



BARTESTREE WITH LUGWARDINE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings which was held at 6.00pm
on Thursday 1st May 2025 at Bartestree Village Hall, HR1 4BY.

Minutes

Attendance

Clerk to the Council: Mr Richard James.

Chair of the Parish Council: Cllr Wendy Soilleux.

Members of the Public: 17 Residents.

1. Chairs welcome and Annual Report.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting of Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parishes and presented her report.

2024/5 has been a year of hard work on many fronts, with its share of successes and disappointments. I will deal with the latter first.

Following a great deal of work, the Christopher Gibbons Field Working Group arrived at a comprehensive plan for the site. This was brought about after consultation with parishioners and children of the parish to identify what types of activities they would like to see included in this recreational space.

The plan was tested against several 'without obligation' quotes for affordability. A plan to fund the facilities through a Public Works Loan was rejected by Parishioners, and the Working Group is currently identifying other grant and fundraising options. However, these options will considerably increase the cost and lengthen the time it will take to complete the necessary work and will introduce risks in terms of the scope of the activities initially requested by the parishioners. The Planning for the site continues to move forward and will be reviewed during all future Parish Council meetings.

Another major project is the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme throughout the two villages. This will be funded by s106 Highways money and will involve replacing the centre white line with inner white verge lines to create a narrowing effect, which together with variation in surfacing and new signs should have the effect of reducing traffic speed. The Highways Working Group has worked hard on this scheme which is currently going through its design phase.

We are hoping that the Traffic Calming Scheme will connect with the Safer Routes to School Scheme, designed to reduce traffic and congestion in Barneby Avenue near to Lugwardine Primary Academy. Fewer cars and more walking will necessitate improvements to the pedestrian crossing near to the entrance to the Village Hall, where parents are being encouraged to park. These two projects will also hopefully include a third one of widening the entrance to the Village Hall. This multi-faceted scheme is scheduled to take place during the long school summer holiday.

Vehicle speeds between Bartestree Crossroads and the turning to St. Michael's Hospice were monitored but found not to warrant a reduction from 40mph to 30 mph.

Public Rights of Way are being looked at and any damage or wear is being reported to Herefordshire Council in order to get the necessary repairs carried out. Some parishioners have agreed to report any problems detected on their regular walking routes to PRoW Officer Cllr. Andy Thomas.

Aluminium foil recycling is well supported but not always brought along in a washed state. It is the aluminium foil not the cottage pie that we are recycling! Empty medical blister pack recycling has been introduced inside the Village Hall and in the porch of St. Peter's Church and is also very well supported.

We have the mowing and hedging contracts back on track but have had a lot of catching up to do with clearing overgrown areas and brambles. Now completed, it will enable the Environment Working Group to plan the planting of spring bulbs, trees and shrubs. I would like to thank Cllr. Paul Hodges for taking on a sizeable tree pruning task at the Frome Park Play Area.

We have installed a wall-mounted smart television in the Committee Room of the Village Hall so that both councillors and parishioners can better see what we are discussing during meetings.

Our Parish Clerk has worked very hard throughout the year and is to be congratulated on achieving the Clerk qualification.

Last year we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of D-Day at the Village Hall by lighting our new Beacon, sharing refreshments and raising money for the Royal British Legion. This experience encouraged us to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant. Next week we are looking forward to celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE-Day in a similar way. We hope that you will join us for refreshments and the lighting the Beacon on Thursday 8th May from 6:30 – 9:00pm here at the Village Hall.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their hard work and support throughout the year.

2. Apologies for absence.

There were apologies from P Wargent.

3. To approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair following the correction of the S106 funding amount from £36k to £63k.

4. To receive the Report by the Local Policing Team

The chair welcomed PCSO Adam Westlake & PCSO Rachael Mahoney from the Hereford Rural Policing Team.

PCSO Rachael Mahoney reported the following.

- That on the whole the crime rate in the Parishes was low.
- There had been recently a theft of a blue Land Rover.
- There had been theft of tools from a vehicle where the locks had been punched out.
- There had been a case of Drinking and Driving.
- There had been an accident due to sun glare on the road my St Micheal Hospice.

PCSO Rachael Mahoney said there were things to do to try and stop theft of and from vehicles.

1. Good Security Lighting
2. CCTV
3. Steering locks
4. Don't leave
5. Dash Cameras, which operate upon movement.
6. GPS tracking
7. Mark all your tools with Smart Water or security markers.

PCSO Adam Westlake said that the police were looking for a dark vehicle with cloned plates.

PCSO Rachael Mahoney said there was website where you could sign up to receive local policing alerts, the website is www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

The Chair asked the public if they had any question for the officers.

Q1. Where can you get smart water from.

A1. The West Mercia Police only give out smart water after a crime, but it can be purchased privately.

Q2. What are the chances of your tools getting stolen again after they have been replaced.

A2. PCSO Rachael Mahoney said by marking your new tools with smart water and not leaving them in the vehicle are the best options.

Q3. What is the policy about walking the beat in the two Parishes, as a visible present is always a good deterrent.

A3. PCSO Adam Westlake said that they have been under manned for some time and now they are back up to full strength of 3 officers, this may be possible. But they tend to focus on area with high crime rates but will look at shift patterns to see if this is possible.

Q4. Would it be possible to the Police to be seen at the school drop off and pick up times.

A4. PCSO Rachael Mahoney said that is one of her roles and has asked to attend the schools and is awaiting a reply.

Q5. It would be nice if the police enforced the parking laws at school pick up and drop off times, as the parking is dangerous, with cars parking on pavements, and on corners. It is especially bad around Traherne Close where double yellow lines are needed.

A5. PCSO Adam Westlake said they will try and be about at these times, but again this would be subject to duty patterns,

Q6. Both the Parishes have suffered in the past with bus shelter and shop windows being broken by someone driving through the village shooting a BB gun and as this happened in other areas.

A6. PCSO Adam Westlake said yes, the neighbouring Parishes have also suffered, and enquiries are still on going.

The Chair thanked both officers for their attendance.

The Police left the meeting.

5. To invite the Public to raise any matters relevant to the Parish.

The Chair opened the meeting to questions from the members of the Public.

A resident got up and said they would like to make a statement; they wanted to apologise for the abuse the Parish Council has come under for trying to do the right thing. They feel the small minority of the community who have been trying to stir up descent, is despicable. All this does is destroy a friendly community pitting resident against resident, and it must STOP! And the poisonous flyer which has been posted through doors is disgraceful and those concerned should be ashamed of themselves.

This received applause from those present.

Q1. A resident asked why as the gym equipment been added to the Christopher Gibbons Field project when this was not asked for in the public consultation 2 years ago.

A1. The gym equipment was one of thing asked for in the public consultation.

Q2. A resident said they were gobsmacked at the 56% raise in the precept, to borrow £350k when there are people in the villages having to use food banks.

A2. The loan has not been taken out, but this was provision in case the vote came back as a YES to make the loan repayment.

Q3. Why did the Parish Council think the residents wanted the Community Field project.

A3. Because after the first public consultation it was a resounding YES to the project along with the top 5 things residents wanted on the field.

A resident got up and said that St Peter's Church was setting up a "Friends of St Peter's" to raise funds for a church kitchen and toilet.

Lugwardine Parish Agenda

1. Chairs welcome and Annual Report.

The same as above.

2. Apologies for absence.

The same as above

3. To approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council.

The same as above

5. To receive a report from The Lugwardine Charity.

The Chair gave the report on behalf of the Lugwardine Charity.

The Trustees, who are unchanged, have met on three occasions during the past year.

Over the past twelve months the charity has given grants with a total value greater than £13,000. Grants have been made for educational projects and for other charitable purposes in line with the object of the charity.

The Trustees are	Dr. Richard Henderson	Chairman
	Mr. Jonathan Jackson	Treasurer
	Mrs. S W Soilleux	Secretary
	Revd. Tiffany Jackson	
	Mr. Andrew Thomas	

Richard Henderson
April 2025

6. To receive a report from Diana Caroline Hopton Charity.

The Chair gave the report on behalf of the Diana Caroline Hopton Charity.

The Diana Caroline Hopton Charity owns two alms-houses', which provide accommodation for two sets of residents. The Charity's reserves remain high, and the financial base is sound.

This year a major project has been performed to modernise both alms-houses. The energy efficiency has been brought up to contemporary expected standards. The vacant alms-house has been rewired, redecorated and has a new kitchen and bathroom.

Following the completion of this work a new resident has been appointed in accordance with the object of the charity.

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	Mr. Jonathan Jackson	Treasurer
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	Revd. Tiffany Jackson	
	Mr. Andrew Thomas	

Richard Henderson

7. To invite the Public to raise any matters relevant to the Parish.

There were no questions raised by the members of the public.

The meeting was closed at 6.45pm.

Chair of the Parish Council