

Minutes of Meeting of Upton Parish Council

Held on 14th January 2025 at 18.00hrs

Upton Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Fran A'Brook (in the Chair), Councillor David Williams, Councillor Howard Shaw, Councillor Karen Telling, Councillor Innes Davies, Councillor/Parish Clerk Val Thompstone, District Councillor Steven Pugsley, County Councillor Frances Nicholson

1 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Libby Warden

2 Declarations of Interest

None

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Two issues were raised. An addendum has been issued providing full details. Please see Appendix 1 to these minutes (Page 4 of 4). The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4 Planning Matters

No new planning matters to discuss.

Since completing and submitting the Breach of Planning Form on 31/10/23 (Ref SWT558501627) the Parish Council has had no further communication about works at St James. This was discussed at length. District Councillor Pugsley has also been chasing information but has not heard anything. He will continue to pursue this on behalf of the Parish Council, and it was agreed that any further information and/or details we can provide, including up to date photography, would be sent to Councillor Pugsley.

5 Highways

5.1 Storm Darragh

Storm Darragh caused extensive damage to many trees along the main road. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who turned out to clear the roads and pathways throughout the village. Unfortunately, many of the lost trees were large beech trees, the roots of which are shallow and were easily uprooted by the strength of the wind.

One of these large trees fell and caused damage to an Upton property. It was unclear as to ownership of this tree and it was agreed that the Roads Record department of Somerset Council would have this information. Councillor Pugsley will pursue this on our behalf with Mr John Pennigan. It was noted that Councillor David Williams had been in contact with Road Records and was awaiting a response. Councillor Williams agreed to send his correspondence to Councillors Pugsley and Nicholson.

5.2 Overhanging Trees

Trees along the verge towards Haddon Hill continue to be an issue. The Chairperson will contact the landowner of many of these trees for an update. The Road Records department may well have information concerning who else owns overhanging trees.

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5 Highways (continued)

5.3 Speed Indication Devices (SIDs)

- 5.3.1 Councillor Davies has submitted our application for funding and the outcome will be known towards end February/beginning March.
- 5.3.2 Ms Claire Ashby has agreed to attend the mandatory training course on deployment of the devices.
- 5.3.3 A solar battery has been requested.
- 5.3.4 All other decisions can be made when we know the outcome of our application (locations, length of time at each location, the imagery of the signs, etc).

5.4 Traffic Lights on B3190

Councillor Williams asked if it was known how long the 'temporary' lights on B3190 near Roborough Gate would be in situ. These are there as there is a collapsed drain and the road surface is beginning to break down. Councillor Pugsley read an email he had received from the Council outlining the reasons for the delays on this work, namely adverse weather conditions for a prolonged period.

6 Village Hall

- 6.1 Coffee mornings continue to be held on the third Tuesday of every month.
In September Claire Pound, of Home-Start West Somerset, joined us to talk about the charity. We are grateful for her time and the excellent talk she gave.
- 6.2 The Craft Fair, held in conjunction with the Coffee Morning in November, raised more than £400 out of which a donation to Home-Start West Somerset was made.
- 6.3 The Christmas lunch, originally planned for 5th December was postponed due to severe weather. The event, held on 5th January, was an enormous success.

7 Bleed Kits

It was agreed that a Bleed Kit would not be purchased. The reason being that with so many remote farms and dwellings, the chances of being able to get the kit to the person requiring assistance in time to be of any real benefit, would be minimal. The meeting generally felt that it would be up to individual farms, dwellings, employers, to provide a readily accessible kit on their own premises.

8 Finances

- 8.1 Cheques as detailed on SO16 signed:

£10.00	Hire of Upton Village Hall (payable to Upton Village Hall)
£47.96*	4 x £11.99 (total = £47.96) Hugo Fox Website Hosting for May, June, July, August 2024 (payable to Parish Clerk)

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8 Finances (continued)

- £14.39* 123Reg – Domain Name Renewal (UptonParishCouncil.org.uk) (Payable to Parish Clerk)
- £110.00* Steve Mills for repair of Parish Noticeboard (payable to Parish Clerk)
- £37.69* Ink Cartridges for Parish Clerk printing (payable to Parish Clerk)
- £440.28** Consumables for Defibrillator (payable to Parish Clerk)

8.2 Parish Precept

Councillor Pugsley said that it was possible any savings the County Council were able to make this year would come from staff reduction rather than service reduction. It was agreed that we should increase our Precept request to £1000.

9 Update from District and County Councillors

Councillor Pugsley said that Somerset Council had set up a Working Group to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission's (LGBC) proposals for the county. In this they suggested an East Exmoor and a West Exmoor. However, the Council had received a response saying the Commission did not agree with their suggestions so it is likely the LGBC will proceed with their proposals. It was noted that the final day for comments was 20th January 2025, and Upton will put forward their thoughts on this, saying that they would like to remain with neighbouring parishes to retain the strong relationships with the parishes geographically closest.

10 Any Other Business

Councillor Telling made a request for the grit bin at the top of Hensetown Road to be refilled as some of the contents were used during the recent cold spell. This item will be added to the ongoing correspondence between the Parish Clerk and the Council concerning Grit Bins/Bags throughout the Parish.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30 pm

11 Dates of 2025 meetings (all meetings will start at 18.00 hrs)

Tuesday 14th January (original meeting postponed from Nov 2024*)

Tuesday 18th March

Tuesday 13th May

Tuesday 9th September

Tuesday 25th November

* This meeting was effectively the fourth meeting of 2024

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Appendix 1

Addendum to Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2024

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10th SEPTEMBER 2024

As agreed at meeting held on 14th January 2025

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| 1 | Item 9 | Remove |
| 2 | Item 10.2 | This should read 'The George at Brompton Regis: Councillor Pugsley advised that it is unlikely the owners will get planning permission, as they needed to try to sell it as a going concern (pub) before they could get any 'change of use' permission. |