

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING | 22nd July, 2026

Present: Cllrs J Hull (Chair), Cllr E Morfett, Cllr C Easter, Cllr J Morris, Cllr L Lewis and Cllr L Moraweicka

Others in attendance: L Law, Clerk. Ward Cllr Taylor. There were no members of the public in attendance.

26.86 Apologies for absence. To receive apologies for absence. Apologies had been received from FPO John Wade. **Noted.**

26.87 Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation.

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI) and any other registerable interests in items on the agenda. Requests for dispensation must be in writing to the Clerk as soon as possible before the meeting. No declarations of interest or written requests for dispensation had been received. **Noted.**

26.88 To approve the minutes of the Council.

To confirm as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council, held on the 24th June, 2026.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 24th June 2026 were **approved** as a correct record, and the Chairman signed a copy.

26.89 Ward Councillor Report. For members to receive a ward councillor report. Members discussed several ongoing highways and planning matters affecting the parish. Concerns regarding highway maintenance, drainage, flooding issues and outstanding defects continued to be noted. Members also received an update regarding crime within the wider ward area, including reports of criminal damage and shoplifting. **Noted.**

26.90 Public Open Session. To receive any comments from the public on parish matters. No comments as there were no members of the public in attendance.

26.91 Planning. For members to consider any updates on planning issues.

Land at Three Elms – P222138

Members noted that, following the Council's previous representations, an acknowledgement had been received from Herefordshire Council confirming that the matters raised were being reviewed and that liaison was taking place with its legal officers. Members remained concerned that there had been no substantive response and discussed the potential implications of material changes affecting the site and the outstanding Section 106 Agreement. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek a further formal update from Herefordshire Council, requesting a response in sufficient time for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting on 23rd September 2026.

26.92 Biodiversity Action Plan. For members to receive an update and consider any actions. Cllr Morfett. The final ecological report had now been received following amendments and corrections. Members noted that the report incorporated additional supporting information and photographic evidence. The two invoices relating to the ecological survey and supporting specialist work were noted. As the work and expenditure had previously been authorised and the invoices were in accordance with the agreed quotations, the invoices would be processed for payment. Members received an update regarding potential further ecological survey work. An opportunity had arisen to undertake survey work on areas of ancient woodland within the parish. Members considered that surveys should, wherever possible, be undertaken at the optimum time of year to provide the most useful ecological information and agreed that this should be explored further.

Potential future work included surveys of ponds and woodland together with the acquisition, analysis and mapping of ecological records for use within the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Indicative costs would be obtained to support potential grant applications.

Members also discussed the Citizen Bat Project and options for collecting bat records within the parish, including the possible use or purchase of suitable bat-detection equipment. Further information would be obtained before any decision was made.

Noted.

26.93 Hydrology Report for Breinton Parish. For members to receive an update. An initial meeting had taken place with GeoSmart to discuss the scope of the work and the particular hydrological issues affecting the parish. Existing drainage, springs, ponds, flood-risk information and other relevant data had been reviewed. Members noted that the final report would include digital mapping and GIS-compatible information which could assist the Parish Council's future work, including the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Specific areas of interest discussed with the consultants included existing and historic flooding, drainage routes, watercourses, potential pollution issues and areas potentially affected by future development. The report and site visit were expected to be completed before the September Parish Council meeting.

Noted.

26.94 Parish Footpath Officer. To receive a report and consider any actions. The Clerk confirmed that a works order had previously been issued to the Lengthsman for strimming BT20 and BT16, and for works associated with the kissing gate. Members also discussed a request from Herefordshire Council for parish footpath officers to assist in compiling an asset register of public rights of way infrastructure, including gates, stiles and fingerposts. Concern was expressed that this could place a significant additional burden upon volunteer Parish Footpath Officers, particularly as no funding had been identified to support the work. It was noted that completion of the register was voluntary.

Noted.

26.95 Lengthsman. To receive a report and consider any actions. Confirmation had now been received that the Parish Council's drainage grant application had been approved in full. Members considered the need to ensure that drainage grips, ditches and other identified drainage features were cleared of summer growth before the autumn and winter period. It was agreed that the existing annual Lengthsman work schedule should be reviewed and reissued to the Lengthsman so that routine and seasonal works could be programmed more effectively and budgeted for. **Noted.**

26.96 Localities. U743023 signage. For members to receive an update from the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that the new unsuitable for heavy good vehicles signs had been ordered, paid for and dispatched directly to the Lengthsman. The Clerk would contact the Lengthsman to confirm receipt and arrange for the signs to be installed on the previously erected posts. Members continued to note concerns regarding the standard of highway maintenance within the parish and agreed to maintain a watching brief and report outstanding defects to Herefordshire Council as necessary. **Noted.**

26.97 Village Hall Committee. To receive a report from Cllr Lewis. The Village Hall AGM had taken place on 29th June 2026. A community line-dancing event had been booked for 10th October 2026 and arrangements, including catering and ticket pricing, were being developed. A further coffee morning was planned for August to continue fundraising towards replacement chairs. The Committee had also continued discussions regarding the possibility of producing a parish magazine/newsletter. Examples from neighbouring communities had been considered and further information was being obtained regarding production costs, content and distribution. It was considered that a Breinton publication could potentially include information from the Parish Council, Village Hall, church and other local organisations. Further work would be undertaken before any proposals were brought forward. **Noted.**

26.98 Parish Summit. To receive a report on the recent Parish Summit. Cllr Hull. A range of matters affecting parish councils had been discussed, including changes to the planning system, public rights of way, highways and the relationship between Herefordshire Council and parish councils. Members noted in particular proposals concerning the compilation of public rights of way asset information and the potential additional workload this could place upon parish councils and volunteer footpath officers.

Changes to Planning Procedures

Members discussed forthcoming changes to the planning system following information provided at the recent Parish Summit and published government guidance. It was noted that the changes comprised two principal areas: revised arrangements for the delegation of planning decisions to officers and changes relating to the planning appeals process and the Planning Inspectorate. Members noted with concern that, under the revised delegation arrangements, certain categories of planning application would be determined by officers under delegated authority. Whilst parish councils would continue to be consulted and able to submit representations on applications, there would be circumstances where a parish council would no longer be able to request that an application be referred to the Planning and Regulatory Committee for determination. Members considered that this represented a significant change to the role and influence of parish councils within the planning process and could reduce the opportunity for applications of particular local concern to receive consideration by elected members at committee. The potential implications of the revised arrangements for planning appeals were also discussed. Members considered that further clarification was required regarding how the new procedures would operate in practice, including the respective responsibilities of planning officers, the local planning authority and the Planning Inspectorate. It was agreed that the published guidance would be reviewed in further detail and that the Council would continue to monitor the implementation and implications of the new arrangements. Members agreed that further information and presentation material from the Summit would be circulated when available. **Noted.**

26.99 Finance.

1. For members to consider the payment of the following:

- **Clerk's salary July £641.92**
- **SLCC Membership £50.00**
- **BVH 588 £36.00**

Invoices were **approved** for payment including the two invoices relating to the previously approved Biodiversity Action Plan survey work.

- Will Watson 1920 £360.00
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust 26/1264MB £350.00

2. For members to note the following payments made between meetings:

Bank Charges £4.25, FMS Hereford £45.42, Ionos £9.00, Geosmart £5520.00, SSP Direct £223.02 Payments made between meetings were **noted**.

4. Bank Reconciliation. For members to approve the bank reconciliation dated 16th July 2026. See finance report. The bank reconciliation dated 16th July 2026 was **approved**.

26.100 Parish Priorities. For members to consider Parish Priorities for July – December 2026 Previously;

1. Thefts
2. Anti-social behaviour at Breinton Springs
3. Speeding in Kings Acre Road from the Credenhill junction

It was **approved** that the parish Priorities for July- December remain **unchanged**.

26.101 Clerk's Annual Leave. To note that the clerk will be taking two weeks' annual leave during August, dates to be confirmed. **Noted**.

26.102 To consider items for the next agenda.

The following items were identified for consideration/update at the next meeting:

- Herefordshire Local Plan.
- Land at Three Elms/Section 106 and any further planning or enforcement updates.
- Hydrology Report.
- Biodiversity Action Plan and ecological survey work.
- Parish newsletter/magazine, if further information was available.

Meeting ended at 9.00pm

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT