

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 15th September at 7.30pm

Present Councillor Mr. B. Phillips
 Councillor Mr. S. Leigh
 Councillor Mr. C. Holford
 Councillor Mrs. E. Nolan-Thompson
 County Councillor J Shaw
 Country Councillor D Morehead

Councillor Mrs. S. Thompson
 Councillor Mr. C. Grainger
 District Councillor P Harrison
 District Councillor J. Byng
 Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)
 2 members of the public were present.

Police Report: Police were unable to attend, but PCSO Fincher sent the following report:
"Please accept our apologies, we will not be able to attend today's meeting. Should any questions for the Police be raised, please feel free to drop them to me on an email and I or one of the team will respond as soon as we can.
bewdleyandrural.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Incident report
 Thankfully crime in the Kidderminster foreign parish area remains very low, the only call registered with us is in relation to animals : Police ref:- 00047_I_04092025 Sheep left field and were situated near to roadside, single report. No other reports taken of a similar nature or further concern to road users.

Finally:
 Please can I advise everyone to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters: This messaging service is updated by members of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Team for residents of the area?"

Police matter to be raised: A resident of Low Habberley stated that they had found a knife/knives near to the bus shelter... reported to the police 4 weeks' ago. Also a hypodermic needle had been found in the back lane behind the former council houses, and also dumped calor gas drums in this lane.

Public Open Forum –
 A member of the public noted that an agenda item involved a discussion around a possible **name change** of the Parish, and posed the question whether Kidderminster Foreign Parish was losing its identity. And as such, would the parish itself be lost or swallowed up by bordering authorities. Councillors stated that the name change was, in the opinion of some, to give the parish a better, more meaningful name.

Secondly at the request of a member of the public, a discussion took place concerning the nationalistic flags which had been appearing locally, and specifically on the Franche Road in Kidderminster. Questions asked were: what authority was given to put these up? (None known). If left, and they become tatty, who is paying to take them down? (No specific answer was known). It was noted that there had been only one instance of a flag in this parish, which had quickly been taken down. County Councillors present stated that they would only intervene if the flag(s) were causing a danger to motorists. And it was assumed that eventually the flags would be removed, probably by the District Council, as fly-tipped litter. The point being made was that this would be at the direct cost of the district's rate payers.

Councillor Holford gave a vote of thanks to Mr. Ron Collins for his work on investigating questions concerning local Fire/water Hydrants, details of which he presented at the last meeting.

1. **Apologies For Absence:** Received and approved for Cllr. R. Roberts.

2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** Interests as previously minuted and declared on the central register.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 18th August 2025 were approved and signed.

4. **County and District Councillors' Reports -**

County Councillors' reports :
Councillor Jenny Shaw tabled the following report:

"Habberley Lane white road markings are now in a work programme to be done. I've requested from the traffic island to the end of the village before the trail so hopefully, they will all get done.

*I have now received the below update from the Traffic Management team in relation to the request to consider changing the **speed limit on Hoarstone Lane**. They have looked at the attached speed and collision data and also visited the site. The current roadside development is in accordance with the current 40mph speed limit. The area is very rural but has numerous warning signs and road markings to highlight the hazards present. When considering this request, they do not think that Department for Transport guidance is met here for a 30mph speed limit. This national guidance is intended to create consistency, in terms of speed limits, and ensure that they are effective in the absence of enforcement.*


Northwood lane - Bollards have now been installed but digging out the gully is for some reason proving problematic, my liaison officer is still chasing this up.

*I have already informed The Clerk of the reply from WCC regarding the **church wanting a sign** but here is the answer I received. My liaison officer has discussed this with the relevant Teams and the verge in question does form part of the WCC highway, which is why there is a speed limit sign there. Unfortunately, we cannot install a sign indicating the church as there is no vehicle access or parking at the location and we also would not allow a non-standard sign (provided by the parish for example) to be placed at the location, either. We would also not install a 'brown' tourism church sign unless the church was of some significant importance.*

Suggestions have been a small additional sign fixed to the notice board, perhaps or a hanging sign placed in the nearby garden, but I understand that this would require planning permission from WFDC to erect this."

It was explained the reasoning why the Church signage had been requested, as travellers along Eymore Lane

	<p>looking for the church did not see the noticeboard until too late, and had passed the church drive. Further thought to be given to this to find a solution.</p> <p>It was noted that the centre white lines in Habberley Lane were now so worn that they disappear in wet weather conditions.</p> <p>In respect of the blocked drain in Northwood Lane, it was understood that Cllr. D. Morehead was following this up.</p> <p>District Councillors' Report & District discussion</p> <p>A brief discussion took place about the District Council's "Call for sites" for new housing developments. This has been driven by the new house building targets set by Central Government where Wyre Forest's target for new housing had been uplifted from 276 to 518. Wyre Forest intimated that they were committed to maintaining Open Break areas to allow rural settlements to retain their own identification. Of concern to this parish, however, would be expansion to the North of Kidderminster, particularly behind the Ferndale Estate.</p>
5.	<p><u>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:</u></p> <p>a) <u>New Planning applications:</u></p> <p>25/0654/DEM – Demolition of High Habberley House, and associated extensions – (Parish notified for information only, and were not required to comment). However, after discussion, the Clerk was instructed to submit the following:</p> <p><i>"We understand the reason for demolition as the building is in a bad state of repair, and unsuited to its most recent purpose as a care home but we do feel also that it is unfortunate that the parish is losing yet another historic building.</i></p> <p><i>However, we are concerned about the future development and repurposing of the site after demolition We would support extension of the current usage of Hollyfields to provide extra capacity for care, but not merely for housing or car parking, and hope that this opportunity will not be missed for the sake of the local community. We understand the reason for demolition as the building is in a bad state of repair, and unsuited to its most recent purpose as a care home but we do feel also that it is unfortunate that the parish is losing yet another historic building.</i></p> <p><i>However, we are concerned about the future development and repurposing of the site after demolition We would support extension of the current usage of Hollyfields to provide extra capacity for care, but not merely for housing or car parking, and hope that this opportunity will not be missed for the sake of the local community."</i></p> <p>b) <u>Update on Previous applications:</u></p> <p>23/0538/SCR Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion at Trimpley Reservoir, Eymore Green, Trimpley, Bewdley – Pending Decision.</p> <p>25/0578/S73 – Removal of Agricultural Tie – Hoarstone Lodge, Hoarstone Lane – Approved</p> <p>c) <u>Compliance Issues/Appeals and other planning matters</u> –</p> <p>i) Oak Meadow Farm (Off Honeybrook Lane) - Appeal 24/008 Lodged re Enforcement Notice served – Decision awaited</p>
6.	<p><u>Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items</u></p> <p><u>Highway Matters .</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habberley Lane – White Lines - see County Cllr. Shaw's Report. • Provision of a Defibrillator in Low Habberley – Clerk was awaiting a response in connection with this from Community Housing. • Digital and Data Compliance – Clerk advised that both website and email had now been transferred to .gov.uk. She advised that she needed to transfer all her contact details across to the new email address which was clerk@kidderminsterforeign-pc.gov.uk. Once she had done this, she would notify all official bodies, alter all contact documents and commence using the new address. In the meantime, she would continue with the googlemail account, which is still working, (and for which she was still paying). • Signpost to Church – (See County Councillor Jenny Shaw's report above) • Name Change for this Parish – A discussion took place, following some queries into the name at the Vintage Rally stand. Although historically the current name held significance, new people to the area seemed perplexed by the name. However, it would be difficult to find a name which reflected all the disparate parts of the parish. Some councillors said they disliked the reference to either Kidderminster or Foreign in the name of the parish despite the historical connect. Also a counter view was that a change of name may make the parish more susceptible to being split, as it still worked for a lot of people in the area, and what would be the benefit, and did the electorate care and there was a very considerable amount of work involved in bringing about any name change, not to mention a not inconsiderable cost to parishioners. And on that basis was the name change worth doing. Clerk was asked to start to compile an estimate of costs – in itself, not a quick and easy task. • BT Cable – down on hedgerow in Hoarstone Lane – chased again by Clerk. • Blocked drain – Northwood Lane – (See County Councillor's Report above) • Fly tipping – multiple deposits around the parish reported.
7.	<p><u>Items for October Newsletter</u> - Various items were suggested, including an article on the Vintage Rally, suggested name change for the parish, and new email and website notifications.</p>
8.	<p><u>Lengthsman and ROW Matters</u></p> <p>a) Lengthsman – August invoice for work undertaken (previously circulated) was approved for payment.</p> <p>b) Rights of Way – (No discussion without ROW Cllr. Roberts being present)</p>

	<p>Stiles in need of repair – Bite Farm – This matter was being followed up by the PROW Warden.</p> <p>Unrecorded (Permissive) paths – No further paths as yet identified to be recorded as official ROW.</p> <p>Circular Walks Around Trimpley – Reprint – Matter postponed pending report from PROW Warden</p>
9.	<p>Financial Reports –</p> <p>a) Ratification of payments to be made – a) Payments confirmed – Lengthsman ^{AUGUST} July Invoice -£221.00; Trimpley Village Hall – Hire of Room (Jan-June 2025) - £225.00; E Whitehouse – Clerk’s Expenses + Back pay - £164.54</p> <p>Cllr. to Authorise: Cllr. Grainger.</p> <p>b) Electronic Banking - no further progress made.</p> <p>c) Bank Mandate – Cllr. Elise Nolan-Thompson had been added to the Bank Mandate as a signatory Clerk had re-sent instructions to follow to gain on-line account access to councillors who had not yet signed up.</p>
10.	<p>Worcestershire CALC Reports & County and District & other Correspondence –</p> <p>a) Worcs CALC/Wyre Forest Forum held by Zoom Monday 8th September was attended by Cllr., Holford and the Clerk. Clerk gave a brief resume of the meeting discussions, and Cllr. Holford and his thoughts on being a Parish Councillor, and role played by CALC which was shared at the CALC meeting, and had previously been shared with all councillors at Kidderminster Foreign.</p> <p>b) Worcs. CALC AGM at Finepoint House, Wyre Forest – arranged for 13th November commencing at 5.15p.m.</p> <p>c) Overnight Parking – Eymore Wood Car Park – A complaint with photographs had been sent to the Clerk by a member of the public. Clerk had explained that the Parish Council had no authority over the car parks, and were therefore unable to act, but she had forwarded the matter to Arley Estate (Mark Webb) who advised that new signage prohibiting this use was set to be erected.</p>
11.	<p>Road Accident Record – None.</p>
12.	<p>Other Matters</p> <p>Clerk supplied the following cards for posting on the 4 noticeboards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of Councillors - List of Forthcoming meeting dates. <p>A question was raised about the possibility of installing roadside Planters(2) – at the entrance and exit Village signs(not the village gateways) in Low Habberley. Clerk was to investigate possible costs of purpose-sourced planters, and County Councillor Shaw stated that she would investigate permission(s) needed to site these. After initial installation and costs, there would be cost of on-going maintenance in planting up and watering, and it was suggested that this may be put out to local volunteers.</p> <p>Clerk would place an item for discussion on next month’s agenda.</p> <p>Next Meeting Confirmed – Monday 20th October 2025 The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chairman </p>