



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2026 at 7.00pm in
Bartestree Village Hall.

Minutes

Present:

Councillors: Fiona Harris (Chair), Wendy Soilleux, Ron Williams, Siobhan Green, Polly Smith, Benjamin Pardoe, Paul Wargent & Andy Thomas.

In Attendance:

Mr Richard James (Clerk)
2 x Members of the Public.
1 x PCSO

1. To receive apologies.

To Note - Apologies were received from Cllr Jenny Karayiannis & Paul Hodges.

2. To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations.

Cllr F Harris declared an interest in item 6.7.

To Note - The declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations were noted by the Council.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 09.04.26 & 14.05.26.

Resolution - The Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 09.04.26 and they were sign as a true record by the Chair. The Minutes of the meeting 14.05.26 were approved with a couple of typos and then signed by the Chair.

4. Open Session. (Ward Member)

Cllr Ivan Powell gave his apologies but submitted a written report with the following highlights.

School streets

The review is currently progressing through the officer and governance structure and is due to be presented to cabinet in July 2026. At this time, I have no knowledge on the detail of the review report.

A438/Village Hall Entrance Road Improvement Works.

I have asked Director of Environment if there is budget available to repair the road surface either side of the new raised pedestrian crossing.

Having raised via traffic management department Welsh Water attended and dealt with the water leak on the A4238 adjacent to Hagley Orchard in May 2026.

County Level News.

The new public realm contract went live on 1st June 2026, the new provider being M Group.

To Note - All the comments made were noted by the Council.

(Public Session)

Q1. A resident of Whitestone Lane said that she was concerned about traffic using the C1130. The resident highlighted the following concerns.

- ❖ The speed of the traffic.
- ❖ The amount of traffic.
- ❖ The large number of HGVs using the Lane.
- ❖ The safety of walkers using this, Lane.

A1. The Chair explained that this is a regular issue discussed by the Parish Council. The Parish Council have in the past tried to get a weight limit reduction along this lane, to no avail.

It is the intention of the Parish Council to look at the traffic flows and speed limits of all the roads which come out on to the A438.

To Note - All the comments made were noted by the Council.

(Police)

- ❖ The PCSO reported that there had been excessive amounts of Anti-Social Behaviour within the Parish especially around Village Way and Holllylea Close with youths playing knock and run on residents' doors. The Police would very much welcome anyone who has door cam footage.
- ❖ There is a wanted person who is living rough within the Parishes and the police have upped their presents to find this person.
- ❖ The PCSOs now have the ability to do speed checks within the Parishes using handheld guns. They have already been using them within the Parish, and this will now be increasing the speed enforcement within the Parishes to catch the speeders.
- ❖ The Accident where the railings at the Church were destroyed and the driver fled the scene; the Police made an arrest the same evening to find the driver was under the influence of drink.
- ❖ The Speed Watch Group is looking to be rekindled in partnership with Withington Parish Council. There is now a new faster vetting process, which is now done in house within a week.

To Note - All the comments made were noted by the Council.

5. Financial Matters.

5.1 - Finance & Administration Report.

The Clerk presented the report with the following matters highlighted.

- ❖ To look at forming a “Replacement Fund” was discussed to cover the cost of replacing equipment when they reach the end of their working life. This would be put to Council when the budgets are being set for 2027/28.
- ❖ The whole Procurement process was discussed including the New Procurement Act and it was noted that financial penalties could be imposed upon the Council if the correct lawful process was not followed. The working group felt that it ideally needs to take professional advice.
- ❖ The Precept for 2026/27 was greatly reduced due to taking into account the over precept in 2025/26. The Clerk will transfer funds into the saver account, where a small amount of interest is accrued.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

5.2 - Unity Bank Main Statement- May 26- £21,797.68

5.3 - Unity Bank Saver Statement- May 26- £203,107.42

Resolution - The Bank balances were noted by the Council.

5.4 - Budget Monitoring- May 26.

Resolution - The Council approved the Budget Monitoring for May 26.

5.5 - Monthly Bank Reconciliation- May 26.

Resolution - The Council approved the Monthly Bank Reconciliation for May 26.

5.6 - Accumulative Bank Reconciliation- May 26.

Resolution - The Council approved the Accumulative Bank Reconciliation for May 26.

5.7 - Monthly Bank Transactions- May 26

Resolution - The Council approved the Monthly Bank Transactions for May 26.

5.8 - Request for Grant- £200.00- Lugwardine Primary Academy Year 6 Leavers Party

Resolution - The Council decided that on this occasion they could not support this request.

6. Payments.

	Payment	Net	Vat	Total
6.1	Clerk Salary- Tax & NI- June 26	As per Contract		
6.2	RoSPA Play Safety – Annual Inspection	186.00	37.20	223.20
6.3	Lambe Corner Solicitor – 90542	1150.00	230.00	1380.00
6.4	Tompkins Thomas Planning Ltd- CGF	1320.00	264.00	1584.00
6.5	D Squire- 79022	1680.92	336.18	2017.10
6.6	Gallagher Insurance	992.27	0.00	992.27
6.7	Cllr Fiona Harris – Combination Lock	10.83	2.17	13.00
6.8	Andrew Williams - Lengthsman	480.00	0.00	480.00

Resolution - The Council approved all the invoices for payment.

7. Working Group Reports.

7.1- Christopher Gibbon Field.

Cllr S Green said there had been no meeting but highlighted the following.

- ❖ Planning Permission consultation period has now finished with 12 comments, 2 were negative. One by a neighbour and the other by Sports England. Both of which have been showed to be incorrect in their comments.
- ❖ The new charity have started fund raising.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

7.2- Highways & Infrastructure.

Cllr F Harris gave the following verbal report, highlighting the following.

- ❖ The New Traffic Calming works will start in August and should last 3½ weeks.
- ❖ There will be NO Night working.
- ❖ The Traffic management will be controlled by traffic lights, rather than a full roads closure.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

a) More Road Safety Mirrors.

Cllr A Thomas said that he had concerns about traffic pulling out from the side roads onto the main A438 particularly in the following areas and traffic mirrors could resolve these issues.

- ❖ Opposite the Church at the Lumber Lane Junction.
- ❖ The track coming out from Kings Orchard.

To Note - This was noted by the Council, and the Clerk will contact the Herefordshire Council's highways department.

b) Road sign on Longworth Lane North (towards Whitestone).

Cllr R Williams said the road signs on the left-hand side the road going down Whitestone Lane toward Withington need attention the one is too close to the carriageway and has clearly been hit at some point. The other is closer to the Black Hole Road crossroads which is overgrown by hedging.

To Note - This was noted by the Council, and the Clerk will report the one in the carriageway to the Herefordshire Council Highways department and ask the Lengthsman to cut the hedge back covering the sign.

7.3- Environment.

a) General Waste Bins & Signs.

Cllr P Smith said she will supply the Clerk with the location where the bins are required, to ascertain the owner of the land.

The Blister Packs and the Foil collection has now finished, and this news will be put in the next Parish Council magazine.

There was also Japanese Knotweed which needs destroying, Cllr W Soilleux said the landowner is aware of this plant and it will be destroyed at the correct time, to stop regrowth.

To Note - This was noted by the Council.

7.4- Play Areas.

a) Repairs & Proposed New Play Equipment

Cllr W Soilleux reported that some play equipment in the Village Hall Play area needs fixing or replacing. Cllr P Wargent said he had looked at one of the items, the Horse Rocker which he feels could be easily fixed before the Parish Council went ahead and purchased a new replacement.

Some of this equipment was still covered by warranty, but the Parish Council will have to pay for labour and travel.

The cost would either be £1358.00 or 1985.00 both plus VAT.

The Clerk informed the Council that they had a duty of care with this play equipment, and a cheap fix would not be best practice or in the long run, value for money.

Resolution - *The Council agreed a budget up to £3000.00 + vat for this work to be done. Cllr W Soilleux will work with Cllr P Wargent before anything is ordered.*

7.5- Communications.

The Clerk presented the Communications report, highlighting the following.

- ❖ There will be no advertising in the summer edition of the Newsletter.
- ❖ The Draft articles have gone to the printer for design and will come back for approval at the next meeting or via email.
- ❖ The Group will be looking for help with the delivery of the newsletter.
- ❖ It is hoped that this edition will be 8 pages.
- ❖ Councillors were reminded to take pictures of the Parish for future news articles, especially with all the new works being undertaken.

The membership of the Working Group was discussed and it was agreed for Cllr B Pardoe to join the group and for the Clerk to come off, as the meeting will now move to the evenings.

To Note - *This was noted by the Council.*

8. Other Reports.

8.1- Lengthsman.

There was not formal lengthsman report. However, the lengthsman will be asked to do the following work.

- ❖ Remove the Ivy for the fence at the Glebeland.
- ❖ Remove the rubbish at the Glebeland.
- ❖ Spray around the Village Hall.

To Note - *This was noted by the Council.*

8.2- PROW

Training.

As our 2 footpath Officers were unable to attend the last PROW training session, the Clerk said he will enquire if there are additional training courses being held.

LU29 – Overgrown.

Cllr P Smith reported that this footpath was overgrown and is becoming impassable. Cllr W Soilleux reported that the owner was aware of the issue and the matter is under control.

To Note - *This was noted by the Council.*

- a) Minor additional diversion to LU14

Resolution - *The Council agreed to this diversion.*

8.3- Tree Warden.
There was NO Report.

To Note - *This was noted by the Council.*

9. Parish Matters.

9.1- Flood Warden training.

The Clerk enquired about Flood Warden training with the Herefordshire Council, however, there was nothing planned in the short-term. The Clerk will continue to progress this training.

To Note - *This was noted by the Council.*

9.2- Flood Equipment Storage – Update

Cllr F Harris had purchased a lock for the storage box and now the flood equipment can be accessed 24/7.

To Note - *This was noted by the Council.*

9.3- Glebeland Complaint.

The Clerk reported that a local resident had complained about Ivy growing over the Parish Councils fence into their property.

Resolution - *The Council agreed to get the lengthsman to complete the job.*

10. Planning.

Cllr W Soilleux gave the following report.

P261525/AM Land to West of Clay Hill Pit, Dormington, HR1 4EP.

To Note- Comments not being received by the Herefordshire Council Planning Department.

P260626/L Hagley House, Bartestree, HR1 4BX.

To Note - Herefordshire Council Planning Department Approved this application with conditions.

11. Land & Building WG.

Membership

The Following Councillors were elected to the Working Group.

Cllr W Soilleux, Cllr J Karayiannis and Cllr F Harris, together with local residents Jonathan Jackson, plus Dom & Yvonne Robertson.

Resolution - *The Council agreed this membership.*

12. Policies & Procurement.

Resolution - *The Council agreed to defer this item and hold an Extra-Ordinary meeting to discuss in greater detail.*

13. Future Agenda Items.

- Oak Trees at Hagley Court – overgrown
- General parking of the cars in the Parish.
- Resurface of the Wilcroft Park junction.
- Overgrown hedge at the junction of Wilcroft Park.
- Little Orchard hedge and kerb.
- Hospice visit.

*Next Parish Council Meeting **9th July 2026 at 7pm** in the Bartestree Village Hall.*

The meeting closed at 9:10pm

Signed:
Chair of the Parish Council
Dated: 25th August 2026