



Upavon Parish Council Meeting

On Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 7pm

Village Hall, Andover Road, Upavon

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

25/45	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 Tom Bradshaw (TB), Cllr Rosalind Ayling (RA), Bee Barff Clerk (BB), Paul Oatway WCC (PO) and 21 members of the public. Apologies: apologies were received from Cllr Rebecca Lamb (RL), several residents of Farriers Field. *	*Appx.1
25/46	Minutes of previous meeting To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16 th July 2025 were approved and signed as a true copy by the Chairman. (AG).	
25/47	Updates, questions and queries from the public I. Updates from PO – PO reported that Wiltshire Council has released government funding for household support, with eligible individuals to be notified directly. He stressed that greater provision should be directed towards state pensioners. PO confirmed his strong support for the Riverside Footpath project, which he raised at both the LHFIG and Area Board meetings. He expressed concern regarding the Government's Local Plan, which proposes an increase in housing across Wiltshire. For large villages such as Upavon, this could mean 80–100 additional houses over the next five years. PO further noted that while the Government initially declined the proposed devolution plan for the “Heart of Wessex” (Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole), there has now been a change in approach. The area is expected to form a new geographical unit for this part of England. II. Trenchard Lines – No reports. III. Village Hall Updates – Lesley reported that the current Village Hall Committee intends to stand down in February 2026. Over the past eight years, the committee has achieved a significant amount of work, including the refurbishment of the hall. Lesley emphasised the need for new members to join and continue the work of the committee. The deadline for nominations is 31st December 2025. If insufficient nominations are received, the hall may be forced to close. She encouraged anyone interested in joining to contact her. She also mentioned the next coming event of the village hall, McMillan Coffee morning on Friday 26 th September and Bingo night in November. AG expressed thanks to the current committee for their hard work and dedication over the years, and wished them well as they look to welcome new members to join from 2026 onwards.	

	<p>IV. Police Crime Report – No officer attended.</p> <p>V. Members of the Public – Lesley enquired about the use of the remaining CIL funds. BB confirmed that these funds are being retained for the Riverside Footpath project.</p>	
25/48	Recruitment of Councillors – AG encouraged anyone interested in joining the Council to contact the Clerk.	
25/49	<p>Finance</p> <p>I. Bank reconciliation 10th September 2025 was shared and approved. BB reported balances as follows: Treasurer's Account: £29,326.93, Savings Account (CIL & S106): £50,644.54 (including £20,000 Farrier's Field playground refurbishment fund), Charities Account: £2,710.01. AG clarified that the Charities Account is intended for supporting the poor in Upavon and was established many years ago. In recent years, funds have been donated to the church's food bank at Christmas. The charity currently has two trustees, and additional trustees would be welcomed.</p>	
25/50	<p>Councillor updates of work undertaken since last meeting:</p> <p>I. SIDs police reporting – All SID information has been received, with thanks to John Cabra for his assistance. Data shows that vehicle speeds entering and leaving the village remain high. AF emphasised that Upavon is still not receiving visits from enforcement officers, which is very frustrating. He confirmed that he will continue to raise this issue at the Area Board meetings.</p> <p>II. Rights of Way & Landmarc update – AG reported that all footpaths and rights of way in the village are currently passable. Residents are encouraged to contact the Council if any maintenance or work is required.</p> <p>III. A345 Riverside Park pavement update – The survey has been completed, and the project is awaiting discussion at the next LHFIFG meeting to progress to the next stage. The project will require substantial funding, and UPC is pursuing this with PO's support.</p> <p>IV. Widening of the A342 - AG commented that the issue is not one of widening the A342, but rather the poor condition of the road, which is not fit for purpose. Heavy vehicles have been using the route and causing significant damage, and this has been an ongoing problem for many years. PO has raised this matter with Highways and has expressed his own frustration at the lack of progress. Another site meeting has now been arranged with Highways engineers. AG noted that the current 50mph speed limit is inappropriate and should be reduced to 30mph; PO agreed to raise this with Highways. A member of the public expressed concern that such a change might encourage further development in the area. AG clarified that road safety and development issues are separate matters. Another member of the public reiterated concerns about the poor condition of the A342, which should be formally noted. A further concern was raised about the lack of a road sign at the junction, and PO agreed to bring this to the meeting with Highways.</p>	

	<p>V. Fairfield Parking issues – RA reported that this issue was not solved yet and need to speak again to the surgery and ask for more corporation, including the surgery staffs' parking on the road.</p> <p>VI. Smoke Nuisance – AG and BB reported that UPC had received several complaints about smoke nuisance in the village, originating from the plot beside Salisbury Road. UPC has reported the issue to Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency, including the incident on 19th August when the Fire Service attended the site in response to an uncontrolled fire. Wiltshire Council advised that individuals should keep a log and report incidents directly, while the Environment Agency responded that the matter was not currently a high priority. A member of the public expressed strong concern, noting that the issue is not only a serious health risk for residents but also poses a potential fire danger to the thatched cottages in the village. AG recommended that villagers continue to report incidents to UPC, and confirmed that the Council will investigate ways to address the problem more effectively.</p>	
25/51	<p>Issues for discussion</p> <p>I. Farrier's field refurbishment – AG reported that UPC attended a site meeting on 7th August with residents of Farriers Field regarding the playground project. At that meeting, residents raised concerns about a lack of consultation, and since then two formal complaints have been submitted. The matter is currently under consideration by Wiltshire Council's Legal Department, and therefore UPC is unable to make further comment until the outcome is known. AG assured residents that all works have been postponed until the issue is resolved. A member of the public asked whether the project required planning permission and if residents would be informed once a decision had been made. AG responded that UPC could not comment while the matter is under review, but confirmed that once the outcome is known, UPC will follow the instructions provided. PO added that, as the two complaints are linked, UPC must wait until Wiltshire Council has finalised the matter.</p> <p>II. Village Coffee morning – AF stated that this matter is on hold due to several issues, including the availability of venues.</p>	
25/52	<p>Clerk's Report & Correspondence</p> <p>BB reported that she is still liaising with Lloyds Bank to set up internet banking. Three members are already set up; only AG's internet banking access remains pending. An update will be provided once progress is made. BB also provided updates on local hedges in response to comments from members of the public: Anna Morton confirmed that the hedge at the front of the surgery is due to be cut back in September. She also noted that her gardener has been in discussions with the neighbour on the other side, Cllr Ros, and confirmed that the cuttings will be removed by her gardener. The hedge on Andover Road, in front of the bench, is under discussion with the farmer. He has offered to cut it back in January, but UPC is seeking to have this completed sooner.</p>	

25/53	Reports from other bodies – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) – AF reported that the last LHFIG meeting was held at the end of July, during which the Riverside Park path project was raised. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of October, and AF confirmed that he will attend. II. Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) – The upcoming meeting will be held on Thursday, 23rd October, at Great Bedwyn Village Hall from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. The meeting will focus on environmental issues, nature, and climate change. III. Pewsey Area Board – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 22nd September. AF will attend and raise the Riverside Park path project to seek funding. 	
25/54	Future agenda items <p>AG mentioned that UPC is organising the Remembrance Lunch, and details will be advertised once confirmed. AG also proposed the introduction of a Sunday bus service between Salisbury and Swindon. BB has sent emails to surrounding villages, parish, and town councils to seek support. A few responses have been received so far. AG will attend the Salisbury Council meeting to present the proposal and encouraged villagers to share their thoughts. Once sufficient support is gathered, a formal request will be submitted to Wiltshire Council. PO expressed his support for the proposal, and BB will share the information with him.</p> <p>TB shared the RoSPA playground safety report, noting that both playgrounds have no major issues. However, a small amendment is required for the Andover Road playground. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Lesley mentioned that the next meeting would be a suitable opportunity to discuss the future of the Village Hall. AG assured that UPC will advertise the meeting to encourage wider participation.</p>	
25/55	Close <p>The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.</p>	

Bee Barff
Clerk to Upavon Parish Council

30/09/2025

Dates of future meetings all at 7pm
Wednesday 19th November 2025