

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 19th January 2026 at 7.30pm

<p>Present Councillor Mr. B. Phillips Councillor Mr. C. Holford Councillor Mrs. E. Nolan-Thompson County Councillor J Shaw District Councillors J Byng</p>	<p>Councillor Mrs. S. Thompson Councillor Mr. C. Grainger Councillor Mr. R. Roberts Councillor Mr. S. Leigh Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk) 6 members of the public were present.</p>
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Fire Procedures - As posted in the village hall. Assembly point: the carpark.
Police Report: Police not in attendance.
They had sent a report stating that there had been no reported incidents during the month in the Trimpley area.
Public Open Forum -
Most of the public present were concerned about Severn Trent's project to empty the sludge lagoon at the Reservoir site. Three councillors and the Clerk had attended a STW drop in session at the Reservoir, but had departed with more questions than answers. STW would not divulge the sites where the sludge would be spread, just verbally assuring everyone that the sludge content met all Environment Agency testing requirements, and that the sites too (which we had been told were agricultural sites within 15 miles of the Reservoir) had been tested in respect of chemical make-up and element deficiencies. Assurance was given that the sludge would improve agricultural land. However, no data had been shared with those who attended the drop in session and there was considerable scepticism expressed about these statements, and also whether levels of chemicals used in the water treatment process, particularly aluminium sulphate, were safe, and also would not get into the food chain, or nearby watercourses.
Concern was also expressed about the tanker traffic required to travel local lanes to transport the sludge from the reservoir, and the almost inevitable verge damage. It was noted that there could be up to 40 tankers leaving the reservoir site every day over a period of several weeks.

1. **Apologies For Absence:** Apologies received from C.Cllr. D. Morehead and District Cllr. Paul Harrison
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 15th December 2025 were approved and signed – with the year added in the heading.

4. **County and District Councillors' Reports -**
County Councillors' reports :
Councillor Jenny Shaw tabled the following report:
*"The Worcestershire On Demand Bus service is to commence in the Wyre Forest 26.01.26 I am awaiting official communication on how this will look in the Wyre Forest i.e. where the drop off places will be; I should have this soon so I will be able to tell you more next month. County Council leadership creates new Cabinet DOGE role to drive reform. The Leader of Worcestershire County Council, Councillor Jo Monk, has appointed Councillor Nik Price as Cabinet Member for Strategic Delivery, Operations, Governance and Efficiency (Strategic DOGE). This is a newly created Cabinet role designed to strengthen delivery, accelerate transformation and ensure the Council is run efficiently during a period of significant challenge and change. The new portfolio brings together responsibility for strategic delivery, operational performance, governance, efficiency, and transformation. Focusing on how the Council works at its core, it aims to ensure that services are reliable, systems are modern, governance is strong and public money is used as effectively as possible for the benefit of Worcestershire residents. Manhole cover marked gas in the recently resurface patching, no one can see a reason for why this has turned up, but highways don't seem overly concerned that it is there. Money has been deducted from my highways fund for the 40 roundels to be painted on Hoarstone lane, The road is due to received surface dressing later in the year, so the roundels won't be painted till after this has been done. I am awaiting updates still on the below.
#10534 Blocked Gullies at bottom of Hollie Lane have been reported.
#10533 Flooding outside Myndholm, we have asked for the pipe under the road to be jetted out.
#10522 I have asked for the reflective markers to be repaired and replaced on the telegraph poles on Hoarstone Lane."*
Councillor Dan Morehead also sent in the following report:
"Wassell Wood Fly Tipping: As per the previous request from KFPC, I have requested that the covert CCTV is deployed in this location to support any prosecution and deter others in the future. I will keep the Council updated.
Climate Action Plan: On Feb 11th, I will be presenting Cabinet with an update on actions to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions. It includes the updated Climate Change Action Plan 2026 for approval. Call for Sites: In terms of the call for sites exercise the Planning Policy team are currently carrying out a site assessment for each, then meeting with consultees in February and plan to set up a steering group in March. There have been a total of 732 hectares of land submitted (approx.) across 96 sites
Budget Meetings: The next few months are key ones for Budget proposals at both County and District Councils with County meeting on January 15th and February 26th and the District Council meeting on February 25th. Ahead of this, the County Council met on January 15th and agreed a vast range of cuts and/or changes to the capital programme across areas ranging from SEND, Highways, Railway Infrastructure, vacant staffing positions and home to school transport"
District Councillors: -
Advised that the **"Call for sites"** for new housing developments had now closed, and more details on sites proposed would be available once these had been assessed.
Trimpley Lane was earmarked for closure from 23rd February. (Councillors requested that signage for this be put in a sensible place, so that traffic would not be too far along the lane to take alternative routes.) Also that signage should be removed promptly after the work was completed).

5.	<p><u>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:</u></p> <p>a) <u>New Planning applications:</u> None as at date of Meeting</p> <p>b) <u>Update on Previous applications:</u> <u>23/0538/SCR</u> Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion at Trimpey Reservoir, Eymore Green, Trimpey, Bewdley – Pending Decision.</p> <p>c) <u>Compliance Issues/Appeals and other planning matters –</u></p> <p>i) <u>Oak Meadow Farm (Off Honeybrook Lane) - Appeal 24/008 Lodged re Enforcement Notice served –</u> Decision awaited.</p> <p>ii) <u>Site off Habberley Road</u> – opposite Habberley Valley – where continual outside burning had been witnessed was reported as being investigated. No further details available.</p> <p>d) <u>Local Plan Review</u> – As previously stated by District Councillor Byng, the Call for Sites was now closed, and sites put forward were being assessed, and details will be made available soon.</p>
6.	<p><u>Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Defibrillator for Low Habberley</u> – Clerk had been successful in her application for a free defibrillator supplied by the British Heart Foundation, (although the machine had not yet been received) and was now in the process of facilitating its erection in Low Habberley. The grant offered did not give the option for solar power. She had contacted the County Council for a licence to erect a pole for the machine abutting the side wall of the bus shelter and had also commenced in applying for a quotation from the National Grid for installation of an unmetered supply. Cllr. Shaw would also investigate whether a pre-used street lighting column may be available/suitable for this purpose. • <u>Change of Name for the Parish</u> – Minute postponed (closed) until a later date. • <u>Flooding – adjacent to Myndholm</u> – This had been inspected by County Highways, and Cllr, Shaw advised that the drain under the road would be jetted. • <u>Roadside Trees in the Parish</u> – Clerk still trying to get a list of current TPOs. Cllr. Mrs. Nolan-Thompson stated that despite the road sweeping, with branches that had fallen, or half-fallen, and the roadside brash, the perceived width of the road was made far worse. However, clearance of this from the verges was very low priority. • <u>Sump Clearance – Hollies Lane</u> – County Cllr. J. Shaw advised in her report that this had been reported, but the matter of putting this on a regular maintenance programme was still unaddressed, and she was still talking to the local highways liaison officer. (Mr. R. Collins was allowed to advise that the sumps were still full, and overflowing, which could cause possible spill-out onto the A442.) • <u>Reprint of Kidderminster Foreign Portraits of Trimpey and Habberley</u> – Clerk advised that she had been unable to contact the former printers, but whilst in contact with former Parish Councillor Mrs Carole Gammond, she had obtained a supply of 15 unsold books. Cllr. Holford took and paid £10 for two books – which the Clerk would bank.
7.	<p><u>Severn Trent Clearance of Sludge Pool</u> – (see discussions in Public Open Forum) Clerk was tasked with obtaining technical and site information from the Environment Agency, and also to liaise and try to get agreement from STW personnel to attend a public meeting, possibly before the start of a parish council meeting.</p>
8.	<p><u>Possible provision of Parish Council owned Grit Bin</u> – deferred to next meeting.</p>
9.	<p><u>Habberley Valley Matters – Access road and Dog Mess Bins</u> - The main access road had been resurfaced by Wyre Forest District Council. Clerk had received comment that dog mess was causing a problem on the access to Habberley Valley from Valley Close. She would contact the District Rangers to see if a dog bin (serviced by them) could be sited near to this, and perhaps more signs put up.</p>
10.	<p><u>January Quarterly Newssheet</u> – Clerk advised that this was partially complete, but she was struggling for relevant copy. She would try to issue the newssheet before the end of January.</p>
11.	<p><u>Lengthsman and ROW Matters</u></p> <p>a) <u>Lengthsman</u> – December invoice for work undertaken (previously circulated) was approved for payment.</p> <p>b) <u>Circular Walks Around Trimpey – Reprint</u> – Matter postponed pending report from PROW Warden who was still checking the walks. Cllr. Roberts asked if anyone wished to assist to contact him.</p> <p>c) <u>Waymark Signage at Entrance to Low Habberley Farm</u> – Clerk advised that she had received comment that signage at this point seemed incorrect. Cllr. Roberts would check.</p>
12.	<p><u>Financial Reports –</u></p> <p>a) <u>Ratification of payments to be made – a) Payments confirmed</u> – Lengthsman December Invoice - £221.00 <u>Cllr. to Authorise</u> – Cllr. Holford. Clerk would also deposit £10 for the sale of 2 books.</p> <p>b) <u>Employers' NI Liability</u> – Clerk advised that the liability continued to accumulate monthly, and that she had run off a Direct Debit Mandate to submit to HMRC for signature. This was duly signed for the Clerk to submit.</p> <p>c) <u>Balanced Accounts to End December 2025</u> – Clerk had circulated the balanced accounts to all councillors for approval. She would post these on the website.</p> <p>d) <u>Precept for 2026/27</u> – after much discussion it was decided to submit a precept demand of £12500. Clerk to notify WFDC accordingly, by the prescribed deadline.</p> <p>e) <u>Electronic Banking</u> - No further progress.</p>
13.	<p><u>Worcestershire CALC Reports & County and District & other Correspondence –</u></p> <p>a) <u>Worcs. CALC AGM at Finepoint House, Wyre Forest</u> – Cllr. Holford had circulated his report on the rather unsatisfactory meeting held on 2nd December. He would continue in his quest to try to get more local support for Worcs. CALC.</p> <p>b) <u>Training</u> – Cllr. Mrs Nolan-Thompson was to undertake a course (by zoom) for new councillors.</p>

14.	Road Accident Record – Early January – Clerk noted a vehicle had left the Habberley Road (over the hedge) just above Habberley Valley Entrance. It was noted that there had also been another car over the hedgerow at the same place on Friday 16 th January.
15.	Other Matters Lettering on PC Roll board – Cllr. Holford kindly offered to arrange to get this, with invoice to follow. Litter Pick – Cllr. Holford had undertaken a voluntary litter pick from Low Habberley, and had picked up some abandoned traffic cones. It was also noted that some roadside bollards had been knocked out of position, and this was to be mentioned to the lengthsman to attend and re-fix. Next Meeting Confirmed – Monday 16th February 2026 The meeting closed at 9.18p.m.

Chairman 