



## Upavon Parish Council Meeting

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7pm

Village Hall, Andover Road, Upavon

### MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

25/34	<p><b>Absence apologies and Declaration of Interests (AG)</b></p> <p>Present: Chairman Anthony Gallagher (AG), Vice-Chairman Andrew Flack (AF), Cllr Elaine Pepper (EP), Cllr Phil Garside (PG), Cllr Rebecca Lamb (RL), Cllr Rosalind Ayling (RA), Bee Barff Clerk (BB), Paul Oatway WCC (PO) and 9 members of the public.</p> <p>Apologies: apologies were received from Cllr Tom Bradshaw (TB).</p>	
25/35	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved and signed as a true copy by the Chairman. (AG).</p>	
25/36	<p><b>Updates, questions and queries from the public</b></p> <p>I. <b>Anna Morton from Avon Valley Practice</b> – Anna reported that the recent national patient survey showed excellent results for Avon Valley Practice, with the surgery ranked above national averages within the Integrated Care System (ICS), placing highly among 84 practices. The NHS funding issue for additional services, which was briefly discussed at the January meeting, has now been resolved. Anna expressed hope that the government's 10-year plan will enable AVP to continue providing these services without disruption. Anna also provided an update on staff changes and doctor rotations within the practice. A member of the public raised an issue with the medication collection ATM not recognising their access code. Anna suggested this may have been due to an expired code but confirmed she would investigate further. There were also comments from residents that the ATM screen does not always respond to finger touch. It was advised that using a stylus or fingernail may improve responsiveness.</p> <p>A further concern was raised regarding parking around the surgery, particularly near the junction. Anna confirmed she had previously discussed this with the council and will follow up to ensure surgery staff avoid parking in that area.</p> <p>AG referred to the ongoing issue regarding the tree consultation for trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order. He explained that the trees were originally intended to form a hedge but have since grown into full-sized specimens. Despite multiple attempts by Anna to have them cut down, discussions with Wiltshire Council, no progress has been made. The 22 mature beech trees remain healthy but are now significantly taller than originally intended.</p>	

	<p>AG requested that PO become involved to help resolve the matter. PO confirmed that he would look into it.</p> <p>A member of the public commented that the medication collection process was very quick and expressed their appreciation. Anna reported that the supply of medicines has improved and thanked them for the positive feedback.</p> <p><b>II. Updates from PO</b> – PO reported that a £6 million change in forecasting by Wiltshire Council between Q3 and Q4 has been reviewed, resulting in a revised over forecasting figure of £4.853 million. This relates specifically to Adult Social Care and not the overall council budget. PO clarified that this is not overspending but a forecasting adjustment; the funds had already been allocated but moved more slowly through the system than expected. PO also advised that the government has withdrawn all funding for Neighbourhood Development Plans. Additionally, the government is currently revising housing development policy. Over the next five years, any large village in Wiltshire may be required to accommodate between 20 and 80 new houses. PO reported a change to the eligibility criteria for the housing support fund. Families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, disabled people, single-person households, larger families, gypsy and people experiencing homelessness are now eligible to apply. PO noted that the proposed devolution plan for the Heart of Wessex (Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole) was initially rejected by the government. He also expressed concern about proposed government reforms to planning committees, which would significantly reduce the number of committees and remove councillors' ability to call planning applications to committee.</p> <p>PO highlighted that significant focus is currently on the A338, and any changes to this route could result in increased traffic on the A345. PO mentioned that the possibility of introducing double yellow lines near the surgery could be pursued through a planning application. He recommended that the UPC consider a broader review of parking restrictions in Upavon and submit a single, comprehensive application if appropriate.</p> <p>AG requested an update on the support under the river bridge. PO confirmed he will be meeting with the engineer on Monday 21st July and will report back shortly after.</p> <p>AG also raised concerns about the difficulty in contacting and receiving responses from Wiltshire Council officers. PO recommended writing a formal letter and copying him into it.</p> <p>A member of the public raised concerns about speeding near Whistledown. AF confirmed that this issue had already been raised at the LHFIG meeting and is currently being addressed.</p> <p>RL clarified that UPC is not seeking to widen the A342, but rather working to prevent any such widening from taking place. PO recommended that UPC write a letter to the Head of Highways expressing both the Parish Council's and local residents' frustrations and concerns.</p> <p><b>III. Trenchard Lines</b> – Lt Col Ingleton attended his final UPC meeting ahead of his retirement next week. He informed the Council that his successor is due to arrive around late September or October and that he will ensure contact is made with UPC once the new Commanding Officer is in place. He raised concerns about</p>	
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	<p>ongoing speeding issues around the camp, including not only large vehicles such as lorries but also agricultural machinery, which is contributing to the deterioration of the road surface. He noted that building works within the camp are ongoing and are expected to be completed before the end of next year. AF enquired whether it would be possible to access data from the SID at Trenchard Lines; however, John Cabra explained that this would not be possible as the data system used is incompatible with that used by Wiltshire Police. It was noted that Together magazine is now being distributed within the camp.</p> <p>AG expressed a wish to establish regular contact with the incoming Commanding Officer. The Council thanked Lt Col Ingleton for his service and wished him well in his retirement.</p> <p><b>IV. Members of the Public</b> – A member of the public raised concerns regarding the proposed development of the playground at Farriers Field. She stated that the playground is currently underused and questioned the value of further development, expressing strong objection to the plan. AG clarified that the playground was formerly a Wiltshire Council asset and has now been transferred to UPC, along with a specific grant allocated for its development. He further explained that the development was initiated following requests from local children and that the transfer and funding were discussed and agreed upon at public meetings held between September 2024 and the present. AG noted that the site is already designated as a play area and therefore does not require planning permission to install additional play equipment. The resident raised a concern that local residents in Farriers Field had not been adequately informed and that the playground development could lead to future parking issues. AG responded that it is not possible to address hypothetical issues at this stage, but UPC acknowledges the concerns and will address any issues should they arise in the future. RL added that she had visited the area and spoken directly to several residents. AG also outlined the development plan, which includes measures to ensure the area is made safe for children and secured against dog access. The member of the public also suggested installing an additional dog waste bin at the entrance to the playground. AG confirmed that the suggestion would be noted and considered.</p> <p>A member of the public raised a concern regarding vehicle access around the Boules court. AG confirmed that the matter is currently under review and that an update will be provided once investigations are complete.</p>	
<b>25/37</b>	<b>Recruitment of Councillors</b> - None	
<b>25/38</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>I. Bank reconciliation 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b> has been shared and approved. BB confirmed that UPC has received £20,000.00 from Wiltshire Council for the Farriers Field playground project.</p> <p><b>II. Cheques to sign</b> – no cheques to sign.</p>	

25/39	<p><b>Councillor updates of work undertaken since last meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b>SIDs police reporting</b> – AF reported that he attended the recent Area Board meeting, where it was noted that nine police enforcement operations had taken place in the Upavon area, including on Andover Road and Pewsey Road. Numerous incidents involving the use of mobile devices while driving were recorded. Between April and June, eight drivers were referred to speed awareness courses, and the WC Road Policing Unit issued a total of 412 tickets in the area between February and May. AF confirmed that enforcement activity is ongoing.</li> <li>II. <b>Rights of Way &amp; Landmarc update</b> – AG confirmed that nothing to report.</li> <li>III. <b>A345 Riverside Park pavement update</b> – AF reported that all applications have been submitted. However, due to recent changes in Council's administration, progress is currently taking a little longer than expected. He noted that UPC has a very strong chance of the plans proceeding this year.</li> <li>IV. <b>Fallen Trees near grey flags</b> – EP confirmed that all fallen trees in the area near Grey Flags have now been cleared.</li> <li>V. <b>Widening of the A342</b> – This issue was addressed earlier in the meeting, 25/36 IV.</li> <li>VI. <b>Fairfield Parking issues</b> – This matter was also addressed above.</li> </ul>	
25/40	<p><b>Issues for discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b>WC Rural Play area and land transfers</b> – BB reported that updated plan for the playground design was shared, installation of the equipment is going to be booked around September 2025. BB presented quotations for the necessary groundwork prior to equipment installation. Councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with the quote from Last Landscaping, totalling £4,068 (including £678 VAT), which falls within the allocated budget from the grant and playground maintenance funds. BB also confirmed that the existing seating and the single play equipment will remain in place.</li> <li>II. <b>Village Coffee morning</b> – AG suggested this matter to be discussed at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
25/41	<p><b>Clerk's Report &amp; Correspondence</b></p> <p>BB reported that TB and PG have now been registered as additional signatories on the council's bank account. The transition to online banking is also in progress, and an update will be provided in due course.</p>	
25/42	<p><b>Reports from other bodies –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</b> – AF attended the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 30th May, where the previously mentioned issue regarding the A342 will be discussed.</li> <li>II. <b>Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP)</b> – None</li> <li>III. <b>Pewsey Area Board</b> – The meeting was held on 9th June, which AF attended. He reported that due to recent changes in the council's structure, the level of available grants may differ from previous years.</li> </ul>	

<b>25/43</b>	<b>Future agenda items</b> EP reported that villagers had raised concerns about some people disposing of dog waste bags in the compost bin at the allotment. AG suggested relocating one of the dog waste bins to the allotment area. This proposal will be discussed further at the next meeting.	
<b>25/44</b>	<b>Close</b> AG addressed the importance of awareness regarding the current hot weather, wildlife safety, and the increased fire risk due to dry conditions and bonfire smoke. The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.	

Bee Barff  
Clerk to Upavon Parish Council

23/07/2025

Dates of future meetings all at 7pm  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025