



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2026 at 7.00pm in
Bartestree Village Hall.

Minutes

Present:

Councillors: David Welton (Chair), Ron Williams, Siobhan Green, Polly Smith, Benjamin Pardoe, Fiona Harris, Paul Hodges, Paul Wargent & Andy Thomas

In Attendance:

Cllr Ivan Powell - Ward Member
2 x Members of the Public.

1. To receive apologies.

To Note - *Apologies were received from Cllr Jenny Karayiannis, Cllr Wendy Soilleux & Richard James (clerk)*

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 12.03.26.

Resolution – The Council did not approve the minutes as Cllr Soilleux had raised comments & Cllr Welton thought it best to hold until Cllr Soilleux was available. The bank value at 5.2 is incorrect.

4. Open Session.

(Ward Member)

Cllr Ivan Powell gave his report with the following highlights.

School streets

Cllr Green is in direct contact with Scott Tompkins from the local authority I am copied into communications and have supported Cllr Green with additional challenge where I feel appropriate.

Scott conducted site and traffic monitoring visit on 26th March 2026 and has shared results with Cllr Green and myself.

He has explained review will take place in May 2026 for all five schemes. Current thinking is there a need to consider enforcement options.

The purchase of monitoring equipment is pretty straightforward what is more challenging and costly is the investment in the back-office functions to process enforcement actions should it become necessary.

As a matter of public record, as a retired police officer I am in favour of education before enforcement, but in my experience, you cannot have one without the other, so if necessary, will raise the enforcement matter for discussion within the council.

A438/village hall entrance road improvement works.

I was unable to make the meeting between Cllr Harris and the lead officer from the council but have had offline conversations, again I continue to support Cllr Harris and the parish with the ongoing discussions.

Traffic restriction orders – double yellow lines.

Subject to statutory consultation which concluded on 3rd April 2026. I am not sighted on who other statutory consultees are.

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

5. Land & Building Presentation.

a) Presentation & Proposals.

The Chair presented the land and buildings presentation and informed the Councillors of their legal duties. The Chair mentioned that the PC could have time to think about this and vote in May. The Chair opened the floor for any questions, which became a verbal attack by several Cllrs & a member of the public. No other Cllrs were able to ask questions. The final proposal was not discussed. The member of the public was asked for the figures that proved the Village Hall was owned by the Village Hall Committee. The member of the public also stated that the Village Hall was the only body that would need to go for a referendum regarding the sale of the asset. Whereas the Parish Council does not to. The Chair was advised to close the discussion.

Resolution – The Council deferred the vote until another discussion.

6. Financial Matters.

6.1 - Unity Bank Main Statement- March 26- £3826.79

6.2 - Unity Bank Saver Statement- March 26- £203,107.42

Resolution – *The Bank balances were noted by the Council.*

6.3 - Budget Monitoring- March 26

Resolution – *The Council approved the Budget Monitoring for March 26.*

6.4 - Bank Reconciliation- March 26

6.5 - Bank Reconciliation (Both Accounts)- March 26

Resolution – *The Council approved the Bank Reconciliation for March 26.*

6.6 - Monthly Bank Transactions- March 26

Resolution – *The Council approved the Monthly Bank Transactions for March 26.*

6.7 – Reserves.

Resolution – *The Council agreed to discuss fully at 8.5*

6.8 - Approve the addition BVH & Cricket Pavillion to Asset Register.

Resolution – *The Council agreed to defer this to another meeting.*

6.9 - To seek permission to form an Insurance Replacement Asset Register.

A Cllr asked whether the current insurance was based on old for new, which would negate the need for a separate register?

Resolution – *The Council agreed for this to come back to Council.*

7. Payments.

	Payment	Net	Vat	Total
7.1	Clerk Salary - Tax & NI – April 26	As per Contract		
7.2	Cloud Net – Domain Name	50.00	10.00	60.00
7.3	Pureclean – Bus Shelter Cleaning	80.00	16.00	96.00
7.4	R James – CGF Planning Application	447.00	85.00	532.00
7.5	Wye Water – Black Hole Lane Work	1440.00	288.00	1728.00
7.6	Andy Williams – Tree Planting	154.00	0.00	154.00

Resolution – *The Council approved for all the invoices, other than Cloud Net, to be paid. Clerk to ask for an invoice from Critical Mass for the domain name.*

8. Working Group Reports.

8.1- Christopher Gibbon Field.

a) Procurement Policy

This was left until discussion of the Standing Orders at 11, where the contract value limit was queried.

To Note – *This was agreed.*

b) *A brief update was given on the Charity Website which is not yet up & running but should not be long. Wait time for the planning decision should be 12 weeks.*

8.2- Highways & Infrastructure.

Cllr Harris has had more discussion with Hereford Council as the plans are now wrong as too many people have got involved in Hereford Council. Plans have now been re-submitted by Cllrs Harris & Soilleux.

The Village Hall entrance will now be traffic controlled when the Pelican Crossing is enlarged, enabling egress to Stalls Farm and Village Hall. There will be no weekend working. Cllr Hodges asked for Permit numbers for works to roadways.

Two SIDS are to be put up in the Villages. There are further discussions regarding the widening of the entrance to the Village Hall.

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

8.3- Environment.

- a) Remove apple trees and grind stumps.
Only one quote received for £1350 plus VAT. Cllr Hodges was asked to get further quotes and bring to the May meeting. If none, then the above quote would be accepted.

Resolution – *The Council agreed this.*

- b) Blister Packs
As the Tin Foil can now be recycled in domestic dustbins or be taken to the tip and placed in metal recycling, there was discussion regarding the new bin to be utilised for blister packs only.
After discussion regarding the bin, the council agreed to ask the clerk not to order the signs if not too late.
After discussion about the Blister Pack costs, it was proposed that we change to the recycling box rather than the bags. This was unanimously agreed.

To Note – *This Council noted and agreed.*

- c) Dog Poo Bins & Signs.
Cllr Hodges was tasked with contacting Herefordshire Council regarding the collection of Dog Poo Waste Bins. General consensus about providing bins around the Villages but Landowners permission would be needed. If PC bins, who would collect, suggested Lengthsman or Cllr Harris offered to do some of the bins. JJ mentioned the use of the Biffa Bin for putting the waste into.

Cllr Hodges to research Poo Bins and purchase of bins do not exceed £400.

Cllr Thomas was tasked with getting a price for 50 of the original signs that were discussed a while ago. Cllr Wargent said that they need attaching to the gates.

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

8.4- Play Areas.

Matt Hill adjusted a gate at the Village Hall and will sort out the rocker there too. He will also look at the seesaw at Frome Park.

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

8.5- Finance & Admin.

Item 6.7 Reserves:

After discussion of the minutes from the F & A meeting, it was decided to add the following amounts into the reserves:

Election Expenses- £1,000.00

Church Clock Maintenance – Cllr Thomas stated that the repair will be about £5,000.00 of which the PC pays 50%. He is expecting a 100% grant to cover this.

Council agreed to round up to £1,000

Play Area Development & Repairs

Council asked that Cllr Soilleux proffer an amount for the development reserves.

Council agreed an amount for repairs- £5,000.00.

Village Hall Entrance- £2,000.00

Community Field Legals & Project – Councillors asked for this to be amalgamated now as it was felt that there is no need for a separate Legal reserve.

Addition for the year to be- £20,000.00

Eco Working Group- £2,500.00

Legal Fees & New Leases – more details of why this figure is so high from certain Cllrs. Richard, can you explain?

Can Council round up Unrestricted Funds to £14,000.00?

8.6- Communications.

Notice Boards – 2 new notice boards to be placed in the grounds of the Godwins & the Crown & Anchor. This has been agreed by the management at the 2 pubs. Permission maybe needed from the Landlord/Brewery. The expenses need to be determined & if needed will be placed in the reserves.

Newsletter – awaiting content from all Cllrs, Village Hall Committee & Sports Groups for the edition. Cllr Harris mentioned that there may be a donation for the stamps cost.

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

9. Other Reports.

9.1- Lengthsman.

Cllr Hodges introduced the new Lengthsman, who started at the beginning of the month. A metal storage container for the Weed Killer is required which needs to be ventilated.

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

9.2- PROW.

There is an application being compiled to Herefordshire Council for a PROW grant for new gates etc.

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

9.3- Tree Warden.

Nothing to discuss.

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

10. Parish Matters.

10.1- To adopt the Herefordshire Council Charter.

Cllr Welton asked for the Charter to be placed on the Parish Council Website.

Resolution – *The Council deferred until next meeting.*

10.2- Flood Equipment Storage – Update

Storage Container is now around the back of the Village Hall. A new lock is required which Cllr Green will purchase.

To Note – This was noted by the Council.

11. Policies.

a) New Standing Orders

In line with the Procurement Act 2023 it was proposed that the limit be increased to £175,000.00 in the Standing Orders.

All tenders are to come to the clerk for agreement at Council

Resolution – The Council voted unanimously to proceed with this increase and accept the amended Standing Orders and the Procurement Survey Strategy.

12. Future Agenda Items.

Email to the clerk any future Agenda Items,

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on the 14th May 2026 at 6pm in the Bartestree Village Hall.
ANNUAL Parish Council Meeting 14th May 2026 at 7pm in the Bartestree Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10:10pm

Following the Closure of the meeting Cllr David Welton informed the Council of his resignation which would take immediate effect.

Cllr David Welton – Information.

David joined the Parish Council in May 2024 and took the office of Vice-Chair, moving on to become Chair in May 2025. In the short time that he has been with us, he has provided dynamic and effective leadership and achieved a great deal in terms of land ownership and the development of the Christopher Gibbons Field. He also encouraged us to become members of the Armed Forces Covenant. We hope he will pop back and see the finished Christopher Gibbons field and road calming scheme. We will be very sorry to see him go but wish him and his wife, Debbie, all the best in their new home and new ventures in the North.



Signed:

Vice Chair of the Parish Council

Dated: 12th May 2026