

HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a scheduled meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 19.00 in the Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance: Lynda Wilcox – Parish Clerk, Ward Cllr Biggs and 7 local residents.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Jamie Rogers and Brendyn Rossoux.
It was noted that Brendyn Rossoux had found it necessary to resign, due to work commitments. Members thanked him for his work on behalf of the Council, in particular the monitoring of the two SIDs.
2. **Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation ...** There were none.
3. **Update from the Chair on current matters and considered action:**
 - 3.1 Operation of the flap valve at times of flooding
A new platform had been made and installed to enable the flood flap on the corner of the B4224 and Church Lane, to be opened and closed by the two Parish Council Flood Wardens as necessary. A new long key had also been constructed.
 - 3.2 Parish Contractor
The Parish Contractor had fallen down a cliff and had to be airlifted to hospital. She was now out of hospital and recovering well. The Clerk would deliver flowers on behalf of the Council and wish her a speedy recovery. In the meantime, a colleague would be undertaking her work for the Council.
4. **Open Session:**
 - 4.1 A brief verbal report from Herefordshire Ward Councillor – Graham Biggs, included:
 - 4.1.1 Budget ... Herefordshire Council was seeking to set a balanced budget but was currently around £20m short.
 - 4.1.2 Children's Services ... Ivan Powell (Cabinet Member) and the Director for Children's Services were both doing a really good job and the life experiences of young children in the county had now been raised.
 - 4.1.3 Merton Meadow ... Around 400 homes were to be developed – Cllr Biggs responded to concerns about possible flooding issues.

- 4.1.4 Mordiford Bridge ... It was noted that the 7.5 tonne environmental weight restriction (from the western entrance to the bridge to the junction between the B4224 and the C1292) includes an 'Except for Access' provision meaning that vehicles over 7.5t may legally cross if they have a genuine need to access properties, businesses or deliveries within the restricted zone but it does not permit vehicles to use the bridge or restricted area as a through-route – access must be directly related to a destination within the restricted zone.
- 4.1.5 Devolution ... Worcestershire was supporting the concept of two unitary authorities. A new overarching Mayoral tier of authority could well be Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, rather than Shropshire.

4.2 Views of local residents on parish matters ... No additional matters were raised.

5. Minutes of previous meeting held on 26th November 2025.

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

6. Working Groups ... Updates and considered action.

6.1 B4224

- 6.1.1 Members considered quotes and RESOLVED to purchase two gates with the parish name from Glasdon at a cost of £2602.00 plus installation cost. The Chair would measure the area by the bus stop.

6.2 Finance

- 6.2.1 Consideration of draft updated Financial Regulations was postponed until the next meeting.

6.3 Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) ... It was RESOLVED that the first meeting of the NDP Review Group would be linked to the Annual Parish Meeting, probably during April.

6.4 Drainage & Flooding ... The new equipment mentioned in 3.1 above was noted and the Parish Flood Plan had been updated.

7. Footpaths ... Update from the Footpaths Officer and considered action.

- 7.1 The Footpaths Officer would be attending an Induction Session with Herefordshire Council on 27th February.
- 7.2 It was noted that several paths were either under water or thick with mud.
- 7.3 Herefordshire Council had not yet replaced the missing footpath bridge, and the right of way was therefore not passable.
- 7.4 It was noted that walkers chose to walk along the stank by Mordiford Bridge rather than the official route for HB12 which was diagonally across a field – this suited both the farmer and the walkers.

8. Planning

8.1 Application for determination by Herefordshire Council

Application P260061/K. Whitehall Lodge, Whitehall Road. T1& T2 –

Cupressuscyparis leylandii (Leyland Cypress) – due to little scope to reduce either tree as they are very large. Remove both trees and to be replaced by a mixed native hedge. T3 – T3. Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar) – tree has a sparse canopy and has collapsed & resting on adjacent tree. Remove and replace with another Western Red Cedar.

It was RESOLVED to support the application.

8.2 Planning refusal by Herefordshire Council noted:

8.2.1 Application 240422 – Land to the East of Hereford, South of Ledbury Road.

9. Finance ... The Bank balance was noted as £100,129.53.

9.1 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:

9.1.1 Clerk's January salary.

9.1.2 HMRC for January 2026.

9.2 The following payments made under the Clerk's delegated powers, were noted:

9.2.1 HMRC ... £156.80.

9.2.2 Clerk's December salary.

9.2.3 Grass-cutting around Village Hall – RJ & JR Barrell ... £300 + £60 VAT.

9.2.4 Website Domain Name & Hosting by HALC £270.00 for 2-year period.

9.2.5 Parish Contractor £332 grass-cutting & ditch clearance + £489.60 replacing & installing a new post on two gates.

9.3 Members considered guidance notes and set a precept for 2026/2027 of £23,000 which would mean an annual payment of £74.17 per Band D property.

10. Adoption of Charter for Herefordshire Councils.

It was RESOLVED not to adopt the Charter.

11. Date of next meeting ... Noted 25th March 2026.

SIGNED DATE