



UFFINGTON PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES

Monday 12th October 2026 at 7.00pm Uffington Village Hall

Councillors: C. Ashton (Chair) L. Miller (Vice-Chair) R. Story, P. Marsden, T. Sykes

Clerk: A. Palmer

County Councillor: B. Mallon (not present, no apologies received)

Members of Public: There were four members of public

26/71. Chair's Welcome

Powers: LGA 1972 Sch.12 para.10(2)(b).

26/72. Apologies for Absence

None received. Powers: LGA 1972 Sch.12 para.13.

26/73. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No declarations received. Powers: Localism Act 2011 s.31; DPI Regulations 2012.

26/74. Public Participation Session (15 minutes)

No members of public wishing to speak.

Powers: Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; LGA 1972 s.100A.

26/75. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on **Monday 21st September 2026**. Powers: LGA 1972 Sch.12 para.41(1).

26/76. REPORTS

26/76.1 Shropshire Councillor Report - No report received.

Powers: LGA 1972 s.100B.

26/76.2 Safer Neighbourhood Team Report - No report received.

None received. Drop in Powers: Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

26/76.3 Clerk's Report – circulated to all members in advance as part of the supporting documents.

Cllr RS raised concerns regarding difficulties accessing the Zoho Mail app on his mobile device. The Clerk shared links to Zoho Workspace and Zoho WorkDrive to support the transition to the overall provider.

Statutory basis for administrative support and system management noted as: Local Government Act 1972, s.111 (powers to facilitate discharge of functions) and Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 (requirements for proper administration of financial systems).

26/76.4 SALC Chair Meeting Feedback (LM)

Cllr LM provided a verbal update following attendance at the recent SALC Chair Meeting. Members noted the key matters raised at the session, including emerging work on Devolution of Services, Local Nature Recovery, food resilience, and forthcoming changes to the national planning framework.

The Council noted that Helen Ball (Shrewsbury Town Clerk) will be circulating a draft paper on devolution for parish councils to review. Members discussed the importance of understanding the current range of services delivered within Uffington Parish in order to assess any future proposals.

It was further noted that concerns have been raised nationally regarding unregistered land, with reports that organisations such as *Kingdom Sanctuary Ltd* may be acquiring small parcels of unregistered land. Members agreed that residents should be encouraged to ensure any land they own is formally registered with HM Land Registry once official guidance is available.

RESOLUTIONS & ACTIONS

- **Resolved:** That the Clerk write to Mathew Mead (Shropshire Council) requesting the spreadsheet of current services provided to Uffington Parish, to support the Council's review of potential devolution options. **Action:** Clerk.
- **Resolved:** That the Council await the paper and links from Helen Ball regarding food resilience, and once received, the Clerk will share the information with residents via the community WhatsApp group. **Action:** Clerk.
- **Resolved:** That once official guidance is received from SALC or Shropshire Council, the Clerk will issue a community notice advising residents of the importance of registering land with HM Land Registry. **Action:** Clerk.
- **Noted:** Upcoming changes to national planning regulations (end of Oct 2026), including the move to a two-tier decision process for minor housing applications.

Power: Local Government Act 1972, s.111 (powers to facilitate discharge of functions) and s.101 (delegation of functions).

26/77. Banking Update

All authorised signatories now have access to Unity Trust Bank and can approve payments. Funds have been transferred from Lloyds; the Clerk is awaiting final mandate access to close the remaining Lloyds accounts.

Powers: LGA 1972 s.151; Accounts & Audit Regs 2015. **Action:** Clerk to close Lloyds accounts once access is granted.

26/78. Scribe Subscription Update

SCRIBE is fully operational. Clerk will input the new budget once approved and issue read-only access to councillors. External payroll provider has been cancelled; payroll now processed via HMRC free software, resulting in a credit.

Powers: Accounts & Audit Regs 2015; LGA 1972 s.111. **Actions:** Clerk to input new budget/Clerk to grant councillor read-only access.

26/79. Parish Online / IT Support Amalgamation

Migration to Parish Online and Zoho Workspace is progressing. Clerk is undertaking training with provider; system consolidation will improve security and unify IT support. Transition for councillors ongoing.

Powers: LGA 1972 s.111; Localism Act 2011 (GPC). **Action:** Clerk to continue migration and support councillor transition.

26/80. CORRESPONDENCE

26/80.1 Potential Listing Status of Village Properties

The Council noted correspondence from a councillor regarding a query raised by a member of the public on the potential listing status of several village properties. The Conservation Officer advised that the properties were likely considered during the 1985 assessment, but could be re-assessed should the Parish Council wish to pursue this.

Cllr PM provided further clarification, noting that Estate House and White House were assessed in 1985 but not added to the conservation area. Uffington is not designated as a full conservation area, and Cllr PM advised that owners may be reluctant to seek listing or conservation status due to the restrictive nature of associated regulations. It was noted that this matter had previously been raised by a member of the public and Cllr Marsden offered to explain the findings directly to him.

Action: Cllr Marsden to liaise with the member of the public and provide clarification.

26/80.2 Local Transport Plan Consultation

The Local Transport Plan Consultation was received and has been circulated to councillors. Information has also been shared publicly via parish communication channels, with leaflets distributed at the meeting.

26/80.3 Youth Transformation Survey

The Youth Transformation Survey was circulated to councillors for awareness and participation.

Summary: All correspondence received since the last meeting was noted. **Powers:** *Local Government Act 1972, s.142.*

26/81. FINANCIAL MATTERS

26/81.1 Receipts

It was **noted** that no income had been received since the last meeting.

26/81.2 Payments

Members considered the schedule of payments due. The Chair read aloud the outstanding accounts for approval, including:

- Clerk's Salary (October)
- HMRC Tax/NIC
- Mileage
- WFH Allowance
- Village Newsletter Articles (7): £140.00
- Scribe Set-Up Fee: £238.80
- SALC Introductory Training (PM/TS): £45.00 x 2
- Scribe Monthly Subscription: £30.00
- SJF Design & Print – £48.00 (Invoice SJF001807, dated 16 July 2026) – expenses relating to secure storage of Speedwatch equipment.
- S. Wallbanks for storage box and padlock for Speedwatch equipment £19.99 & £18.96

RESOLVED: To approve all payments listed.

26/81.3 Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: To approve the bank reconciliations for **August** and **September**.

Powers: *Local Government Act 1972, s.151; Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015.*

26/81.4 Engagement with Utility Providers and Developers – Community Support Opportunities

Members discussed potential opportunities for engagement with utility providers, local developers, and other organisations to support community projects within the parish. This may include financial contributions, grant support, or practical assistance such as workforce provision, subject to transparency requirements and compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations and public liability insurance.

It was noted that the Council would first need to develop a clear vision of village requirements before approaching external partners. Members also discussed the value of identifying local connections who may be willing to support community initiatives. Cllr TS highlighted that the local rugby club, situated within the parish, may be able to offer volunteer labour for suitable projects.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed **in principle** to explore future opportunities for community support from utility providers, developers, and local organisations.

Powers: LGA 1972 s.111; Localism Act 2011 (General Power of Competence, if adopted); LGA 1972 s.137.

26/82 PLANNING

26/82.1 Planning Applications for Consideration

None received. Powers: Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

26/82.2 Determined Applications

None determined.

26/82.3 Local Plan – SEA Scoping Consultation

Members noted that Shropshire Council has opened the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Consultation, closing 21 October, and that the consultation documents were shared with councillors on 29 September 2026.

Key matters of relevance to the parish were highlighted:

- Future quarrying on Haughmond Hill
- Current and future BESS and Solar proposals
- Possible housing development on the Severn flood plain
- Ongoing drainage and sewage infrastructure issues
- Environmental impacts of overdevelopment, including traffic and rat-running

The Clerk shared the draft completed consultation form for members' consideration. Councillors may also submit individual responses should they wish.

RESOLVED: To submit the final amended version of the Council's response and to publish along with the consultation link on the parish website.

Consultation link: SEA Scoping Consultation – Shropshire Council Consultation Portal

Powers: *Local Government Act 1972, s.142.*

26/83. PARISH MATTERS

26/83.1 Community Speedwatch Working Group – Establishment and Terms of Reference

Members approved the establishment of the Working Group and adoption of the Terms of Reference. Trained people will form the group. SW October report was noted and will appear under “Reports” on future agendas. Payment of £38.95 for secure storage of Speedwatch equipment was noted. Clerk to set up an email group for members.

RESOLVED: Working Group established; Terms of Reference adopted.

26.83.2 Community Speedwatch – Progress Update (Standing Item)

A monthly update was received on volunteer vetting, coordinator approval, equipment and operational planning. SW was thanked for her report.

26/83.3 Highways – Pavements and TRO Update (LM) (Standing Item)

Highways confirmed the TRO cannot progress until the Corbet Arms submits a discharge of condition application. Estimated costs for TRO implementation are £4,000–£5,000. Full-village double yellow lines remain an option but would restrict resident parking and are not aesthetically appealing. Members discussed recent parking issues, safety concerns, alternative yellow line designs, and potential funding sources including CIL/Neighbourhood Fund and local business support.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the TRO consultation. Clerk to contact David Gradwell and begin the process. Funding to be allocated in the budget.

26/83.4 Community Land Trust / Canal Matters (RS) (Standing Item)

Cllr RS reported difficulty obtaining clear responses from the Canal & River Trust. RS may step back from direct liaison and involve UPC in exploring a potential Community Land Trust approach. RS will hold one further discussion and report back next month.

26/83.5 Village Hall – Consideration of Funding / Part Funding Wi-Fi Installation

Members considered the suggestion to support or part-fund Wi-Fi installation at the Village Hall. It was noted that Freedom Fibre would require a cable route involving significant disruption, including excavation across the car park and associated access and rights-of-way issues. As the Hall has no phoneline, the Diocese would not permit this route. **Clarification:** The comments regarding disruption, excavation across the car

park, access/right-of-way issues, and Diocese restrictions were raised by a *member of the public*, not by councillors. Councillors only noted the information provided. Alternative options, including Starlink and a satellite dish, will be discussed at the Village Hall Committee meeting on 22 October. Cllr Ashton will attend and report back at the November meeting. The Clerk will seek further information from Freedom Fibre.

26/83.6 Quarry Working Group – Establishment and Terms of Reference

Members approved formation of the Quarry Working Group, with membership open to the wider community. Cllrs RS and TS and community representative BH were confirmed as initial members. BH will identify additional participants. For clarity, the Quarry Working Group operates strictly under Council governance as set out in the approved Terms of Reference. It has no delegated authority and may only make recommendations to Full Council.

Responsibilities of the Working Group include gathering information, coordinating local engagement, collating questions and concerns, and reporting key issues to Full Council. The group cannot make decisions or issue correspondence without Council approval, in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED: Clerk to set up the Working Group email for BH, RS and TS. Clerk to collate questions for submission to Holcim. The Working Group will ensure impartiality by presenting differing views to councillors for any future decision-making.

26/84. Action Plan, Roles & Responsibilities

Members reviewed the updated Action Plan and confirmed roles as set out in the supporting documents.

The Clerk will add the Action Plan to the shared workspace for all members to access and update.

Cllr TS reported that the pothole issue leaving Atcham has been repaired, but vehicles are now swerving into the road to avoid a further larger hole. This has been reported via FixMyStreet, with no update received. Cllr TS will share the FixMyStreet report and exact location with the Clerk, who will re-enter and escalate the matter through the UPC account.

Cllr CA advised that Severn Trent had visited a location approximately 100 metres past the substation (outside Uffington). The Clerk will re-submit and chase the FixMyStreet report originally made by Cllr TS. The Clerk will also chase Phil Mark regarding his site visit of 15 July to two specific locations, for which no feedback has been received.

It was agreed that Cllr PM will take the lead on planning matters, supported by Cllr LM, covering both smaller applications and larger Local Plan matters from Shropshire Council.

Powers: *Local Government Act 1972, s.111; Standing Orders.*

26/85. Future Agenda Items

Councillors were reminded to submit any items for inclusion on the next agenda no later than seven clear days prior to the meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders.

A suggestion was raised to consider Best Kept Village at a future meeting, including exploring whether there is appetite for volunteers within the parish to support such an initiative.

Powers: *Standing Orders.*

26/86. Exclusion of the Public

No Items. Powers: Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2); LGA 1972 s.112.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9th November 2026 – 7.00pm, Uffington Village Hall