

UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 12 March 2026 at Upleadon Village Hall at 8.20 pm.

Present: Cllr M Manning (Chairman), Cllr H Dunn (Deputy Chairman), Cllr Mrs W Fabian, Cllr P Dallow, Cllr T Rickard, Cllr Mrs P Turner.

Also present: County Cllr Mrs G Moseley

Apologies: District Cllr P Burford

There were no Members of the public present

1. Approval of Minutes of Annual Assembly meeting – 6 March 2025

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting of 6 March 2025 were approved after the following amendment:-

P .1 The Council asked the Forest of Dean District Council to consider extending the Village envelope – SHELAA.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Fabian, seconded by Cllr Dallow and unanimously agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising

3. To receive report from Parish Council Chairman

Cllr Manning gave his report on the year's activities:-

Cllr Manning was re-elected as Chairman for the ensuing year in May 2025. The Parish Council has a total of seven Members, although currently there is a vacancy due to the departure of Cllr Eddie Wood and therefore a Casual Vacancy has been created. If anyone knows of anyone in the Parish (or within three miles of it) who may be interested in being co-opted to the Council, please put them in touch with the Clerk who will be able to give them further information about this role.

The Council undertook its end of year accounts in May of last year. The accounts showed a balance of £2,544.26 at the end of the financial year. Expenditure in that year included Insurance cover, maintenance of its own and that of the Village websites, Information Commissioner fee, Lloyds Bank account fee, Glos Assoc Parish & Town Council fee, subscriptions to the Campaign to Protect Rural Environments and the Royal British Legion, and Clerk's wages.

Whilst the Council has not received any Planning applications for the village this year, it has been consulted on the FoDDC Local Plans team – Towns, Villages – Settlement Facilities Survey and commented on questions in relation to the village of Upleadon. The Council was further consulted on the FoDDC Cabinet approved active travel strategy action plan for the District, which the Council had welcomed and also the Local Plan 2021-2043 Options to deliver Additional Housing requirements.

A new metal noticeboard has been put up in the bus shelter for the Parish Council notices and the old noticeboard, together with the bench have been maintained by a coat of teak oil.

The Council has reported numerous, pothole and drainage issues in the last year to County Highways as well as several instances of fly-tipping to the Forest of Dean District Council. The Council was pleased to see the repairs undertaken to the bridge over the river Leadon which had been long outstanding. The Council had reported a dead tree adjacent to the bridge which initially County Highways had agreed they would fell, but later retracted due to the tree lending itself as suitable for bat roosting. The Council also raised with County Cllr Mrs G Moseley the concern that road closure signage was often left in-situ long after completion of work had been undertaken. Cllr Mrs Moseley agreed this was very inconvenient but in many cases it was a different company to Highways who collected such equipment once the work was completed.

Unfortunately the wall of the bridge has since been broken by vehicle impact and is awaiting repair by County Highways. The long standing barriers from the causeway have now been removed.

The Parish Council this year signed up to internet banking with Lloyds bank and no longer in the main uses cheques by way of payment.

The Parish Council is currently in discussion with a company called Atlas Tower introduced by Gloucestershire County Council who have identified Upleadon as an area that currently has poor mobile phone coverage. Atlas Tower provide phone masts and sell the space to phone companies. Whilst the Parish Council supports this, it is currently requesting the parishioners undertake a short survey on behalf of Atlas Towner on its website to gauge their views on this.

At the time of writing Atlas has received 41 responses from 39 residents, 1 frequent visitor and 1 EH postcode. 29 reported poor reception, 2 no coverage, 7 average and 3 excellent. 28 support a new mast, 9 not sure, 4 no.

Suitable sites yet to be identified.

4. Report from County Cllr Mrs G Moseley

County Councillor Report 2026

Upleadon Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

Summary

Taking Office

After the elections in May 2025, the Liberal Democrats formed a minority administration. Cllr Lisa Spivey was appointed Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, becoming the first woman to hold that office in the council's history.

The administration holds all cabinet positions and governs with informal support from members of the Green and Labour parties.

A four-year corporate strategy was first established with the following priorities:

- Jobs, opportunities and economic growth
- Health and well-being for all residents
- Tackling health inequalities between communities and areas in the county
- Improving rural access to public services and transport

- Building a fairer, more welcoming Gloucestershire

Cabinet Decisions

The Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund - £1.1m over eighteen months.

Connect to Work - an employment support scheme for entry or re-entry to work.

SEND - a further £2.7m committed in the 26/27 budget.

Coombe Hill Development - £46.7m at a council-owned site to provide a new Glos Fire & Rescue service training centre, a new highways depot, a care home and 25 residential homes.

Budget - February '26

Total spending rise of £32.4m to just under £700m. A decision to invest in frontline services rather than manage decline.

An additional £15m committed over three years to improve the quality and safety of Gloucestershire's road network.

A separate £2m over two years to introduce 20mph speed limits where residents want them as well as reducing speed limits and average speed cameras on major roads to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured.

£21.1m will be invested in a new Special School in Gloucester. For children with additional needs to be educated nearer to home.

Three new residential care homes to be built for adult social care - £6.35m.

Savings and efficiencies - the administration has identified £25.7m of savings to help fund the programme. These come from reducing reliance on external consultants, removing duplication across council functions and tackling inefficient work practices rather than cutting frontline services.

Council Tax

For a Band D property, this rises to £1,763.46, an increase of £83.81 (4.99%).

Local Government Re-organisation & Devolution

A programme director has been appointed and will start work in April. A public consultation is live at the moment and runs until March 26th. A government decision on which of the three options will be taken forward is expected at the beginning of July.

The newly appointed 'shadow' authority will begin to take decisions after May 2027.

Cllr Gill Moseley

Newent Division

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at 8.40 pm.

