

UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for Parish Council Meeting held on

Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Upton.

Present: Councillors: Malcolm Yates (MY/Chair), Roger Norman (RN) Sarah Quick (SQ)

In Attendance: R Holloway (Clerk) and 17 members of the public.

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS
78/26	To receive representation from the public (10 minutes): The Chairman opened the meeting “Welcome all. “Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to the late Councillor Roger Jackson having lost his long battle with cancer. Roger was a great help to the Parish Council and a long-time supporter of this village. Our thoughts are with his family” The Chairman then went on to make a further statement which outlined the history of the pathway between Church walk and the Church, this is contained in appendix a to the minutes of the meeting. Residents were then invited to make comments and ask questions of the Council. Feelings were clearly running high and questions were asked about re-using the Yorke stone, costs, Heritage aspects of the path, what would happen to the stones, couldn’t the PC just put a notice up to warn of uneven pathway, lack of residents input and consultation. There were concerns raised about misinformation on some social media posts and these were corrected. The Chairman then re-iterated that this had been on the agenda since February and minuted each time. The decision to use Breedon stone was carefully considered and had been agreed by the PC and the reasons were outlined in the June Minutes which were available of the Parish Councils website. He outlined that consideration could be given to using the Yorke Stone elsewhere in the Village and RN and MT would liaise to consider suitable options. Collies Volunteer group outlined the work done in the garden during August, noting how dry it had been and that this had had an impact on the condition of the beds and trees. Grass cutting had restarted. He then outlined a possible free hedge laying workshop that is being offered by a resident in the village, and this would be explored in more detail if the PC agreed. This was agreed by the PC.
79/26	To receive and accept apologies for absence: Cllr. Robinson
80/26	Declarations of interest: none
81/26	To approve the Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on the 24 th of June 2026 was agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting and signed off by the Chairman
82/26	To note Matters Arising: none
83/26	To receive the Chairman's report: The Chairman commented that Councillors do their best and it should be remembered that they are all volunteers and they try to do things for the good of the village.
84/26	Reports from District/County Councillors: Cllr Melton outlined that there was an agenda item on NSDC cabinet that would hopefully mean some funds would be available if Villages wished to carry out a new

	neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman asked him if there was an update on Holme Farm, Cllr. Melton said he did not know the current status and asked that the Clerk contacted NSDC for an update and to copy him into the e-mail, with reference to the pathway he suggested that the Heritage team at NSDC may be able to help with projects in the future.
85/26	To Receive updates on the Green Spaces/burial ground, and rights of way. a. CVG: as outlined above Michael had sent a written copy of the months report to Councillors and had some printed ones, it also goes on the website, so residents know what's been done over the month. b. To receive report on footpaths/dog bins: RN noted that the dog bins needed emptying and he would organise that with NSDC, footpaths were OK c. To receive Playground update: as noted by MY all checked, weeding and strimming had been done and moss cleared off, the annual play inspection would be done shortly by NSDC. d. To receive an update on the footpath from Church Walk to the Churchyard: Work had started on the footpath and would take around two weeks to finish. e. To note any items for the Lengthsman scheme: RN had sent this month's activities to the Clerk f. Christmas Lunch: It was noted that this had been agreed again and would be held on 29th November at 1pm for around 50 people
86/26	To note the Village Hall update: a. Finance: The Bank reconciliation to 31st August for the Village Hall was presented and signed off by the Chairman. b. Maintenance and caretaking: The light in the gent's toilet had been reported as not working, MY had an Electrician look at this and it was a small job of replacing the sensor and fitting a new bulb. c. To receive an update on the Village Hall refurbishments: Decorating will be done and consideration around new curtains, the roof was all ok during the recent deluges of rain.
87/26	Financial Matters: a. To accept the latest financial reconciliation as of 31st August 2026: The Parish Council Bank reconciliation was agreed and signed off by the Chairman b. To note payments received and authorise invoices for payment: The invoices for payment were £570.97, there were noted by the PC and signed off by two Councillors c. To note and agree the new national pay scales for April 2026-2027 backdated to 1st April. It was noted that this was a Government pay award and was for noting by the PC. noted
88/26	Planning matters: None
89/26	To receive highways update: none
90/26	To receive the community defibrillators monthly report: a) To agree the cost of replacement batteries- quotes attached. All Ok Clerk outlined quotes for replacement batteries, and it was agreed to order at the best price.
91/26	To note and action service faults: none
92/26	Lottery draw for September 2026: 1) £50.00- no 113. 2) £25.00- no246 3) £10.00 – no 19 4) £5.00- no 254
93/26	Correspondence received:

	a) E-mail re the winter grit requirements. It was agreed that the 5 free bags would be sufficient, clerk to organise b) E-mail re the play park. Noted and actioned above c) Footpath closure notice: noted and displayed d) Notification of a headstone application: noted
94/26	Agenda items for next meeting: Tonic printing and next steps
95/26	Any other business: none
96/26	Date of next meeting: The date for the next meeting will be 21 st October 2026
97/26	Close: There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.23

Signed

Chairman

Date.....

Appendix a

Statement by the Chairman Malcolm yates

Welcome all

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to the late Councillor Roger Jackson having lost his long battle with cancer. Roger was a great help to the Parish Council and a long-time supporter of this village. Our thoughts are with his family.

Now on to the footpath, a bit of history that may answer some questions you may have

Firstly, over the latter half of last year, there were numerous complaints about the dangerous state of repair of the footpath. It was first raised on the agenda of the February 2026 meeting. Following that meeting I contacted Notts CC to enquire what could be done, only to be hit with 'not our problem and there is no money even if it was our problem'

So, PC started making enquiries to find a solution that would be long lasting and compliant with health and Safety rulings, this issue was raised at following meetings and at the April meeting was decided to discuss it at the Open Parish Meeting to be held in May. At that meeting the issue was discussed at length and, of the numerous villagers present, only 2 raised possible objections to the work. Also, at that meeting the Chief Planner officer for NSDC, Mr Oliver Scott was present. Mr Scott was, and still is, supportive of the use of Breedon Gravel as an excellent material for such works. Quotes were acquired from local trade's people. During this process we enquired about replacing the York Stone but found that this would be around 2.5 -3 x the cost. Breedon Gravel is used extensively by the National Trust, English Heritage & numerous stately homes and is also the product of choice for the path in the Collies Garden, as it is durable and complicit with the use of wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs. During the June meeting, the PC decided to proceed with the Breedon Gravel and finalise quotes with trades people.

Before works could commence, the materials and specification were approved by Newark & SDC and Notts CC.

During the August meeting we appointed Southwell Landscapes to do the work and applied to Notts CC for a closure notice, bearing in mind that winter months are coming and time for the works is running out.

As part of the project the contractor is also going to replace the broken gatepost at Church Walk end, tidy up the fence alongside the path and make good the first 2-3 metres of path into the church, using the existing material. We are hoping to negotiate with Parochial CC to sort out their path through the church yard in the near future.

We have explored ways of funding, and we are grateful for £500 that was received from Councillor R Jackson, an offer of £500 from The Upton Fete Committee and an offer of £1500 from The Collies Charity. Notts CC were approached but no money is available however the fee for the closure notice was waived.