



The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings which was held at 6.30pm
on Thursday 14th May 2026 at Bartestree Village Hall, HR1 4BY.

Attendance

Clerk to the Council: Mr Richard James.

Chair of the Parish Council: Cllr Wendy Soilleux.

Members of the Public: 2 Residents.

Bartestree

1. Chairs welcome.

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting of Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parishes.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Ivan Powell (Ward Member).

3. To approve the minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting.

The Minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

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

2025/26 has been another busy year and has involved some changes in personnel. After six of years of service, Councillor David Evans stood down in November 2025. We thank him for his work as part of the Environment Group and Recycling in particular. In his place we welcomed Benjamin Pardoe who will represent a different outlying area to the North of the group parish and who is interested in planning and public rights of way.

At the end of the April meeting, we were sorry to receive the resignation of David Welton, who has moved out of the area. David had been Vice-Chair for one year and then Chair had worked very hard and enthusiastically in an attempt to sort out the complex land and buildings ownership issues. This means that we have a vacancy for another new councillor.

We have also welcomed a new Lengthsman, Andy Williams, who has already been busy helping to plant new trees on the Glebeland at Bartestree Crossroads and hundreds of Spring bulbs in many places in the two parishes.

Several large old ash trees that were suffering from ash dieback were removed from the Glebeland and have been replaced by six smaller trees which will be properly managed to keep them at a size suited to their location.

We celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on May 8th, 2025, from 2pm until 9pm to include refreshments, lighting the Beacon, music and a raffle with fantastic prizes donated by local businesses. The event started in the afternoon with pupils from Lugwardine Primary Academy, who sang some war-time songs with great enthusiasm. They presented the Parish Council with the most beautiful V.E. Day mosaic that they had made, which is displayed on the wall of the Committee Room in the Village Hall. They were presented with a small oak tree in a pot. An oak tree was deemed appropriate because it represents an 80th Anniversary and is also Lugwardine Primary Academy's nominated school tree. Pupils returned later in the year to help to plant it in the South-East corner of the cricket field.

The communications group produced our first newsletter, which was delivered or posted to every household in the Parish. A second newsletter will be produced in July. Two more notice boards will shortly be installed, one at each public house. This will bring the total in the group parish to seven.

After a great deal of hard work by the Christopher Gibbons Field WG, a planning application has been submitted for the first tranche of work on the Field. This involves a new entrance with parking, a multi-use pathway around the periphery, outdoor gym equipment and a cycle pump track. A local charity has also been set up to raise funds for a more extensive range of equipment.

The two play areas continue to be well used. The Play Area at the Village Hall is now 20 years old. The swings and part of the agility trail have been upgraded with stainless steel inserts for the parts that go into the ground. The remainder will need to be replaced during the next two or three years. Some more cracked timbers in the Frome Park Play Area need to be replaced. These are still under guarantee, but we will have to cover the labour costs.

Grants: We obtained a modest grant for some drainage work in Blackhole Lane and Cotts Lane and hope to obtain larger grants in the coming year to improve Public Rights of Ways and carry out more drainage work.

The Safer Routes to School Scheme has finally got going but is still encountering some teething problems. In July/August this year, we have been promised that the new traffic calming scheme will be implemented. This will be a whole group parish scheme along the A438 from just West of the River Lugg Bridge, past Bartestree Crossroads to just beyond the turning to Weston Beggard. It will also include improvements to the pedestrian crossing from Lugwardine Primary Academy to the Village Hall by raising it to a higher level and also the widening of the first part of the entrance to Bartestree Village Hall.

Washed aluminium foil can now be recycled in our household green bins so will no longer be collected at the Village Hall.

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

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

Q1. A resident of Village Way was concerned about dog fouling in the Parish and the fact that dog owners are then throwing dog poo bags into the hedges.

A1. Sadly, these are bad dog owners and better education is required.

Q2. A resident of Village Way was concerned that the Police were called about some children being disruptive in the area. Sadly, these children suffer from mental health issues and come from a family where the male in the household suffers from PTSD. The resident wished that people would consider matters like this before calling the police.

A2. Sadly, mental health issues is hard to see, and residents only probably call the police if they are concerned about the safety of the children or property.

Lugwardine.

1. Chairs welcome.

As above.

2. Apologies for absence.

As above.

3. To approve the minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting.

As above

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

As above.

5. To receive a report from The Lugwardine Charity.

Cllr W Soilleux presented the following report on behalf of the Chair of the charity.

The Trustees have met twice in 2025. Dr. Richard Henderson resigned as chairman, and we welcomed Dave Matthews on to the trustees.

Over the past twelve months the charity has given grants with a total value greater than £11,399. Grants have been made for educational projects and for other charitable purposes in line with the object of the charity. We have several longer term commitments, supporting university students, as well as regularly supporting our local schools and the Food bank. We do seem to be getting more applications, which has led to some good discussion about what fits within our remit as a charity.

The Trustees are:

Rev Tiffany Jackson - Chairman

Mr. Jonathan Jackson - Treasurer

Mrs. S W Soilleux - Secretary

Mr. Dave Matthews

Mr. Andrew Thomas

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

Cllr W Soilleux presented the following report on behalf of the Chair of the 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 we welcomed in our new resident as well as said farewell Dr. Richard Henderson who served as chairman. There have been minor maintenance issues that have been dealt with quickly thanks to our trustees. Special thanks to Jonathan Jackson who serves as treasurer and regularly checks on residents to make sure our properties are maintained. Also, thanks to Wendy Soilleux who serves as secretary.

We have spent a year monitoring the use of solar panels which were installed the previous year. They have not produced to the level we expected, but it is still some help to our residents and good for the environment- a worthwhile investment.

The Trustees are:

Rev Tiffany Jackson - Chairman

Mr. Jonathan Jackson - Treasurer

Mrs. S W Soilleux - Secretary

Mr. Dave Matthews

Mr. Andrew Thomas

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

There were no more questions asked.

The meeting was closed at 6.50pm.

Signed

Chair of the Parish Council