

UPLOWMAN PARISH COUNCIL

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Sun 15 Jan 23

All Parish Councillors

Dear Councillors,

UPLOWMAN PARISH COUNCIL - NOTICE OF MEETING THURSDAY 19th January 2023, at 7.30pm IN UPLOWMAN VILLAGE HALL

The next meeting of this Council will be on **THURSDAY 19th January 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, UPLOWMAN**, starting at 7.30pm.

The main business at this meeting will be to confirm the provisional Precept requirement that we discussed in November.

UPC will have an election next May. If this is uncontested (ie there are no more than 7 candidates) then the cost will probably be about £150. I have allowed £200. If it is contested then the cost is likely to be over £1000, which can be covered from our reserves. Please note that if you wish to stand in the election then you will need to obtain the papers from Mid Devon, complete them and return them to Mid Devon by the closing date, which will probably be shortly after the time of our next meeting in March.

We generally make small donations to local charities: CHAT, Citizens Advice, Mid Devon Mobility (for Ring & Ride), and Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday. Apart from the latter, which was paid last time, I have scheduled payments of £25 to each to be made this time, along with our annual £350 support for Uplowman's functioning graveyard at the church.

I attach a list of updates and proposals for decision, which I hope will be useful. The proposal for a children's activity area in the recreation field will be discussed with the UHRA on Wednesday and an update following those discussions will be presented at the PC meeting. UPC may have to decide whether it will support the project by acting as 'banker', because UPC can recover the VAT on projects like this.

I have confirmed with Lynne the following dates for 2023: 16th March, 18th May, 20th July, 21st Sept, and 16th November (all Thursdays).

Yours sincerely,

Robert

Robert Hodgson (Clerk to Uplowman Parish Council)

UPLOWMAN PARISH COUNCIL
AGENDA FOR MEETING on THURSDAY 19th January 2023
To be held in Uplowman Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm

The meeting will start with an open session, when parishioners may raise matters of concern.

1. Attendance & Apologies for absence:
2. Reports from DCC and MDDC.
3. Minutes of last meeting (17th November 2022).
4. Matters arising from Minutes of previous meetings not covered elsewhere.
5. Finance and procedures

5.1 Current position :

Bank balance at last meeting :		£7,039.05
Income since last meeting		£0.00
Expenditure authorised on 17 Nov 2022:		£1,678.56
Current balance:		£5,360.49

5.2 Payments for approval:

Uplowman PCC, maintenance of functioning churchyard (£350.00)
 Citizens Advice TNMWD (£25.00)
 Mid Devon Mobility (£25.00)
 Church Housing Action Team, CHAT (£25.00)
 N Branton, reimburse for Christmas tree (£30.49)

- 5.3 Agree budget and Precept requirement (proposed £3500) for 2023-4.
- 5.4 Agree to continue membership of DALC (cost ca £90 pa)
- 5.5 Possible changes to audit arrangements for year end 2023

6. Planning

- 6.1 22/00753/Full, Land at Stonebridge, replace shed with 2 dwellings, UPC objected, Awaiting decision.
- 6.2 22/01345/FULL: Chamberlains, relocate equestrian building. UPC no object, decision awaited
- 6.3 22/1918/F: Hill Farm: Agricultural storage building: UPC no object, Approved by MDDC
- 6.4 22/02325/F, Hill Farm, erect ag workers cottage. UPC no object, decision awaited
- 6.5 22/02374/MFUL: PV farm at Dean Hill Rd, Willand, outside parish, for comment if any

7. Community Projects and matters.

- 7.1 Village signs update.
- 7.2 Christmas tree planted on Green
- 7.3 Grass maintenance arrangements – confirm for 2023
- 7.4 Broadband update – implementation delayed by a year to Autumn 2024
- 7.5 Play Area update and proposals for support
- 7.6 Any plans for Coronation (6th May)?

8. Environment & Healthy living

- 8.1 Reducing Uplowman's carbon footprint update

9. Correspondence (See attached list plus any correspondence received after this notice)

- 9.1 Environment, SWW, etc:
- 9.2 Local Plans and Surveys.
- 9.3 General Correspondence
- 9.4 Village projects

10. Hall & Recreation Association Report

11. Emergency Planning & Neighbourhood Watch

- 11.1 Update on emergency planning

12. Parish Roads/Paths.

- 12.1 Whitnage lane update and any other road matters

13. Date of next meeting (Thursday 16th March 2023).

CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING (17 Nov 2022)

5. Finances

Ser No	Date received	From/to	Subject	Date replied/sent
989	01/12/22	SAA Ltd	Smaller Authorities Audit arrangements for next 5 years	
990	14/12/22	MDDC	No referendum limit on PC precept increases this year	
881	22/12/22	Cllr Branton	Receipt for Christmas Tree (£30.49)	
882	11/01/23	Nat West	Statement, bal=£5360.49	

6. PLANNING & LICENSING

Ser No	Date received	From/to	Subject	Date replied/sent
966	18/11/22	MDDC	22/01918/F, Hill Fm Ag shed, approved	
967	07/12/22	MDDC	22/02325/F, Hill Farm, erect ag workers cottage	09/01/23
988	05/01/23	MDDC	22/02374/MFUL: PV farm at Dean Hill Rd, Willand	

7.1 ENVIRONMENT, including Sewerage, Recycling, Roads & rivers, Healthy living

Ser No	Date received	From/to	Subject	Date replied/sent
388			None this time	

7.2 LOCAL PLANS & SURVEYS, including HRA

Ser No	Date received	From/to	Subject	Date replied/sent
333			None this time	

7.3 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Ser No	Date received	From/to	Subject	Date replied/sent
1709	29/11/22	MDDC	Update details for website hosting	29/11/22
1710	05/12/22	MDDC	Slurry infrastructure grants to reduce pollution	
1711	13/12/22	MDDC	Updated electoral register	
1712	29/12/22	C&CD	Clerks & Councils Direct magazine/adverts for mugs	

7.5 Village projects.

Ser No	Date received	From/to	Subject	Date replied/sent
354	11/01/23	S Lewis	Various comms regarding proposed children's activity area	

Plus about 390 incoming emails.

UPDATES AND DECISIONS NEEDED

Item 5.5, Internal Auditor: Richard Clark plans to move from Uplowman. For many years he has acted pro-bono as UPC's internal auditor. Richard has done sterling service in this role but, when his link with Uplowman is severed, he may not wish to continue. Could councillors please consider alternative auditors who might replace Richard in this event?

Item 7.1: Village signs

Update from Cllr Branton.

Item 7.2: Christmas tree

Cllr Branton bought a Christmas tree and provided lights, which brightened up the Green over the Christmas break. The Christmas tree was planted by Cllr Adcock and should provide joy for many years!

Item 7.3: Grass maintenance

Currently a joint venture between Paul & John. Is the PC happy for this to continue?

Item 7.4: Broadband Update

Info received from Airband in Dec:

All of the network across the whole of the Devon and Somerset project have been revised. Due to many unforeseen issues in some of the other clusters, the original timeframes were unachievable, and CDS and ourselves had to be realistic about this and over the last 4 months, from a senior management perspective, have looked at all of the individual build clusters in fine detail to ensure that the whole project will be deliverable within the Governments timeframe.

Some of the original clusters built, towards the north and west of Devon, were not done so at the required level of scrutiny. This was recognised and a new Project Management team were brought in to identify these issues and then plan, redesign in some areas, and identify the rectification works required. The one original team were replaced with two complete teams to ensure an absolute focus on getting this momentum pushed forward and now work at speed to bring these up to the required standard. This also included, bringing in new build partners to replace the old ones who had originally done the poor work.

This has also had a major knock on to the other areas and clusters within these, i.e. If cannot connect point A to point B, then point C, D, E etc cannot being connected either.) Effectively pushing build start and completion dates back.

Within your cluster DFE02, due to its position and sheer size, my understanding is that it is approximately 16 months build time, and also requires some of the other clusters built to be able to connect from. The original date of Summer 2023 has, therefore, now been pushed back to end Summer 2024.

Item 7.5: Play area, for info.

Will be discussed at UHRA meeting on Wednesday. More details to be provided at the UPC meeting. UPC may be asked to act as 'banker' for submission of grant applications and payment of contractors to enable recovery of VAT. Expected cost is £7k to £10k so VAT of up to £2k may need to be temporarily covered from UPC funds.

Item 7.6 Coronation

Does UPC wish to mark the coronation of King Charles III with street party, distribution of mugs, etc?

UPC: Actual Annual Expenditure 2021-23 (to nearest £) and Budget 2023-24

Figures for current year are estimated						
Item	2021 to 2022		2022 to 2023		2023 to 2024	
	Act	ual	Esti	mate	Bud	get
Precept	3200		3300		3500	
Grants and other income	5508		40			
HM Customs, VAT rebate	1569					
From reserves			341		152	
Clerks' Salary		1400		1450		1500
Clerk's expenses / admin		110		60		60
Chairman's/other's expenses						
Hall Hire for regular meetings		221		90		90
Admin (m'rmojo, Zoom, training)		291		75		75
Insurance		182		182		190
Commun Projects ++		9795		350		
Parish Social		889		200		250
Devon Ass of P Cs sub+		81		84		87
Grass cutting/wasps		484		740		750
Election (next due May 2023)		0		0		200
Churchyard support		350		350		350
Support local charities		105		100		100
TOTAL	10277	13908	3681	3681	3652	3652

+ DAPC subscription was deducted at source since 2000-2001. These figs adjusted as if it were not.

++ Community projects exp in 2021-22 include paint bus shelter (£995), DAAT light (£7526), and no parking signs (£33)

Current year is estimated. There is now no charge for Annual Audit.

NOTE : A PRECEPT OF £1000 IS EQUIVALENT TO A COUNCIL TAX OF £6.28 ON A BAND 'D' PROPERTY IN UPLOWMAN.

This estimate predicts cash in hand at year-end March 2023 to be £4036 (115% of planned reserves, including no designated funds). This budget reduces year end balance at March 2024 to 111% of planned reserves.