



Bartestree with Lugwardine Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th October 2025 at 7.00pm in the Bartestree Village Hall.

Minutes

Present:

Councillors: Wendy Soilleux, Polly Smith, Ron Williams, Siobhan Green, Jenny Karayiannis, Fiona Harris, Paul Hodges & David Welton (Chair).

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk - Richard James.
Ward Member - Cllr Ivan Powell
Public - 16 Members of the Public.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed all the Councillors and members of public in attendance.

The Chair said he had a sad duty to inform Council of the sudden passing of a past Councillor Mr Nigel Shore. Cllr Wendy Soilleux said she would like to pay tribute to Nigel Shore on behalf of the Parish Council who passed away last night.

Nigel was diagnosed with leukaemia earlier this year and had completed two rounds of chemotherapy with positive results. He had just embarked on the third round when he contracted an infection that his immune system was unable to cope with.

Nigel was a very active member of the Parish Council for very many years, only resigning about two years ago. He set up the Parish Action Group when we were inundated with developers wishing to build here. He was responsible for us getting the whole of the Christopher Gibbons Field rather than just part of it as originally intended by the donors. He was very active in the Cricket Club and the Playing Field Association and was still secretary. He has worked very hard in many areas of parish life for many years and will be greatly missed. He was always very dignified and treated even the most irritating of people calmly and with respect.

We send our condolences to his wife, Barbara, and the rest of his family.

1. To receive apologies.

To Note – *Apologies were received from Cllr's Andrew Thomas, David Evans, & Paul Wargent.*

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

To Note – *There were no declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations.*

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 11.09.25 & 18.09.25.

To Note – *There were no draft minutes because they had not been received from HALC who supplied the Clerk cover.*

4. Open Session.

(Ward Member)

Cllr Ivan Powell gave the following report.

School Streets.

The School Streets programme is currently the subject of active communication between the Council, school and parents and carers, there are however some embargo elements to the communication whilst final system testing is undertaken.

This has been necessary and resulted in the delays experienced largely because of a need to change from the early ‘manned barrier’ concept to a more sustainable initiative. Cllr Green is copied into these communications, but it would appear we are now quite close to a ‘go live’ date.

I recognise this has been frustrating for the school community and local residents and I thank them for their patience; a sustainable system of operation is of course critical to success.

Traherne Close.

Resurfacing work has been completed on the footpath at the entrance/exit to Traherne Close.

The process to pursue a Traffic Restriction Order to enable yellow lines to be placed to avoid vehicles parking half onto the footpath remains live, but a recent indication was that the initiative may still take up to 18 months.

I have raised this with the cabinet member with responsibility who has asked for the matter to be accelerated if possible.

Cllr Soilleux also took the opportunity to raise it directly with the team manager at the parish council summit earlier this week.

County level strategic matters.

Herefordshire was recently the subject of the Local Government Association’s Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) who reported after their visit in the summer. Headlines were that the council was described as a “good council striving to improve further”. They recognised our strong leadership, governance, member officer relations and commitment to transformation. The team highlighted our ongoing improvements in children’s services, financial management and partnership working.

Their recommendations – including accelerating our transformation programme, strengthening our data capabilities and refreshing our Medium-Term Financial Strategy – will help shape our strategic priorities going forward.

Our updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy published last month helps us understand the impact of the government’s proposed fair funding formula. Modelling suggests a potential funding gap of £27.3 M in 2026/27 – 11% of our net budget – placing us below average for unitary councils. Despite delivering over £40 M in savings over five years, we must take decisive action to balance the budget and deliver our ambitions. You will appreciate this poses significant challenges to us and we hope our consultation response will influence the final outcome.

The Care Quality Commission’s inspection team has recently been in Herefordshire to review our Adult Social Care Services. The inspectors spent three days at Plough Lane, interviewing members and officers. Their assessment framework comprises four themes: working with people; providing support, ensuring safety and leadership. We expect the findings of their inspection to be published in the Autumn.

Herefordshire has been selected as one of 43 areas in England to join the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP) - a part of the Government's Ten-Year Health Plan. The initiative aims to shift care closer to home, prevent illness and support people with complex needs through integrated services. Herefordshire's inclusion highlights the strength of its existing One Herefordshire Partnership, which already brings together NHS providers, GPs, local government, and the voluntary sector to deliver joined-up care. The programme will support local innovation and help scale successful approaches.

Congratulations to the council's fostering team for their nomination at the West Midlands Children's Services Team Excellence Awards 2025 in the Regional Team Excellence category. The team have all worked so hard to ensure our fostering service is second to none, and they were rightly recognised by their regional professional peers in Children's Services.

Construction is underway on the £10 M Hereford Transport Hub, improving travel options and connectivity across the county.

Work has begun on Peterchurch School, expanding from 105 to 210 places, with new SEN and Nurture Hub facilities. Works are also due to begin on the £2.4 M redevelopment of Hampton Dene Primary School, delivering new classrooms, improved accessibility, and enhanced SEN provision.

The council has recently acquired the former John Haider building – now renamed after philanthropist John Venn – to provide emergency accommodation and reduce hotel reliance, projected to save over £600,000 annually.

Highways investment continues, with dozens of miles of roads improved or made safer. New quieter road schemes are starting soon, and essential bridge repairs – including at Mordiford – have been completed on time or ahead of schedule.

The Council has written to the Secretary of State for Transport proposing a new approach to grant funding for the bypass's southern link road. This would guarantee delivery over three years and allow us to reallocate resources to accelerate future phases.

Members of public

5. Financial Matters.

5.1 - Unity Bank Main Statement – for September 25 was £107,256.46

5.2 - Unity Bank Saver Statement – for September 25 was £121,019.62

To Note – The Bank balances were noted by the Council.

5.3 - Budget Monitoring - Sept 25

Resolution – The Council approved the budget monitoring for September.

5.4 - Bank Rec - Sept 25

Resolution – The Council approved the Bank Rec's for September 25.

5.5 - Monthly Bank Transactions - Sept 25

Resolution – The Council approved the Monthly Bank Transactions for September 25.

5.6 - Draft Budget 2026/27.

Cllr Polly Smith presented the draft budget for 2026/27 as the lead of the Finance Working Group. Assurances were given that the Public Works Loan amount would be taken off the 2026/27 precept.

Council went through the budget line by line with a few alterations and additional quotations are still waiting to be received.

Resolution – The Council agreed for the revised budget to come back to Council in November.

6. Payments.

	Payment	Net	Vat	Total
6.1	Clerk Salary - Tax & NI - July 25	As per Contract		
6.2	Clerk Expenses – Blister Bags	150.00	30.00	180.00
6.3	HALC – H3059	275.00	55.00	330.00
6.4	Pureclean - 11751	80.00	16.00	96.00
6.5	Cllr Reimbursement for Plaque	12.00	0.00	12.00

Resolution – The Council approved for all the invoices to be paid.

7. Working Group Reports.

7.1 - Christopher Gibbon Field.

Cllr S Green reported that there had not been a meeting, but they had received confirmation from the planning department that they are able to do their own badger survey. This will take the form of wildlife cameras to monitor the area.

The new charity paperwork had been filed with the Charities Commission but the whole process will take 16 weeks.

To Note – The Council noted this verbal report.

7.2 - Highways & Infrastructure.

Cllr Fiona Haris reported that the central government monies will be lost if not used by 1st April but the S106 monies is safe.

To Note – The Council noted this verbal report.

7.3 - Environment.

Cllr Paul Hodges reported that there had not been a meeting, but he explained he was presently submitting a grant application for things like Bat Boxes, Bulbs.

A resident has said they would be willing to look after a stone trough located between Tidnor Lane and Quarry field, once it has been planted with bulbs.

To Note – The Council noted that there had been no meeting.

7.4 - Play Areas.

To Note – The Council noted that there was nothing new to report.

7.5 - Finance & Admin.

To Note – The Council noted that there had been no meeting.

7.6 - Communications.

To Note – The Council noted that there had been no meeting however the next meeting will be on the 14.10.25.

8. Planning.

8.1 - Blue Barn, Museum Orchard, Tidnor Lane, Bartestree, Hereford. HR1 4AP.

Application for: Licensable Activities

Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on and off the premises)

Monday – Sunday 11:00 – 23:00, NYE 11:00 – 01:00

Live/Recorded Music (Indoors/Outdoors), Late Night Refreshment
(indoors/Outdoors) 11:00 – 01:00 on New Years Eve:

Resolution – *The Council resolved to send the following Objection.*

Licensing applications: Blue Barn, Museum Orchard, Lugwardine

The Bartestree with Lugwardine Parish Council Strongly Objects to this this application on the following grounds.

Environmental nuisance: on both agriculture and wildlife, in particular, the detrimental effects of noise and light pollution on the existing wildlife.

Public Nuisance: The effect on neighbours of noise and light pollution in the immediate and surrounding areas.

Public Safety:

- The apparent lack of approved and adequate sanitation on the proposed licensed site and the effect on downstream residential property, including damage to agricultural land that provides the livelihood of several neighbours.
- The lack of appropriate provision of parking areas and turning spaces on and around the licensed property.
- The entrance and exit to the site do not provide adequate splay to allow safe turning and entry to the access roads in either direction.
- Access to the site of emergency vehicles would currently be difficult.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder: The location is not conducive to public transport access, increasing the temptation for drinking and driving along already restrictive country lanes.

Protection of Children from harm: The license provides for alcohol service from 11 am to 11 pm daily. The access roads in either direction are country lanes with no formal paths on either side. Children and adults use the lanes daily. The increased traffic going to and coming from the licensed property increases the danger to pedestrians, especially children using the lanes.

Conclusion: Based on Parish Council's evidential objections to the granting of this licence, and that it would contravene all four of the criteria for objection, and that this has been strongly voiced by the local residents and neighbours to the proposed licensed property.

It is proposed that the Parish Council recommend, in the strongest terms, against the granting of this licence at this time and that until all statutory objections have been mitigated.

8.2 - Planning Report & Minutes - 30.09.25

To Note – *The planning Minutes were noted by the Council.*

9. Other Reports.

9.2 - Lengthsman.

Cllr P Smith said that she was going to speak with a potential new lengthsman in the next few days. It was also suggested that that parish council might consider that some of the 'Lengthsman-type work would be better carried out by local contractors who had the relevant equipment and expertise.

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

9.3 - PROW.

- PROW BJ3 Diversion

Resolution – *Council approved and supported this PROW Diversion.*

9.4 - Tree Warden.

Cllr P Hodges reported that he receives a monthly magazine about Tree Warden and Rural issues. Most of the content is not relevant to the Parish. However, Cllr Hodges would like to circulate to all Councillors which he feels will be of interest.

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

10. Parish Matters.

10.1 - Fibre Optic Internet & Way leave Bartestree Village Hall.

To Note – *Council noted that this matter is currently on hold.*

10.2 - Oak Tree Planting

Cllr J Karayiannis asked about the planting of the VE Day Memorial Day. Mr J Jackson from the public gallery said that he had the oak tree and the ideal place for planting the tree would be in the location where the dead Ash tree was removed. Cllr Hodges said when the tree is planted, it should be protected, and the normal tree guard would not do the job. It was suggested that a sturdier structure be built around the tree.

Resolution – *Council approved up to £250 for the work to protect the tree.*

10.3 - Mosaic Picture

Cllr J Karayiannis asked about where can the VE Day Mosaic Picture which was made by the children of the Parish be hung. Cllr J Karayiannis has also had a commemorative brass plaque made.

Resolution – *After discussion with the Village Hall representatives, it was decided that it will be hung in the committee room.*

10.4 - Notice Board for Pubs

The Clerk informed Council that he had written to both pubs in the Parish and is awaiting their replies.

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

10.5 - Sprees Signage

To Note – *Council noted that a meeting is to be set up in the near future.*

10.6 - Remembrance Day Wreath

The Clerk enquired on whether the Council would be laying a Remembrance Day wreath this year on behalf of the Parish Council.

Resolution – *The Council unanimously agreed that a wreath will be laid and instructed the Clerk to purchase one.*

10.7 - Yellow Lines.

Cllr W Soilleux said that she would be taking this matter up, at the next summit meeting with the officer concerned.

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

10.8 - A438 Hedges

Cllr W Soilleux said that she has established that the land at the entrance to Wilcroft Park is owned by the Herefordshire Council, and it is their responsibility to make this junction safe.

Resolution – *Council agreed for the Clerk to contact the Locality Steward.*

10.9 – Armed Forces Covenant

The Clerk asked for permission to use the Armed Forces Covenant logo on future Council correspondence.

Resolution – *Council agreed that this would be a good idea.*

10.10 - Drainage Grant

Cllr W Soilleux said that she had submitted a drainage grant for areas which flood within the Parish.

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

10.11 - Glebeland: Ash die back

- Cherry Trees
- Stump grinding
- Hedge trimming

Cllr P Hodge said that the five Ash Trees on the Glebeland were in different stages of ash die back, but whatever happens they will all need cutting down in time. There were also some stumps which will need removing. It would be nice to replant the area where any of the trees need to be removed.

Resolution – Council agreed for Cllr Hodges to obtain quotes for the pruning or removal of the Ash trees and to have any stumps ground.

11. Mowing Contracts.

The Clerk informed Council that the mowing contract will be up on the 31st March 26 and if the council was going to go out to contract, then this would be the right time.

Resolution – Council agreed that the clerk should obtain 3 quotations for the mowing contract.

12. Land & Building Working Group.

The Chair said to Council was now in a position to talk to the stake holders about the future management of Parish Council Land & Buildings. The best for this would be via a working group, which would consist of the Chair of the Council and two other Councillors and representatives of the Village Hall, PFA, the Football Club and the Clerk. This working group will work under a set Terms of Reference. This Working Group will come back to Council in February 2026 with their recommendations.

Resolution – Council Approved this new working group working under a set Terms of Reference and the following Councillors will be on it, Cllr David Welton, Wendy Soilleux, J Karayiannis and the Clerk. Cllr Welton will contact the Village Hall, PFA, the Football Club.

13. Future Agenda Items.

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.



Signed:

Chair of the Parish Council

Dated: 13th November 2025