

### **Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm at Breinton Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllr J Hull, Cllr E Morfett, Cllr C Easter, Cllr J Morris and Cllr L Lewis

**Officers present:** L Law, Clerk.

**Others in attendance:** Ward Cllr C Taylor and one member of the public.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr Morawiecka. **Noted.**
- 2. Chairman's Report: A summary of the Chairman's report.**

The Chair presented the Annual Report for 2025/26 and reflected on a year of continued activity and emerging challenges for the Parish Council. Members noted the resignation of Cllr Tracey Prosser due to family commitments and recorded their appreciation for her service, contribution, and support to the Council. Members also welcomed the co-option of Dr Christopher Easter to the Council and noted the breadth of experience and analytical skills he brings to the authority.

The report highlighted the successful continuation of the Herefordshire Council funded Public Rights of Way (PROW) grant scheme, supported by the work of the Parish Footpaths Officer, which has enabled the maintenance and improvement of footpaths, stiles, and gates throughout the parish. Members noted that the exceptionally wet winter had resulted in difficult conditions and increased mud on several routes.

Members further noted that prolonged wet weather had also affected delivery of drainage grant works, as persistently full ditches prevented machinery access for clearance operations. It was reported that it is hoped works at Warham Ditch can be completed using future funding allocations. The Council also continued to make use of the Lengthsman Scheme to maintain grips and drainage gullies throughout the parish.

Concern was expressed regarding the future of Herefordshire Council funded grant schemes and the potential reduction in available funding. As a result, the Council had agreed a modest increase in the parish precept following two consecutive years without an increase.

The Chair advised that whilst the Council remains in a healthy financial position, reserves will need to be maintained in anticipation of the future review and revision of the Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Members noted that changes introduced through the revised National Planning Policy Framework had weakened the planning protections previously afforded by the current NDP, meaning that a future revision would be required once Herefordshire Council's updated Core Development Plan and future housing allocations are established. The report noted that significant uncertainty remains regarding the potential scale of development affecting the parish, particularly in relation to proposals for housing growth west of Hereford and the possible impact upon Kings Acre Road and surrounding areas.

Members also noted progress made on the Breinton Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), with particular thanks expressed to Cllr Emil Morfett for the substantial amount of work undertaken in preparing the document. The Council was advised that work is ongoing with the Herefordshire Mammals Group to undertake bat surveys within the parish using acoustic monitoring equipment.

The report further highlighted the deteriorated condition of many parish roads following the severe winter weather, with hydro-dynamic pressure and frost contributing to a significant increase in potholes. Whilst some repairs had been undertaken by Balfour Beatty, many defects remain outstanding. Parishioners were encouraged to continue reporting potholes through the Herefordshire Council website, including photographic evidence where possible. Members also noted concerns surrounding the forthcoming changes to Herefordshire Council's Public Realm arrangements and the replacement of Balfour Beatty by M Group from June 2026. Particular concern had been raised regarding the possible loss of Locality Stewards and their valuable local knowledge, although it was understood that steps are being taken to retain continuity through direct employment by Herefordshire Council.

The Chair concluded by highlighting the continued concerns regarding flooding within the parish, particularly at Breinton Lee and Lower

Breinton, together with ongoing damage to roads and verges caused by Heavy Goods Vehicles servicing agricultural operations in the south of the parish. Appreciation was expressed for the continued support and engagement of the Ward Councillor in relation to these matters.

- 3. Open discussion comments from members of the public.** There were no comments from members of the public in attendance.
- 4. Approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.** The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were **approved** as a correct record.

**Meeting Ended 7.20pm**

**Signed:**

**Dated:**

DRAFT