

22/2025

**HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 19.00 in the Village Hall**

**Present:**

Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chair), Alistair McHarg, Gillian Omar, Julia Pearson, Jamie Rogers (Vice Chair) and Leigh Stevens.

**In attendance**

Parish Clerk ... Lynda Wilcox. Ward Councillor ... Graham Biggs. 5 local residents.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Brendyn Rossoux.
2. **Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation:** There were none.
3. **An update from the Chair on current matters, included:**
  - 3.1 It was likely that the planning application for the Lugg Flats would be refused, and the formal decision notice was expected within the next few weeks.
  - 3.2 The Chair had collected some items from Herefordshire Council for the two Parish Flood Wardens (Graham Cobb and George Kerr) together with 30/40 Aqua bags which were being stored in the Parish Council garage. The two Flood Wardens would be responsible for issuing the Aqua bags which, when wet, inflate within 30 minutes and are then up to 20 kilos in weight.
  - 3.3 The Chair had made a long key to open the flap valve on Church Lane but was also making a platform for the two Flood Wardens to stand on when turning the key.
  - 3.4 There had been a few complaints about large lorries coming along Rectory Road and then down Church Lane, before crossing the bridge into Mordiford.  
It was suggested that it might be helpful for Court Farm to ask Stobarts to direct their drivers via the correct postcode (off the Ledbury Road) because there had been a long tail back that afternoon, due to a lorry attempting to use the village access to the farm. Ditch edges were being eroded. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have signs at either end of the village, directing lorry traffic away from the centre of the village, toward the Ledbury Road farm access.
  - 3.5 It was noted that the new 7.5 tonne weight limit on Mordiford Bridge might cause difficulties for local farmers. Graham Biggs therefore suggested that he would put Jamie Rogers in touch with the relevant Highways Officer at Herefordshire Council, to establish the legal parameters.
  - 3.6 It was noted that bags of rubbish had been dumped in the ditch by the telephone box.
  - 3.7 The second SID (Speed Indicator Device) was not working because the hedge had grown out again. The batteries would have to be taken out and recharged.

#### **4. Open Session:**

- 4.1 A brief verbal report from Herefordshire Ward Councillor – Graham Biggs, included:
  - 4.1.1 A night shelter was now open for the homeless.
  - 4.1.2 Flood alleviation work had commenced on Merton Meadow. Walkways would be established before Christmas and planted up in the Spring.
  - 4.1.3 A multi-storey car park would be built on the county bus station site.
  - 4.1.4 A new transport hub was being established for buses and trains, alongside the railway station.
  - 4.1.5 The £4m cost of purchasing and renovating the John Venn building would provide about 50 sets of accommodation.
  - 4.1.6 Properties on Venns Lane would be acquired by Herefordshire Council when they become available, for university accommodation.
  - 4.1.7 The future of Maylord Orchards would need consideration.
  - 4.1.8 Herefordshire Council had fewer staff but was in pretty good shape. There were only a couple of ambers in a recent performance report, with nearly all areas showing green.
  - 4.1.9 In response to a query about concerns from Rotherwas businesses about the recent introduction of one lane traffic under the bridge, Graham Biggs suggested that those with concerns should write to Herefordshire Council.
  - 4.1.10 Jamie Rogers reported that water was still ponding between Field Farm Care Home and Badgers' Crossing because the ditch needed to be cleared out – he asked whether Herefordshire Council could jet through the culvert again.
  - 4.1.11 Alistair McHarg would email Graham Biggs the What3Words location of the footbridge, which was still awaiting repair by Herefordshire Council.
- 4.2 Views of local residents on parish matters included:
  - 4.2.1 The parish contractor would be informed of a gate post which had rotted away.

#### **5. Minutes of previous meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.

#### **6. Working Groups ... To receive updates and consider action.**

- 6.1 B4224
  - 6.1.1 Design and cost of two gates with parish name ... A design was agreed and the Clerk would obtain costings for the next meeting.
  - 6.1.2 Possible weight restriction on Mordiford Bridge ... It was NOTED that a new weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes had just been put in place.
  - 6.1.3 Effective operation of both SIDs ... discussed under 3.7 above.
- 6.2 Finance ... It was NOTED that a meeting would be held at the beginning of January 2026, prior to the next Parish Council meeting.
- 6.3 Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) ... Update and action.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would book the Village Hall for bi-monthly meetings prior to each Parish Council meeting.

6.4 Drainage & Flooding ... Update and action:

6.4.1 Noted: Payment of £120 under delegated powers to repair Rectory Road drain.

6.4.2 A new Flood Working Document had been prepared by the Flood Wardens, assisted by Kate LeBarre.

7. **Footpaths** ... Update and action from Footpaths Officer Phil Butler's report included:

7.1 A rotten post on HB6 (field with horses alongside the Village Hall) ... It was RESOLVED that the parish contractor would be asked to provide and install a new post.

7.2 Jamie Rogers commented that his brother was very concerned about loose dogs in the above field which were causing distress to the horses. Dog walkers were accessing the horse field from Rectory Road via the orchard which had no public right of way. Whilst his brother supported the walking of dogs under control, he would consider taking legal action against those who let their dogs run loose. It may be necessary for the Bonafide footpath route to be fenced, if dog owners did not show respect.

8. **Planning**

8.1 Comments on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council

8.1.1 Application 252707 – Yew Tree Cottage, Hampton Bishop. Proposed side extension to existing detached garage.

It was NOTED that permission had now been granted.

8.1.2 Application 252976 – Land between Longworth Hall and Tidnor Farm, Lugwardine. Electricity Prior Approval. Upgrade of approx. 900 meters of existing 11kV overhead line from single phase (2 wire) to three phase (3 wire) (Ref 5569896) Grid Reference OS 355861, 239819.

It was RESOLVED to support the application.

8.2 Noted: planning permission granted by Herefordshire Council

Application P252749/K – Old Rectory Road, Hampton Bishop. G1 group of trees consisting largely of Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and various self-set trees including Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Elder (*Sambucas nigra*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Remove majority of trees due to stems have collapsed outwards and ivy/creeping plants have become established adding to the collapse. Replant with mixed hedging species and retain any suitable trees. T2 Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) due to canopy and roots braking through surface of the lawn remove and replace with Silver Birch.

8.3 Update on application 240422 – Land to the East of Hereford, South of Ledbury Road, and action. The matter had been discussed in Item 3.1. above.

- 8.3.1 Noted: The payment (under Clerk's delegated power) to Kirkwells for the second objection comment to Herefordshire Council ... £2,000.00.

**9. Finance ...** The Bank balance was noted as £106,134.73

9.1 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:

- 9.1.1 Parish Contractor ... £272 (Invoice 13 – October).
- 9.1.2 Outstanding election invoice from 2023 ... £154.44 (Herefordshire Council).
- 9.1.3 Clerk's salary for October and November.
- 9.1.4 John Finch Computers – Annual Microsoft 365 fee ... £55.20.

9.2 Payments made by the Clerk under delegated powers were noted as follows:

- 9.2.1 Parish Contractor ... September Invoice 96 - £272.00.
- 9.2.2 Autela Payroll Services ... £90.00.
- 9.2.3 Annual Play Area Inspection (Fran White) ... £62.50.
- 9.2.4 Folbigg Fabrications ... Repairs to slide & climbing frame £1,198.00.
- 9.2.5 HMRC ... £470.00 (August/September/October)
- 9.2.6 Annual Website Maintenance ... £100.00 (Eyelid Productions).
- 9.2.7 External override handles for garage doors ... £60.00 (Trojon Roller Doors).
- 9.2.8 Grass-cutting around Village Hall ... £600 (R.J. & J.R. Barrell).

The Clerk commented that the £5k set aside in the 2025/26 budget for improvements to the Village Hall, were likely to be required in the near future.

Expenditure of around £100 for trimming the inside hedge of the parish orchard was likely in the near future, under the Clerk's delegated powers.

**10. Meeting dates for 2026**

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would book the Village Hall for meetings of the Parish Council, every other month during 2026.

SIGNED ..... DATE .....