed concerns about lack of information regarding the individual keeping the geese away. AG reported the incident to the police in November, receiving a reply that no crime had been committed. Further communication and coordination will be necessary to address these concerns and plan for the geese's return to the village.</p>	
24/008	<p>The Blue Bus Youth Club</p> <p>CLB reported that a grant for 50% has been approved by WC at the previous Area Board meeting for The Blue Bus Youth Club. The upcoming visit dates will be shared soon, indicating progress in securing support for the youth club.</p>	
24/009	<p>Clerk's Report & Correspondence (BB)</p> <p>BB introduced herself as the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Having previously worked for Upavon Parish Council (UPC) from 2019 to 2021 for two and a half years, she shared that she has been busy catching up on various tasks, including planning the budget and Precept. BB expressed her readiness to assist anyone who may need help and is committed to contributing to the smooth functioning of the council.</p>	
24/0010	<p>Reports from other bodies –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) WC officer suggested that UPC investigates the Rushall footpath to be included in the footpath network. This matter will be discussed further at the next LHFIG meeting. II. Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) – None III. Pewsey Area Board - none 	
24/0011	<p>Items for the Magazine/Website</p> <p>AF and TB have recommended that the upcoming UPC meeting dates and information about The Blue Bus be published in the Together</p>	

	magazine. BB will forward the necessary details to the responsible contact.	
24/0012	Future agenda items CLB mentioned that UPC intends to publish a Village circular to gather ideas about village development. With a substantial fund allocated for this purpose, UPC aims to expedite the process efficiently. The collected responses will be discussed in the next March meeting, facilitating community involvement in shaping the future development of the village.	
24/0013	Close The meeting closed at 8.51pm.	

Bee Barff
Clerk to Upavon Parish Council

18/01/2024

Dates of future meetings all at 7pm
 Wednesday **13th March** 2024
 Wednesday **15th May** 2024 to include Annual Parish Meeting
 Wednesday **17th July** 2024
 Wednesday **18th September** 2024
 Wednesday **20th November** 2024