


| KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.30pm | |
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| Present Councillor Mr. B. Phillips Councillor Mr. C. Holford Councillor Mrs. E. Nolan-Thompson (left early) <i>County Councillor J Shaw</i> <i>District Councillors J Byng</i> | Councillor Mrs. S. Thompson Councillor Mr. C. Grainger Councillor Mr. R. Roberts Councillor Mr. S. Leigh <i>Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)</i> <i>3 members of the public were present.</i> |
| <p>Fire Procedures - As posted in the village hall. Assembly point: the carpark.</p> <p>Police Report: Police not in attendance, and no report was tabled. The Clerk advised that policing priorities for the next three months had been requested, and was asked to relay as follows: Speed of Traffic – specifically at Trimpley Crossroads – Noisy “trail” bikes – some with and some without numberplates racing in Eymore Lane and Wassell Wood. Clerk advised that there was a nationwide 3-month consultation currently taking place concerning a government initiative to bring about a reduction in the number of police forces across the country (from 43 to 12).</p> <p>Public Open Forum : items raised -</p> <p>Phone Network - it was noted that the local BT Network was going digital – which was met by some as a possible cause for concern.</p> <p>Severn Trent Sludge Pool Emptying – four members of the environmental group CARP from Bewdley were present who still voiced concern about this project, and the physical make up and content of the sludge. They also advised that they were also voicing their concerns at a further Environmental Communication meeting on Monday next. They also advised that the transport group that Severn Trent stated they were using, Oren, was part of the Severn Trent group itself.</p> | |
| 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 16 th February 2026 were approved and signed. |
| 4. | <p>County and District Councillors’ Reports -</p> <p>Councillor Jenny Shaw tabled the following report:</p> <p><i>“After a long meeting with 7 amendments to the budget from the Liberal Democrats Group The council voted through a balanced budget. Unfortunately, this will mean an 8.98% increase in council tax and Exceptional Financial Support of up to 59.9 million, the large increase in council tax is not something any of us wanted to vote for, but it is essential in tackling the council’s financial situation. The alternative of a section 114 notice is not one that would have been of benefit to the residents of Worcestershire.</i></p> <p><i>Locally</i></p> <p><i>I have asked for the two fly posted signs in Honeybrook to be removed. The flood sign that was used for Myndholm to also be removed.</i></p> <p><i>#10534 The blocked gully at the bottom of Hollies Lane was emptied on 11.03.26. Both my Liaison officer and I will keep a regular eye on this one. I am still waiting for highway engineers to visit to visit the site to make a decision on proposed solutions.</i></p> <p><i>#10522 Reflective markers on telegraph pole down Hoarstone Lane. Still on the works programme, I am told the team responsible for jobs like this get diverted to gritting duties during the winter months.</i></p> <p><i>#11171 Gully outside Oak Tree Farm on Trimpley Lane has been reported.</i></p> <p><i>#11172 pothole at the top of the cutting on Hoarstone Lane, this has had a temporary fix, I will have to keep on top of this until a proper patch can be done.</i></p> <p><i>You also asked me to look at getting the hedge trimmed around a drain that had been recently dug out just up from Myndholm but by the time I got to it a couple of day later it appeared to have been done.</i></p> <p><i>As you are aware the 40 roundels in Trimpley have been prematurely painted, I am assured that they will be repainted once the surface dressing has been done this summer.”</i></p> <p>Items raised with the County Councillor</p> <p>Lengthsman scheme.... It was unlikely that there would be an increase in the budget this year. Indeed, at a recent budget meeting, even the scheme’s continued existence was discussed as being in jeopardy.</p> <p>Sign “Road closed” at Upper Birch – please can sign be collected.</p> <p>Items raised with the District Councillor</p> <p>The burnt out car left on the roadside verge by Jacobs Ladder had now been collected.</p> |
| 5. | <p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:</p> <p>a) New Planning applications: None as at date of Meeting</p> <p>b) Update on Previous applications: 23/0538/SCR Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion at Trimpley Reservoir, Eymore Green, Trimpley, Bewdley – Pending Decision. (Clerk had chased this up, as it was now 3 years’ old with no decision. District Councillor Byng said he would follow this up)</p> <p>c) Compliance Issues/Appeals and other planning matters –</p> <p>i) Habberley Trail – Enforcement Reference 26/00052/EN3 – Clerk had received the following response from the Enforcement Officer <i>“A visit has now been undertaken, the new café/visitors building has been measured to ascertain if it is in line with the approved plans. The case is on the agenda to discuss with the planning manager this week I will advise you further in due course.”</i></p> <p>ii) Park Attwood Site – Enforcement Reference 26/00071/EN2 - Clerk had contacted Enforcement officers re the perceived lighting issues, and TPOs on the site, and was awaiting an inspection report. Clerk had received</p> |

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| | <p>two complaints from different members of the public in respect of this, which she had shared, and was awaiting a response from Enforcement officers. It had also been reported that some trees had been taken out presumably to get better views. It was not thought that these were trees subject to TPOs, but this was to be checked. It was also believed that the angle of a security light may have changed, making the problem reported less intrusive..</p> <p>iii) Site off Habberley Road – opposite Habberley Valley (Not in this parish) – On-going Enforcement investigation.</p> <p>d) Local Plan Review – No official further information re sites being considered.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defibrillator for Low Habberley – Disappointingly, after a very positive site meeting at Valley Close Community Housing, the three identified sites had been negated by Community Housing due to objections raised by residents (for privacy reasons). This had set the project back, since the machine was ready for being put up, but nowhere identified to put it. The electricity feed near to Fountain Court was going to cost over £5500 to install, and so was too expensive. Clerk was instructed to make the following enquiries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enquire of Severn Trent Community Fund if grant funding could be available to site the machine by the bus stop in Low Habberley b) Go back to Community Housing to see if there was any possibility of a further site for the machine, other than the 3 suggested and rejected. • Flooding – adjacent to Myndholm – this was thought to have been resolved, although some serious hedge-cutting to make drainage more visible was required. • Roadside and Railside Trees in the Parish – Clerk to mention in Newsletter about dangers of trees falling either road or railside, and the liability of landowners in this respect. A complaint had been received from Cllr. S.Rickhuss of Upper Arley Parish voicing concern about fallen branches on the roadside verges of the A442 at Birch Bank, and the following response had been received from County highways, via Cllr. Shaw “WCC will not remove branches of the side of the highway if they are not on the road, I find it very frustrating myself as there are some real inconsistencies in policy. A roads and major trunk roads (A442 in Question) are inspected every month, and the inspectors are expected to report accurately, as they can be called to court. In many places the larger branches get taken away by members of the public for their own use to burn, however in the case of these busier roads it is too dangerous for people to stop so the branches and sometimes trees are left to gather on the side of the road. As frustrating as you and I may find it there are a lot of people who welcome them left and even welcome the verges to be left unmowed for habitats for insects and small mammals. Where there are branches on pavement these should be removed.” Cllr. Mrs E Nolan Thompson left the meeting at this point. • Sump Clearance – Hollies Lane – The sump at the bottom of the lane was cleared on 11th March. A more permanent regular solution still being sought by C.Cllr. J. Shaw • Lightmarsh Lane – temporary patching had been undertaken of some of the worst potholes. • Pothole – Hoarstone Lane by Cutting – a temporary repair had been undertaken. • Fly tipping – Burnt out car – Habberley Lane – Clerk had reported this but the District Council had stated it was on private land, which the Clerk then disputed. However the car had been removed by the date of the meeting. • Traffic lights for 3 days in Low Habberley – Concern had been expressed that these had been in situ for 3 working days, but no work had been done. The purpose was unclear, and Cllr. Shaw would make enquiries. |
| - | <p>IT Policy – Clerk had drafted the IT Policy for the Parish Council, and had shared this with councillors, and sought approval for adoption. The Policy was duly adopted, and would be published on the website.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Public Engagement – Possible Facebook Page – This was put forward as an idea to increase public engagement with the Parish Council. It would be at no cost and indeed, both the Chair and the Clerk followed Facebook pages of other parishes. The Chair offered to set this up and run it. Councillors were asked to give this some thought for a more in-depth discussion.</p> |
| 9. | <p>April Quarterly Newsletter – Items were put forward for inclusion in the newsletter.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Lengthsman and ROW Matters</p> <p>a) Lengthsman – February and March invoices for work undertaken (previously circulated) were approved for payment. This left the budget underspent by £45.44. Clerk had put this in as an admin cost to go back into parish funds.</p> <p>b) Circular Walks Around Trimpley – Reprint – a quote for these of £198 for 50 or £304 for 100 had been kindly obtained by Cllr. Holford from Versatility in Print. Work in checking the routes, and perhaps new artwork was still being undertaken.</p> <p>c) Waymark Signage at Entrance to Low Habberley Farm – signage was thought to be correct.</p> <p>d) RsOW – Wassell Wood – In consultation with Cllr. Roberts, Clerk had reported one remaining fallen tree which was blocking a permissive path in Wassell Wood, along with missing “no cycling” signs. She had received the following response “We rely upon neighbours and visitors to our woods, such as yourself, to inform us of such instances, which is very much appreciated. I will get this information passed onto the Site Manager so they can action as necessary.”</p> |
| 11. | <p>Financial Reports –</p> <p>a) Ratification of payments to be made – a) Payments confirmed – Lengthsman February Invoice - £221.00; Lengthsman March Invoice - £221.00; Clerk’s expenses – E. Whitehouse - £143.37; Vision ICT – Annual Website Hosting - £199.76 Cllr. to Authorise – Cllr. C. Grainger.</p> <p>b) Internal Auditor – Mr. T. Stanley had agreed to continue as the Parish Council internal auditor.</p> <p>c) Electronic Banking - No further progress.</p> |



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| 12. | <p>Worcestershire CALC Reports & County and District & other Correspondence – Councillor Holford had attended the CALC meeting earlier in the evening, which had been by Zoom. Unfortunately the Chair of the meeting had experienced many breaks in his electronic connection, and so the meeting quality had been very poor.</p> <p>Councillors' and Clerks' Surveys – Clerk had circulated the Councillor CALC survey link with a request to complete this on-line. The Clerk had already completed the Clerk Survey.</p> <p>Wyre Forest Executive Support Officers Meeting – Clerk had been contacted since Kathryn Underhill at Wyre Forest, who along with Cllr Hardiman wished to arrange a meeting in either June or July, re District engagement with Parishes. Clerk would arrange a suitable mutually convenient date/time for this.</p> |
| 13. | <p>Road Accident Record – During the month there had been a RTA with a collision by a car into a gate near to the corner by Myndholm. This same vehicle was the vehicle burnt out on the roadside near to Jacob's Ladder. It was understood that the Police were investigating.</p> |
| 14. | <p>Other Matters Next Month - Annual Parish Meeting – confirmed for 20th April 2026.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.10p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chairman </p> |