KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 20th April 2026 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillor Mr. B. Phillips	Councillor Mrs. S. Thompson
	Councillor Mr. C. Holford	Councillor Mr. C. Grainger
	Councillor Mrs. E. Nolan-Thompson (left early)	Councillor Mr. R. Roberts
	County Councillor J Shaw	Councillor Mr. S. Leigh
	District Councillors J Byng	*Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)*
		6 members of the public were present.

Fire Procedures - As posted in the village hall. Assembly point: the carpark.
A welcome was extended to all present.

1. **Matters raised by Members of the Public with the Parish Council (replacing the usual public open forum)**
Thanks given to a local landowner for clearing a fallen tree on the footpath near to the Foxholes.

2. **Police Report** Signs provided by PC Ginder, re unauthorised bike riding (mainly off road), and also in respect of the importance of keeping dogs on leads around livestock, had been distributed and put up in relevant places around the parish. In some cases these had already been ripped down, and clerk was to ask if smaller sized signs could be provided, which could perhaps be mounted more securely.
There were also reports of youngsters congregating in the unofficial layby just above Habberley Trail, who would make off towards the steep paths into Habberley Valley. There were also reports of unofficial wild camping in Habberley Valley. Clerk to make the police aware of these items.

3. **Blount Charity Report courtesy of Mr. C. Jordan (Parish Council representative)**
Clerk read out the following report provided by Mr. C. Jordan.
"The year has been eventful for the Charity, with several important decisions being taken:
1. I mentioned in last year's report that the Charity should be looking to develop the site further, as at last the exact boundary had been agreed with the Land Registry office. The Charity has enough funds, and I am a firm believer that Charities should be using unrestricted funds to further develop the aims of the Charity. These should not be left 'in the bank'! This was eventually agreed and plans are now been put in place to build a further bungalow and community room on the site. This will benefit all residents whilst also allowing the Trustees to have meetings 'on site'.
2. The Gardening Contract with The Emily Jordan Foundation has continued to develop, with all the residents being very satisfied with the work done. The Trustees have agreed that this will continue into the future.
3. As reported last year, Flat 2 had remained empty for a substantial period of time before I became involved as a Trustee. I reported that I had suggested that a person with moderate learning disabilities would be ideal for the flat, and would tie in well with the aims of the Charity. This was eventually agreed, and I am pleased to report that a lady moved in during the summer of 2025. She has settled in extremely well, and helps several of her neighbours, who are older than her. Other accommodation at the site is now available and I have suggested that the same situation could apply to this. I will report back further.
4. I mentioned in last year's report that I had suggested a site maintenance manager should be taken on, to ensure that the continued maintenance work for the site was carried out. As the Trustees had always done this, it prevented more important issues being discussed at the Trustee meetings. I am pleased to report that this has now been done. This started in January 26 and is already starting to be beneficial. I am sure this will be of great help in the future, once all Trustees are used to this.
5. There are several very important items of maintenance that need to be done to the site, the most important being the installation of new soffits around the apartment building. This has been delayed for too long - I have now taken this over to ensure that it is done in the near future. Quotes are being obtained currently.

This report gives an outline of the developments of the Charity over the past year. I am still of firm belief that the Charity can do a lot more to support people in the area. It is very frustrating at times, as things take a long time to agree and move forward with. However I believe that the past year has changed the mindset within the Charity, and I am looking forward to working with the Trustees to move things forward for the benefit of the Residents"

It was unanimously agreed that this was a very positive report received and Clerk was instructed to send thanks from the Parish Council to Mr. C. Jordan who was making real progress in respect of the Charity's Management.

4. **Any Other Matters**
There being no further matters, the Annual Parish Meeting closed, and was immediately followed by the Parish Council meeting.

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1. **Apologies For Absence**: No apologies - all present as annotated above.
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 16th March 2026 were approved and signed.
4. **County and District Councillors' Reports** -
Councillor Jenny Shaw tabled the following report:

	"Free bus travel for all veterans and serving personnel launching Veterans and serving armed forces personnel across Worcestershire will soon be able to travel for free on buses. The new scheme provides free travel on the county's commercial bus network and the Worcestershire on Demand service for veterans and serving personnel who do not already hold a concessionary bus pass. To access free travel, veterans will simply need to show their Veteran Card, while serving personnel can present their military ID. The scheme has been running on all Worcestershire on Demand service from 1 April, whilst it came into force on the commercial network from today. Worcestershire County Council has worked closely with local bus operators to introduce the scheme, following approval of a Notice of Motion at October's Full Council meeting. Worcestershire is home to more than 21,000 veterans and over 500 regular armed forces personnel. The new countywide offer builds on a successful trial for veterans on the Worcestershire on Demand service last year. Those who left the armed forces in 2019 or later should already have received a Veteran Card on discharge. Anyone who left before 2019 can apply online. To apply for a Veteran's Card, please visit: https://www.gov.uk/veteran card/apply *Our Reform Group has elected a new group leader, Cllr Alan Amos. We await the full Council Meeting 14/05/26 to see if he will voted in leader of the council. Cllr Rob Wharton retained his position as deputy leader. I would like to thank Cllr Jo Monk for her hard work over the last 12 months - she remains leader of the County Council for now.* *#10534 Maintenance have agreed for tarmac to be laid across the entry to Hollies Lane, up to the metal drainage grid. This should help prevent / reduce stones and debris from running down onto the carriageway. I have no timescale for this at present and obviously, it will cause some disruption to residents for an estimated two days - they will get sufficient notice of the planned dates.* *#10522 Reflective markers on telegraph pole down Hoarstone Lane. I am told this will just get done, no date as no road closure is required.* *#11171 Gully outside Oak Tree Farm on Trimpley Lane has been emptied.* *#11172 pothole at the top of the cutting on Hoarstone Lane awaiting a proper repatch* *#11362 Request to get the hedge trimmed back on Trimpley Lane this has already been reported by the Lengths man, but I have also reported so that I can get an update."*
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 **– After 3 years, and chasing by Clerk, It had been decided by Wyre Forest that this matter did not require planning permission. Minute Item therefore closed.** **c) Compliance Issues/Appeals and other planning matters** – . i) **Habberley Trail – Enforcement Reference 26/00052/EN3** – Response from Enforcement Officer after having asked them to check the development "*This has been closed as the works are inline with the planning permission".* However, the Clerk was requested to report to Open Reach the sign near to the entrance attached to a BT Pole – which would not be tolerated elsewhere, and should be removed. ii) **Park Attwood Site – Enforcement Reference 26/00071/EN2** – Tree Surgery had been done on a couple of trees which were checked by Paul Allen from Wyre Forest and confirmed as not being subject to TPOs. Branches on other trees which had been cut back were not in a good condition. Bat Boxes, however, had been removed, which was contrary to the planning permission granted, and these had now been put back. Also reported intrusive lighting had been removed/adjusted so that it did not affect a communal area. However, it was stated that one camera to the front of a property had a very bright light on it. It was reported that the lighting had been erected due to a burglary at the site, and that no further lighting would be erected without permission being granted. It was drawn to the meeting's attention that when the development was proposed, and permission granted, it was stated that there should be no more tree cutting/removal, and no extra external lighting erected without planning permission. Also the permission given gave mandatory provision for wildlife. Even given any security issues, the countryside is naturally dark, and home to wildlife which can be adversely affected by such additions, regarding light, noise and loss of habitat. It was noted that one resident offered to house a community usage defibrillator if the parish was still having issues in siting this, and councillors were grateful for this potential offer. iii) **Site off Habberley Road** – opposite Habberley Valley (Not in this parish) – On-going Enforcement investigation was continuing. Minute now closed d) **New Draft Regulations re National Delegation Scheme re planning applications** – Clerk would submit a response to the consultation re this proposed new scheme, - with the response being required by 23rd April. As a summary, it seemed that the power and opinion of local Parish Councils was being given much less weight in that Parishes/Towns would no longer be able to ask for a contentious application to be put before the committee with a full report, that the time given for Parishes to comment was in some cases to be reduced, and no time deferments given to allow for further gathering of information, and many more applications would be decided within a short time frame by the planning officers themselves. This was not welcomed by Councillors, and if adopted at Wyre Forest, then it was hoped that training would be offered to parishes/towns. Councillors felt that this was giving less weight to local views, and that local parish councillors gave very good value with local and historical knowledge in respect of their area
6.	**Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items** • **Defibrillator for Low Habberley** – Clerk was working through the long and complicated application form for Community Funding from Severn Trent towards installing the defibrillator at Low Habberley. However, it was decided that the grant application should now ask for provision of an entirely separate

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	solar-powered defibrillator, and a separate/different site to be found for the BHF Grant funded defibrillator which was in the parish's possession. In this respect, it was mooted that this could perhaps be installed at Park Attwood. Clerk would re-word the grant application to Severn Trent to reflect this change, and send round a copy of the application before submitting. For the submission, permission was required from the County Council for the parish to install on the verge by the bus stop in Low Habberley. County Councillor J Shaw was working on this, and was hopeful of sending the requisite form to the Clerk shortly. • **Flooding – adjacent to Myndholm** – now sorted, although hedgerow still needed some cutting back to make evidence of the drain more obvious. Minute closed. • **Roadside/Railside Trees** – Clerk had put a cautionary note in the Newsletter, advising landowners of their responsibility in this respect, if tree's in bad condition are on their land and adjacent to the road/rail. • **Sump Clearance – Hollies Lane** – Clerk to approach the County Council to see if the Lengthsman Manager would give permission for our lengthsman to clear the uppermost sump in Hollies Lane. The County Council had advised that they were scheduling resurfacing of the entrance up to the lower sump in a hope that this would reduce debris flowing out onto the A442. It was still hoped that the lower sump would receive regular emptying by being put onto a fixed maintenance schedule. • **Pothole – Hoarstone Lane by Cutting –** (see County Councillor's report) – minute closed. • **Severn Trent Hedgerow reinstatement (following pipeline work)** – Clerk had asked why whips planted were not like for like as taken out, and indeed some species were thought not to be indigenous to this country. STW disputed that they had used non-indigenous species, and stated that for the most part the whips were hawthorn, dogwood and dogrose. Councillors were not convinced by this, but minute closed for now.
7.	**Public Engagement – Possible Facebook Page** – It was agreed to set this in process, and Clerk to contact CALC for guidance.
8.	**April Quarterly Newsletter** – Clerk gave out a supply of hard copies for the Church and Village Hall.
9.	**Lengthsman and ROW Matters** **a) Lengthsman** – The County Council contact had been received, and the Clerk had agreed to this on-line. There had been no increase in budget for 2026/27, which remained at £2715.69. Clerk had prepared the contract renewal for the Parish with Mr. C. Bunn, and this was approved. Clerk would send a copy to Mr. Bunn for his signature. **ROW Matters** **b) Circular Walks Around Trimpley – Reprint –** Work in checking the routes, and new artwork was still being undertaken. There are 5 basic routes in the booklet, and these would be updated with revised descriptive text, and contact would be made with a local man to redraw the maps and also draw some relevant illustrations of local landmarks. No permission would be granted to directly use/copy official ordnance maps **c) – a broken stile in Halls Farm Lane** had been reported, and a repair was been agreed to be done by the landowner. Replacement stiles were now not available, but the Countryside Service would only supply kissing gates as replacements. No help would be given with installation – this being down to the local landowner.
10.	**Financial Reports –**. a) **Ratification of payments to be made – a) Payments :** Clerk was querying aspects of both accounts due for payment – viz: Zurich Insurance Premium renewal, and also Worcs. CALC Annual subscription. It was decided not to pay these this month until Clerk had fully investigated. Both could be delayed one month without consequence,. b) **End of Year Accounts and AGAR Documents –** The final end of year Accounts were formally approved, along with the AGAR Audit Documents and signed by the chairman and clerk– including the External Audit Exemption Certificate for immediate submission. The Clerk would now proceed to deliver all necessary documentation to the Internal Auditor for his inspection and certification. c) **Other Financial matters –** Clerk had put in a VAT Reclaim for £248.67. There would be direct debit taken by HMRC re Employers' NI Liability (approx.. £420); and the first half (50%) of the annual Precept should be received at the end of April. d) **Annual Precept** – Clerk had received a query from a member of the public concerning the percentage increase in the Parish Precept this year. This had been explained by the Clerk to the satisfaction of the enquirer, and the Clerk had also put an article in the Parish Newsletter about the increase. e) **Electronic Banking** - No further progress.
11.	**Worcestershire CALC Reports & County and District & other Correspondence** – **Wyre Forest Area of CALC Meeting** – Thursday 18th June at Shatterford Village Hall. **Joint Parish Forum/Wyre Forest Area CALC Meeting** – Monday 7 September 2026 virtually via Zoom **Wyre Forest Executive Support Officers Meeting** – Clerk had agreed to meet with Councillor Hardiman and Kathryn Underhill on 1.06.2026, 2.30pm in the Pump House, Green Street, Kidderminster. This would be to discuss assistance in raising the profile of parishes, and it was hoped that the reported £1000 set aside in the budget at Wyre Forest would go towards a reprint of the Parish Walks Booklet.
12..	**Road Accident Record** – Debris found on the waterworks corner. No other details.
13.	**Other Matters** **Next Month - Annual Parish Council Meeting** – confirmed for 18th May 2026. Clerk advised that she would be away from the office from 27th April to 3rd May Inc. The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. Chairman _____