

KIDDERMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 16th February 2026 at 7.30pm

Present Councillor Mr. B. Phillips
Councillor Mr. C. Holford
Councillor Mrs. E. Nolan-Thompson
County Councillor J Shaw
District Councillors J Byng and P Harrison

Councillor Mrs. S. Thompson
Councillor Mr. C. Grainger
Councillor Mr. R. Roberts
Councillor Mr. S. Leigh
Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)
3 members of the public were present.

Fire Procedures - As posted in the village hall. Assembly point: the carpark.
Police Report: Police not in attendance, and no report was tabled. The Clerk gave tabled a brief note on a restructure of West Mercia policing, linking operations with Herefordshire.
One member of the public reported on two police matters he had witnessed during the past month.
Firstly, the A442 had been temporarily closed whilst a gentleman in a confused state was picked up. Apparently the gentleman was known to the police and this had been a usual occurrence.
Secondly, anti-social behaviour had been witness in the Hollies Lane and Foxholes area. A man with a dog had allowed the dog to chase a deer from undergrowth in the Foxholes area, although legally, there were no restrictions in respect of keeping the dog on a lead at this point, and there had been incidences of Hollies Lane being used by off-road type electric bikes – no number had been taken due to the excessive speed of the bike. These reports were considered worthy of mention to the police as anti-social behaviour.
Drains in Hollies lane – were again reported as not having been cleared, and water and grit debris was still going across the across the A442 in heavy rain since the gullies were full. Both County Highways and the Countryside service seem to deny responsibility of this restricted byway, but fears were expressed that the debris spilling out onto the A442 will cause RTAs. Cllr. Jenny Shaw stated that she was actively following up this matter at County Hall.
Foxholes Area - Honeybrook - it was reported that several trees had fallen across and into the Honeybrook. Apparently these had been reported to the Forestry Commission.
Park Attwood Site – A report was brought to the meeting's attention that lighting had been installed in excess of what was allowed in the planning permission. In addition it was felt that some trees subject of TPOs were in danger of being lost.
Drains – Trimpley Lane, Shatterford by Park Attwood - Oak Tree Farm. – Query whether these are blocked as there seemed to be excessive water on the road. Outside Little Gains Lodge water problems.
Trimpley Lane near Myndholm – Excessive mud on road. Could the road sweeper be deployed.
Large Sump, by Fountain Court – Maintenance of this was queried. The Chair confirmed it had been checked last year, and vegetation cut back, but he would mention it to the lengthsman again for attention.

1. **Apologies For Absence:** No apologies
2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** Interests as previously minuted and declared on the central register. Cllrs Phillips and Holford expressed interest in any discussions and items relating to the emptying of the sludge pool at Severn Trent Trimpley Reservoir
3. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 19th January 2026 were approved and signed.
4. **County and District Councillors' Reports -**
Councillor Jenny Shaw tabled the following report:
Worcestershire on demand launches in North West Worcestershire
The new North West zone will cover Stourport, Bewdley, Tenbury Wells and surrounding villages. The on-demand bus service offers an alternative to traditional public transport, allowing passengers to book journeys when they need them, without fixed routes or timetables. To celebrate recent launches, all journeys within the North West, North Central and North Malvern zones, will be free until the end of February. The service operates 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and accommodates journeys up to 15 kilometres (approx. 9 miles) measured as the crow flies. Drop Off locations include Bewdley Museum, Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster Hospital, Kidderminster Railway Station, Severn Valley Railway Bewdley, Tesco Stourport, The Civic Stourport and WM Safari Park.
Local Government Review
On the 5th Feb the government has launched a public consultation to gather views from partners and residents on how local government is organised and structured. The seven-week consultation follows the government's previous announcement that it intends to end all remaining two-tier local government arrangements across the country. This is part of wider plans for devolution and giving more powers to local areas. Last year, Worcestershire County Council and the county's six district, borough and city councils were invited to submit proposals for a new structure of local government. Services to residents and businesses are currently delivered by Worcestershire County Council alongside Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills, Redditch, Worcester City, Wychavon and Wyre Forest councils. Worcestershire County Council, working with Wyre Forest District Council, put forward a proposal for One Worcestershire - a single unitary authority for the whole county. This would bring all local government services under one council, replacing the existing county and district councils. Those in favour of One Worcestershire say this would provide clearer accountability, stronger financial sustainability and simpler services for residents. The proposal is backed by a range of local partners, including organisations from health, emergency services, business and the voluntary sector, most of which already operate on a county wide level. An alternative proposal is also being consulted on by the government. This has been submitted jointly by Bromsgrove District, Redditch Borough, Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon councils and would create two new unitary authorities: one covering the north of the county and one covering the south. The government consultation will run until Thursday 26 March, with responses accepted online. For more details, including links to the two proposals, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-governmentreorganisation-in-worcestershire> For more information on the One Worcestershire proposal, please visit: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LGR> For those with no online access, you can visit your local libraries for support. A final decision is expected in early summer 2026, with elections for a new 'shadow' authority or authorities to run alongside existing councils

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planned for May 2028. The new council/s are due to go live 1st April 2028. On Thursday the 26th the council will meet to try and pass the **budget for 2026-2027** we are looking for a council tax increase of 8.99%. Failure to pass this is likely to trigger a section 114 where the Labour government will send in administrators to Manage the county council finances. Where this has happened before it has meant a 10% increase in council tax for three consecutive years a loss of none statutory services and no direct decision making for your councillors.

Parish Issues

#10534 **Blocked Gullies at bottom of Hollies Lane.** For some reason they came and cleared the drains on the A442 that sit near to Hollies Lane but they did not do the gullies on Hollies lane. An inspector was sent out on the 11th to recheck and clarify for contractors exactly what needs doing. There are ongoing solutions being put forward for assessment to try and improve the bottom of Hollies Lane but I have been told not to share in case we cannot follow through, it has not been forgotten we are still working on it.

#10533 **Flooding outside Myndholm**, this has been done for now, I will likely need to revisit this in the near future.

#10522 I have asked for the reflective markers to be repaired and replaced on the **telegraph poles, Hoarstone Lane**. Still no date for now.

Answer given regarding of siting of **Defib in Low Habberley**

Yes, WCC will allow the siting of a pole and defib on the grass verge at the location previously discussed.

Yes, WCC can assist with the supply and installation of a suitable pole - there will be a charge associated with this for the purchase of and installation of the pole. The cost of this is unknown

5. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **New Planning applications:** None as at date of Meeting

b) **Update on Previous applications:**

23/0538/SCR Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion at Trimpley Reservoir, Eymore Green, Trimpley, Bewdley – **Pending Decision.**

c) **Compliance Issues/Appeals and other planning matters –**

i) **Oak Meadow Farm (Off Honeybrook Lane) - Appeal 24/008 Lodged re Enforcement Notice served –**

Appeal upheld and permission granted. It had been noted that this included a new access from the A442.

ii) **Site off Habberley Road –** opposite Habberley Valley – The owner had been issued with a planning contravention. Although not in this parish, operations on this site had affected parts of it. These operations were being investigated.

iii) **Habberley Trail –** Clerk had received reports that the rebuild of the clubhouse, which had received permission was not being built on the approved site, or in accordance with plans passed. The enforcement team had advised that they would check out this claim.

iv) **Park Attwood Site –** Clerk would contact Enforcement officers re the perceived lighting issues, and TPOs on the site, as discussed in the Open Forum.

d) **Local Plan Review –** No official further information re sites being considered.

6. **Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items**

- **Defibrillator for Low Habberley –** Cllr. Roberts and the Clerk had met with National Grid about a supply for the defibrillator by the bus stop in Low Habberley. The supply would have to come from across the road – and the quote sent through was around £5500 – and therefore untenable. The supply, to meet National Grid standards has to be a new one, and they would not entertain picking up the supply previously at the site of the removed telephone kiosk. The next site option was at Community Housing in Valley Close; a supply/siting from private dwellings in Fountain Court was thought to be fraught with difficult legal aspects, in case ownership changed hands. Clerk was tasked with arranging a site meeting with Community Housing to discuss the Valley Close option. Meantime, the defibrillator and the casing had been delivered, and Cllr. Mrs. Nolan-Thompson agreed to store these. The Clerk had advised British Heart Foundation of the difficulties being faced in respect of installation, and they would view this sympathetically.
- **Flooding – adjacent to Myndholm –** As reported in the Open Forum, there was excessive mud on the road where there had been flooding. Cllr. Shaw would try to get the road sweeper to visit, but for now the drain seemed to be working, as she had reported. As a general comment, Councillors stated that certain gullies needed jetting on a yearly plan rather than current 4-yearly plan. Certainly at the drain by Myndholm there was no silt trap, and so soil soon goes down the drain and it gets blocked again. It was felt that there may be a further drain in this area, but it was very far back in the hedge. If the hedge was cut back by the landowner, then it maybe a partial solution to this problem.
- **Roadside Trees in the Parish –** Clerk had received and shared with councillors a list of tree references which had preservation orders on them in our parish. Also there was a link to a District Map detailing sites of these trees. However, Councillors felt that the list was perhaps out of date, since the number of TPOs seemed small. It was also felt that there were a number of trees that should be protected, since if they were removed it would change the character of the village. One tree mentioned was near to the church. The Clerk advised that many years ago, a tree survey had been undertaken in the parish, and it was felt that this should be done again. However, the current two tree wardens were not responding to emails sent to them. Cllr. Holford stated that he had a contact who may be able to help with advice.
- **Sump Clearance – Hollies Lane –** solution still being sought by C.Cllr. J. Shaw
- **Reprint of Kidderminster Foreign Portraits of Trimpley and Habberley –** Minute closed for time being, as a small supply of copies had come to light. – with concentration of efforts being on the reprint of footpath booklet.
- **Habberley Valley – Valley Close dog mess bins/signage –** This had been raised by a member of the public. The Clerk had contacted the District Council and received the following response: "Habberley Valley has dog waste bins near the old café and in the car park, so whichever route walkers take they will pass one of them. I don't feel extra bins would help. I will of course look at the signage situation however and also speak to the enforcement team if you feel there is an increase in dog fouling around Valley Close?"
- **Fly tipping – Upper Birch Lane – Garden Waste –** Clerk will report for collection by *streetscene*.

7.	Lightmarsh Lane – Repairs and Resurfacing – Cllr. C Grainger reported on the bad state of the lane. Cllr. Dan Morehead had reported that it was being patched again this year, and then being re surfaced next financial year. It had been noted that the previous resurfacing carried out had been of very poor quality with cracks appearing in the tar almost immediately, which has resulted in the inevitable pothole situation now being faced.
8.	Hoarstone Lane – Clerk was asked to report a bad pothole in the road at the sandstone cutting.
9.	<p><i>(At this point Cllrs. Phillips (Chair) and Holford (Vice Chair) left the room. Cllr. Mrs. S. Thompson was voted in to take the chair.</i></p> <p>Severn Trent Clearance of Sludge Pool – A discussion took place on the imminent project to empty the sludge pool at the reservoir. Points clarified were as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerk had received and circulated the Environment Agency reports in respect of the sludge content and the testing of the agricultural land where this was to be spread. - The Parish Council felt that although they would rather not see this project taking place in the parish, it was generally for the public good to have clean water, and saw its role as rather an enabler to allow public discussion to take place, and to receive clarification. - Clerk was given a series of questions to ask STWA – which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <i>When was the sludge lagoon at Trimpley last emptied (fully), and how often is this scheduled to be done?</i> ii) <i>Has STWA undertaken emptying of sludge lagoons at other Water Treatment Plant locations, and if so where?</i> iii) <i>If Yes, how was the waste disposed of in those instances? Did it undergo further treatment(s) after being extracted from a lagoon before it was put out into the environment?</i> iv) <i>Do you have information about how other Water Companies deal with this sludge residue? And do you have reports from other locations on this matter?</i> - It was generally felt that the Environment Agency testing undertaken and resultant permission to proceed would have to be accepted. One aspect of the high aluminium content would be challenged but other than that the Parish Council were unable to stop the project. - Acting as the enabler to transparency, the Clerk was asked to liaise with Severn Trent to ask them to attend a public Open Meeting before the start of the March Parish Council meeting, for general public discussion and awareness. To this end, the Clerk would make enquiries with the village hall about booking the hall for the earlier hour of 6.30p.m. with the general Parish Council meeting to start at 7.30p.m. <p><i>(Discussions being complete on this matter, Cllrs. Phillips and Holford rejoined the meeting, and Cllr. Phillips resumed the Chair from Cllr. Mrs. Thompson.)</i></p>
10.	<p>Reservoir Safety Reform Programme Consultation</p> <p>The Clerk had picked this up from the CALC Circular: <i>“The consultation will focus on proposed changes to reservoir safety regulation arising from the Independent Reservoir Safety Review Report(External link) following the Toddbrook reservoir incident in 2019. Further details are available here: Reservoir Safety Reform Programme Engage Environment Agency Reservoir Safety Reform Programme Engage Environment Agency and submitting their email address. This ensures they receive the most up-to-date information as the programme progresses.”</i></p> <p>A discussion took place about the number of small Reservoirs in the parish (thought to be 3), as well as the large WTW Reservoir at Eymore. Clerk would register the interest of this Parish Council to remain informed and take part in the consultation.</p>
11.	Local Government Review - Consultation Response - Following a vote, it was unanimously decided to submit a response from the Parish Council supporting One Unitary Council for the whole of Worcestershire.
12.	Local Parish Boundary Review – Clerk advised that this would take effect from the beginning of April 2026, with the Habberley Park site moving out of the Parish. This justified Councillors’ calculations in respect of ignoring revenue from extra tax base housing in calculation of the higher precept for the coming year. Clerk had checked the official order made was correctly worded.
13.	Possible provision of Parish Council owned Grit Bin – A quantity of grit was kindly being stored for the Parish Council at Grey Green Farm. A discussion took place about whether this should be put into a parish-owned grit bin. However, few present could ever remember using/spreading road grit from bins in recent years, and the lengthsman had no means to transport grit. Some possible sites for positioning a bin were mentioned, but the matter was left in abeyance, and the minute closed for the time being.
14.	<p>Lengthsman and ROW Matters</p> <p>a) Lengthsman – January invoice for work undertaken (previously circulated) was approved for payment.</p> <p>b) Circular Walks Around Trimpley – Reprint – Clerk read out an email from Kathryn Underhill re funding for a reprint, the main question being if this expenditure would be before the end of March 2026 (this financial year) or whether they should make provision for this in 2026-27. Clerk to go back and inform them that we would be most grateful if the funding could carry over into next year.</p> <p>c) Waymark Signage at Entrance to Low Habberley Farm – deferred to next meeting. Being checked out.</p> <p>d) RsOW – Wassell Wood – in the last storm, 6 trees had come down over the permissive paths. Cllr. Roberts had contacted the woodland trust, but some had already been cleared. He questioned whether we as the Parish Council should be clearing these paths, as they were permissive paths rather than official rights of way. No decision was made on this, but a contact from the Parish Council may assist in getting the fallen trees cleared.</p>
15.	<p>Financial Reports –</p> <p>a) Ratification of payments to be made – a) Payments confirmed – Lengthsman January Invoice - £229.50; Signtech - Roll of honour lettering - £10.80; Worcs CALC Training (Cllr. Mrs. E. Nolan-Thompson) - £48;</p>

	<p>Cllr. to Authorise – Cllr. R. Roberts.</p> <p>b) Internal Auditor – Clerk requested permission to re-appoint Mr. T. Stanley as internal auditor. Clerk would contact him in readiness for the 2025/26 audit.</p> <p>c) Precept – In light of the fact that the base rate for the parish had not taken into account the fact that Habberley Park was to be taken out of the Parish calculation, it was felt by all that the increased Precept of £12,500 was set at the right level. Clerk had notified the District Council of the Parish Precept for 26/27.</p> <p>d) Electronic Banking - No further progress.</p>
16.	<p>Worcestershire CALC Reports & County and District & other Correspondence –</p> <p>a) Worcs. CALC - Next Area Meeting for Wyre Forest – 16th March – CALC .</p> <p>b) Clerk’s gathering – Tuesday 24th March – Clerk would attend if possible.</p> <p>c) Flag Flying Ceremony Invitation – No one wished to attend.</p>
17.	Road Accident Record – None
18.	<p>Other Matters</p> <p>Monday 16th March 2026 - Clerk to invite and check if Severn Trent would attend the public Open Forum, in which case the start time to be brought forward to 6.30pm.</p> <p>Trimpley Lane, Shatterford – Closure for STWA works – request was made that any signage re closure or diversions should be carefully monitored to be correct, and taken away promptly upon completion.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.50p.m.</p>
	Chairman 