

# UPTON SCUDAMORE PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Upton Scudamore Parish Council Held at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Present: Councillors**

Lesley Welch (Chair), Malcolm Pryor (Vice-Chair) Chris Allinson, Jane Faulkner and Steve Foot, .

**In attendance:** Rebecca Hathaway-White (Parish Clerk), Cllr Bill Parkes and 3 members of the public.

### **Public Participation**

John Pollard (USCA) gave an update on USCA reporting that the recent quiz was a great success, USCA have a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> February where they will start considering the social events for 2026.

### **SSEN Priority Register**

Melanie from SSEN attended the meeting to provide information on their Priority Service for vulnerable residents. It is a free service provided to support residents in the event of a power cut. Leaflets will be delivered by Cllrs to residents with more information on.

To sign up to the Priority Services Register phone 0800 294 3259

To report a power cut phone 105 from any phone.

Power Track is an app which tracks power cuts and will provide updates on expected repair times etc.

**25/74 Acceptance of apologies for absence. Resolved:** None

**25/75 Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**25/76 Dispensations and Declarations of interest. Resolved:** None

**25/ 77 Exclusion of the press and public [Standing Order #3d](#) Resolved:** None

**25/78 Consultations on planning applications.** (Please note: in planning matters the Parish Council acts as consultee of the Principal Authority, the Principal Authority being the deciding Body)

<b>Reference:</b>	PL/2026/00195- Full planning permission
<b>Site Location:</b>	LAND WEST OF WESTBURY ROAD, WARMINSTER
<b>Proposal:</b>	Outline planning permission with some matters reserved except for access for the erection of up to 205 no.dwellings, community hub, public open space, access, infrastructure and associated works with all other matters reserved.
<b>Respond By:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> February

**Resolved:** Cllrs resolved to object to the application with the following text;

*Upton Scudamore Parish Council objects to this planning application for the following reasons.*

*This site is contrary to national and local planning policy as it is outside the settlement policy boundary and as only 61 houses will be classed as “affordable” it does not fall within the exemption of meeting the genuine housing needs of the local community. (shortfall ? no need for 205 houses)*

#### *Infrastructure*

*Warminster does not have the infrastructure to sustain both the Jubilee Gardens estate (Western Urban Extension) and the proposed estate off the Westbury Road.*

*The Warminster Local Plan states there is one GP surgery which was already under considerable strain owing to its significant capacity issues even before the development of the Jubilee Gardens site. Clearly, extending the population still further will put even more pressure on a healthcare service that is already stretched with local residents forced to look outside the town to get access to a GP and intense pressure on dental services.*

*Also, while school capacity appears to be adequate, it is questionable, especially at senior school level and this is before allowing for the Warminster Western Urban Extension.*

*The site will bring increased traffic to an already congested town centre which, at times, is completely gridlocked. The problem is especially acute with school drop off/pick up journeys which will be increased with the completion of this development.*

#### *Flood Risk*

*A major concern must be that this development falls within a flood risk area which should not normally be used for housing. Development in this area also increases the risk of flooding for other residents. In addition, given the increasing frequency of extreme and wetter weather events there must be concerns as to whether the sewer capacity will be able to cope. According to the environment agency the middle stretch of the River Wylde from Warminster to Stapleford is graded Moderate rather than Good for water quality. In its assessment of the river quality the Environment Agency notes that sewage discharge from the “water industry” is the main cause of both Phosphorous in the water and Phytobenthos. The only sewage plant discharging into the water in this stretch of the river is the Warminster plant. We note that Wessex Water recently completed work to mitigate these discharges but it remains a concern that still further development will stretch the ability of even this improvement to improve the water quality for residents of Warminster.*

#### *Loss of farmland*

*This is a greenfield site – it is agricultural land which has been farmed for centuries. This development will take out three productive fields which of late have been used to farm wheat. This is part of a disturbing, long term trend whereby good quality productive farmland is replaced by housing at a time when food security is increasingly becoming an issue. Planning policy NPPF 77 requires that in such circumstances it must be considered if the houses to be built will meet a LOCAL need i.e. if these houses are not required for local people they should not be built and any such building should be predominantly affordable housing. Housing requirements for Warminster fall far short of 205 houses. Local need for housing is only in the region of 60 houses. Significant tracts of agricultural land are already being developed at various other sites in the county and this development represents a further loss. It is unlikely to meet local needs as the Affordable Housing element is likely to be beyond the reach of those in the area in housing need. In addition, there are ample brownfield sites within the town itself to meet the requirement for additional homes.*

#### *Alternative sites*

*We are aware that any council that cannot show a 5 years land supply must, in considering a planning application, place less importance on the Local Plan for the County and the Neighbourhood Plan. However, in updating the local plan at the start of 2021, Wiltshire Council called for sites in Warminster which land-owners wished to offer as having potential for development. 9 sites in all were submitted and these sites were assessed for suitability under a range of planning criteria. The site that is the subject of this planning*

application was given the worst assessment, in terms of suitability for development, of all the sites presented. (Source: Wiltshire Local Plan – Site selection for Warminster January 2021). The requirement for houses to meet the shortfall in the 5 years land supply could be met by using brownfield sites although we do appreciate that these are less profitable for the developers.

This development sets a dangerous precedent for further expansion threatening the integrity and identity of the village of Upton Scudamore with the importance of visual separation between Warminster and Upton Scudamore being included in the Wiltshire Local Plan 2020. It is overdevelopment both in terms of line of sight to Upton Scudamore and its place in the wider landscape although we do note steps will be taken to mitigate its impact with regard to the village of Upton Scudamore. It is also out of character with the area which is much less densely populated and it will have a significant impact on the local landscape. In addition, the street lighting required for a development of this size will add a significant amount of light pollution in an area which currently has relatively dark skies and it should be noted that Warminster is on the edge of the Cranbourne Chase AONB International Dark Sky Reserve and in close proximity to Salisbury Plain.

#### Planning decisions for noting.

<b>Reference:</b>	<a href="#">PL/2025/07687</a> - Full planning permission
<b>Site Location:</b>	THE OLD RECTORY, UPTON SCUDAMORE, WARMINSTER, BA12 0AH
<b>Proposal:</b>	Creation of a private track within the curilage of the Old Rectory. The purpose of the track is to allow transport of biomass pellets from the store to the plant room. The store is located in the lower field, the plant room is behind the Old Rectory. The track will have a total area of 440 square metres and will pass through the field on the eastern side of the property.
<b>Applicant Name:</b>	Mr & Mrs Whitewood
<b>Officer Name:</b>	David Cox
<b>Decision Date:</b>	30 October 2025
<b>Decision:</b>	Withdrawn by Applicant

#### **25/79 Accounts for Payment LGA 1972 s150 (5)**

**Resolved:** Council resolved to ratify the payments as listed, the Clerk made the payments via Online Banking. Two signatories checked and signed the invoices.

#### **Payments for ratification**

Employment costs (November)	£233.44
Employment costs (December)	£233.44
Wiltshire Council (Election Costs)	£280.00
Wessex Rural Crafts (Tree Survey)	£1008.00
R Hathaway-White (reimbursement for RBL Donation)	£25.00

#### **25/80 Approval and signing-off of Parish Accounts for month ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.**

As previously circulated, along with year to date spend against budget for the month ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026. The clerk reported Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026:-

Current account	£ 200.53
Savings account	<u>£ 5281.69</u>
	<b>£ 5482.22</b>

**Resolved:** Councillors resolved to approve the accounts. The Clerk and Chair signed the accounts.

Councillors have reviewed the Parish Council financial transactions from November 2025 - January 2026 and found them to be accurate, the Chairman signed the bank statements.

**25/81 Licence Application – Racquet Garden, Thoulston Park.** The Licensing Authority have received the attached application from Racquet Garden Ltd for a new premises licence at Racquet garden, Thoulston Park. **Resolved:** Cllrs had no objections to the application.

**25/82 Website. Resolved:** Cllrs have all discussed and resolved to instruct My Parish Council to develop a new website template which will be populated by the Clerk and Cllrs. Costs will be £156 for hosting and £30 for the domain making a total of £186 excluding VAT for the year. Clerk to action as soon as possible as we are currently without a website.

**25/83 Best Kept Village Competition. Resolved:** Cllrs resolved not to enter the Best Kept Village Competition.

**25/84 Cycle Paths.** Cllr Parkes has made enquiries on behalf of Upton Scudamore about getting a cycle path to Warminster so residents walk/cycle safely and received the following reply;

*‘Thanks for your email. I will defer this to colleagues to provide a full answer about the allocation of our recent government funding.*

*As you will be aware funding is usually allocated where there is a known need, and it is viewed as a good use of public money. The problem with most rural routes is that user numbers are generally low when compared to urban or semi-urban areas and this doesn’t represent a good use of funds, which is why the Warminster Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plans (LCWIPs) are centred around the towns where we know there is a much greater opportunity to encourage active travel. For this reason, it is unlikely that the route from Upton Scudamore will be funded, however I will seek explanation a little more about how we allocate government funding for active travel schemes.*

*In terms of an update about the LCWIP, as you know we went through a formal consultation process when developing the LCWIP and received many responses which helped shape the document and priority routes for delivery. Following stakeholder and public engagement the draft document is now with the Cabinet Member for him to approve before we can formally publish.’*

**25/85 Annual Inspection of Assets. Resolved;** Councillors deferred. Clerk to add to next agenda.

**25/86 Annual Parish Meeting of the Electorate. Resolved;** Cllrs resolved to invite all community organisations to give a presentation/update at the APM and the format will run as in previous years with the APM held before the Parish Council Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. Clerk to invite all organisations to attend.

**25/87 Meeting dates for municipal year 2026/2027. Resolved;** Cllrs agreed to the following meeting dates for the next municipal year. 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2026, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2026 and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2027.

**25/88 Update on Items from previous meetings to include:-**

- i) **Finger Post Directional Sign and Village Name Signs** – Clerk to chase.
- ii) **Parish Steward** – The Parish Steward has been on hold for the last three visits as they have been allocated to repairing potholes.
- iii) **LHFIG** – Highways have looked at the issue of parking on the corner but there is nothing they can do to make it safer. Still awaiting on the metro count.
- iv) **Resilience Initiative** – Recommended by Cllr Parkes, Clerk will get in touch to find out more. All Cllrs were asked to have a look to see what items they feel would be useful to include if we were to have one done.

**25/89 Update from Meetings;** None

**25/90 Partnership Meetings to consider attending:-**

- i) **Warminster Area Board** – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- ii) **Warminster LHFIFG** – TBC
- iii) **Planning Town and Parish Council Forum** – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026, County Hall Trowbridge

**25/91 Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 7.00pm at St Mary’s Church.

Approved by the Council as a true record.

Signed ..... Dated .....

The minutes of this meeting will be available to all members of the public from the village website <http://uptonscudamore.org.uk> or by contacting the Parish Clerk.

DRAFT