

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Adam Biscoe.

Email: clerk@uleyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Minutes of the Uley Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2025, commencing at 7pm. The meeting was held in the Uley Village Hall, The Street, Uley.

PRESENT: Councillors: Cllr Melanie Paraskeva (Chair), Cllr Tony Mills, Cllr Geoff Keen, Cllr Juliet Browne (Vice Chair), Cllr Jo Dee.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr Martin Percy, Footpath Officer Bill Bramley and approximately 10 members of the public.

Cllr. Juliet Browne (Vice-Chair) took the Chair until Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva (Chair) arrived.

1. **To receive any apologies for absence.**
Cllr. Tracy Mason-Fayle.
2. **To receive any declarations of Interest.**
None
3. **To receive any representation from members of the public. (This is the only opportunity for members of the public to speak at this meeting)**
 - a. A resident of Woodstock Terrace, on behalf of a group of residents, outlines residents' concerns about the proposed development at 10a Woodstock Terrace, Uley. They were concerned about the loss of a tree in the garden; the design was not in-keeping with other houses in the area and the proposed materials were different to those of other buildings nearby; only one house had received a consultation letter and a Statutory Site Notice had not been put-up. The Council's considered response is at Item 14 below.

Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva took the Chair.

- b. A resident welcomed the decision of the April meeting to initiate a pre-meeting on planning applications, but wanted to know if the meetings would be open to all members of the public or just those 'members of the public who have a planning application that is due to be considered'. The Council requested the Clerk to review the arrangements for the pre-meeting planning discussions. **ACTION:** Clerk to review the arrangements for the pre-meeting planning discussions.
4. **To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the previous Council meeting held 10th April 2025.**
 - a) Cllr. Jo Dee requested that 16d be amended to the Pavillion Committee (from the Millenium Committee) of the Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 10th April 2025. The Minutes were then unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.
 - b) The Minutes of the UPC Annual General Meeting held on 10th April 2025 were amended to include Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva as one of the Newsletter Proofreaders at Item 7. The Minutes were then unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, including progress with outstanding actions not included on the agenda.**

Actions outstanding from Meeting on 10th April 2025

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Date of Meeting and agenda item No.	What	Who	When	7 th May 2025 Update
02/10/2024	The Council to request the views and feedback of local children on the playground via the VN.	Cllr Tracy Mason-Fayle	Spring 2025	WiP
03/25. 7ai	Flood Warden to draft letters to three landowners whose run-off is contributing to local flooding and to Owlpen Chair as one site is in Owlpen.	Clerk	12 th March 2025	The letters have now been sent, but there have been no responses received. No responses received. It was agreed that this Action should be marked as Complete and moved as a standing item under flooding.
03/25. 11b	Cllr Melanie Paraskeva to check with previous clerk if ROSPA need to be asked or if they just inspect as a matter of routine.	Cllr Melanie Paraskeva	2 nd April 2025	It was confirmed that ROSPA automatically inspect. Report not received by time of UPC meeting. Clerk to chase. WiP
03/25 16d	Prepare a future Village News article on planning application process.	Cllr. Juliet Browne	4 th April 2025	WiP
04/25 3a.	Clerk to contact Gary Wilson (GCC Local Highways Manager (Stroud – South) (copying in Owlpen Parish Council) to review the siting of road traffic warning signs on approach to Fiery Lane.	Clerk	15 th April 2025	Gary Wilson (GCC Local Highways Manager (Stroud – South) stated that both signs were in appropriate position and had no plans to move them. It was noted that the bench was not owned by UPC. The Council resolved to close this action. Complete

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04/25 6e.	Clerk to chase GRCC Housing Needs Survey Update	Clerk	15 th April 2025	The Chair read out the email from GRCC. It was agreed that this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. WiP
04/25 8b.	Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva to get details from a former councillor for a BT contact in case of any future problems on their site.	Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva	1 st May 2025	Email address from Tim. Chair to send a test. Complete
04/25 9.	Clerk to ask David Lungley to post Grant Policy and Application Form to the website.	Clerk	8 th April 2025	Complete
04/25 12a.	Cllr. Sean Sage to contact Rob Key and ask that work be undertaken week commencing 28 th April 2025.	Cllr. Sean Sage	8 th April 2025	Complete
04/25 12c.	Cllr. Sean Sage to coordinate purchase and fitting of two replacement toddler swings in the Playground.	Cllr. Sean Sage	1 st May 2025	Cllr. Tony Mills has installed two new toddler swings. Complete
04/25 12c.	Cllr. Sean Sage to ensure replacement of Playground sign.	Cllr. Sean Sage	1 st May 2025	See below. WiP

6. To receive an update from the Chair of Uley Parish Council.

- a) The Knoll: Alison Fisk (SDC Head of Property Services) had emailed to say SDC aim to get to the 6th August UPC meeting with the proposed layout for the site and information from the surveys, prior to a report going back to Housing Committee in September, prior to publication of the Committee report (publication deadline 1st September 2025). SDC expects to be ready to submit a planning application after Housing Committee so will have more information than previously. There's no date yet for Development Control Committee as SDC needs to see what happens at Housing Committee (9th September 2025) before submitting a planning application. **ACTION:** Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva to invite Alison Fisk (SDC) to 6th August and 3rd September 2025 UPC Meetings.
- b) There had been no update re the Vicarage, we are still waiting on highways response to Diocese.
- c) Noted the excellent event for the VE Celebrations and wanted to congratulate all those involved.

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In lieu of a Clerks Report this month, the Clerk informed the Council that he had initiated the Internal Audit with the help of Cllr. Tony Mills, applied to update contact details with the Information Commissioner's Office and registered for an initial training webinar with CiLCA on 2nd July 2025.

7. To receive any update from County & District Councillors.

- a) Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva noted that former Cllr. Wendy Thomas (GCCC) had thanked the Council for her gift and send-off. Wendy Thomas promised to offer a hand-over to the newly elected Green Councillor, Richard Dean. **ACTION:** Clerk to make contact with Cllr. Richard Dean and invite him to future UPC Meetings.
- b) Cllr. Martin Pearcey's Written report is at Appendix A. He added that the proposed cycle route from Cam & Dursley station to Uley had received sufficient financial pledges (including £5k from former Cllr. Wendy Thomas' Build Back Better funding) to fund the full survey. The project had been renamed the Pederson Way in recognition of the role of Mikael Pedersen, a Dursley resident, in the development of bicycles.

8. Flooding.

- a) It was noted that no responses had been received to the letters recently sent to landowners requesting action to prevent flooding. Cllr. Juliet Browne will keep a watching brief.
- b) Cllr. Melanie Parakeva will test out the BT email address to report flooding issues at their local site.

9. GATPC Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Survey (See <https://gaptc.org.uk/devolution-lgr>)

- a) Councillors individually agreed to complete the GATPC Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Survey.

10. To receive an update on highway and footpath matters.

Footpath Officer Bill Bramley reported:

- a) The Cotswold Way Footpath above the Washpool has been repaired and hopefully the damaged tarmac will survive a couple of more seasons.
- b) He had reported a fallen tree above Cockadilly to Fixmystreet and this had been cleared.
- c) The fallen tree between Shadwell and A4135 had yet to be cleared and he would contact landowner again.
- d) Footpath between Uley Road to Shadwell Road had been cut unnecessarily. **ACTION:** Clerk to check list of maintenance works.

11. Playground matters.

- a) Recent Playground works had been completed to a high standard. **ACTION:** Cllr. Sean Sage to contact contractor to request an invoice.
- b) Marion Mills has proposed buying a box for the blocks, funded by a UPC grant. The Council suggested that the blocks should be collected in Autumn and stored off-site for the winter. This would mean that it was not necessary to purchase an outdoor storage box, which the Council thought may create more problems than it solved.
- c) No suitable ready-made signs had been identified. Cllr. Sean Sage to do more research to identify appropriate signage reminding parents to supervise their young children near the water at all times.

12. To consider the following Planning Applications:

S.25/0635/FUL Land Adjoining 11A Woodstock Terrace, Woodstock Terrace, Uley, Gloucestershire. Erection of a detached self-build dwelling. Response date: 20 May 2025.
<https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=STZHM1PN0FY00&activeTab=summary>
OBJECT

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL

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S.25/0788/HHOLD 20 Shadwell, Uley, Dursley, Gloucestershire. Erection of a single storey side and rear extension, and a first floor rear extension. Response date 28 May 2025.

<https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SV623XPNOFY00&activeTab=summary>. **ACTION:** Clerk to seek an extension to the Response Date from SDC and make a general request for response dates to be sent a few days after the first Wednesday of each month when UPC normally met.

13. To note the following recent Planning Decisions by Stroud District Council:

S.25/0384/HHOLD 10 Lampern View Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5TD. Erection of two storey & single storey rear extension. <https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/onlineapplications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application> **PERMISSION**

S.25/0054/LBC 21 The Street Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5TE. Installation of replacement dormer windows (Revised Plans received). <https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application> **CONSENT**

S.25/0107/HHOLD. 4 Garns Close Uley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5TJ Erection of a two storey and single storey side extension, porch and rear dormers (Resubmission of S.24/1536/HHOLD) **Deadline 06.03.2025**
<https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SQDQLXPNMVJ00&activeTab=summary> **REFUSED**

14. Finance Report:

Summary

Financially a quiet month in April

The cashbook and bank accounts reconciled at the end of the months and the Precept/Reserves available ratio stands at 11.7 months.

Precept Budget

We received the expected 50% of the Precept payment, paid the Clerk his salary and Unity Bank a regular service charge.

At this stage there is nothing really to note regarding year to date spend or trends.

General Reserves Budget

The approved Ear Marked reserves have been incorporated into the Financial Report. There was no Earmarked or Non-Earmarked reserve spend in April.

Looking forward

This month's Payments for Approval list includes the approved Grant Payments.

We have been working with the Internal Auditor and have had a preliminary response back which needs to be reviewed.

- a) The Council **APPROVED** the 2024-25 Annual Governance Statement so that it could be submitted to the Internal Auditor and this was duly signed by the Chair.
- b) Cllr. Sean Sage confirmed that he was now able to access Unity Bank accounts.
- c) Additional payments of £375.32 for the annual subscription to GAPTC and £52 for the annual registration fee to the Information Commissioner's Office were approved.

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d) With the demise of the Uley Toddler's group, it was **AGREED** to delete the £200 grant to the group.

15. To receive any reports from PC Representatives.

- a) Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva reported back from a PREMA Trustees meeting that the organisation was to close for August for their annual break, and so that the only full-time member of staff could get a proper break. SDC has withdrawn funding of £5k annually, while the Arts Council funding has been extended for another year. Prema is looking to do more outreach work and secure other funding sources.
- b) Cllr. Jo Dee noted that the VE Day celebrations were very well attended. It is not clear yet how much money was raised. It was also noted that the Millenium Committee will need to elect a new chair at its next meeting. Will be electing a new Chair. Very well attended – not clear how much money was raised. The Council applauded the efforts of those who organised the day.
- c) Cllr. Jo Dee had been in communication with the local Police Community Support Officer who was willing to come and talk to the Council about her work. **ACTION:** Cllr. Jo Dee to invite PCSO to July UPC Meeting.

16. To consider articles for the Website and Newsletter and confirm the date of the next meeting (Wednesday 4th June 2025), the Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting.

- a) Grant forms are now on website.
- b) Annual Meeting – 15th May 2025. It was **AGREED** each councillor would bring some nibbles to the meeting.

Actions resulting from 7th May 2025 meeting.

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04/25 11c	Cllr. Sean Sage to contact contractor to request an invoice.	Cllr. Sean Sage	1 st June 2025
05/25 3b.	Clerk to review the arrangements for the pre-meeting planning discussions.	The Clerk	1 st June 2025
05/25 6a.	Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva to invited Alison Fisk (SDC) to 6 th August and 3 rd September 2025 UPC Meetings.	Cllr. Melanie Paraskeva	15 th May 2025
05/25 7a.	Clerk to make contact with Cllr. Richard Dean and invite him to future UPC Meetings.	The Clerk	8 th May 2025
05/25 10d.	Clerk to check list of maintenance works.	The Clerk	11 th May 2025
05/25 12.	Clerk to seek an extension to the Response Date from SDC and make a general request for response dates to be sent a few days after the first Wednesday of each month when UPC normally met.	The Clerk	8 th May 2025
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Uley Parish Council is opposed to discrimination in any form and at all levels and is committed to take all steps within its power to counteract it. We wish to create an environment where all forms of discriminatory or oppressive behaviour unacceptable and to provide community leadership in promoting tolerance, understanding and respect. Please note that this meeting may be recorded / TCA.

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Appendix A

District Councillor Report – May 25 (April activity)

Council meetings

Council 10th April

- Ubico business plan agreed which includes a commitment to deliver our programme of activities to reduce our environmental impact, and replace vehicles with more EV ones, and deliver changes to Employee terms and conditions package to retain staff and improve recruitment success.
- Agreed Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging Policy 2025-2029 and annual Action Plan after extensive consultation to support those in the workforce.

Audit & Standards Committee 1st April

- Agreed New internal charter and Internal Audit strategy for 2025/26.
- Agreed first half year audit plan with audits on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Leisure centre performance, Housing, and HR included in those proposed.
- Positively the number of open audit actions had been reduced.

Development Control – 4th March

- Granted permission to amend traffic plan for solar farm installation at Moreton Valance.
- Supported officer advice in proceeding with removal of mobile home in Coaley, but with extended 9 month's notice.

Other news

- The public will be asked for their opinion on the unitary authority proposals between May and Nov. 2025. However, the final decision will be made by the government.
- Stroud District Council's Planning Strategy service commissioned local artist Isabella Fay to create the posters which aim to encourage visitors to travel to the district by train and inspire locals to discover new places. Running through April and May, the campaign showcases highlights of the Stroud district, including Stroud Farmers' Market, the Stroudwater Navigation Canal, and the expansive commons.
- The council await his majesty's Inspectorate report on their refection reasons of its Local Plan.
- Lifecycle will deliver and install up to five Sheffield stands free of charge from Stroud funding. The subsidy is open to small organisations who may not have a budget for cycle parking, for example: Small, local businesses such as independent shops, pubs, and dental surgeries. Voluntary sector and community organisations such as charities or places of worship.
- The Old Town Hall, a Grade II* Listed two storey office building in Stroud town centre is currently being marketing on a long lease.