

HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a scheduled meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 19.00 in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Alistair McHarg (In the Chair), Gillian Omar, Julia Pearson.

In attendance: Lynda Wilcox – Parish Clerk, Ward Cllr Biggs, PCSO Adam Westlake and 8 local residents.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Steve Hunt (Chair), Jamie Rogers and Leigh Stevens.
2. **Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation ...** There were none.
3. **Update on current matters and considered action ...**
 - 3.1 St Michael's Hospice 'Run Hereford' event to go through Hampton Bishop on Sunday 10th May.
 - 3.2 Gateways ... The proposed village gateway at the side of the bus shelter would need to be reduced in size, due to the width of the verge. The Clerk was liaising with the manufacturers.
 - 3.3 SIDs ... 2 x Hampton Bishop and one new SID to be erected by Dormington & Mordiford PC.
4. **Open Session:**
 - 4.1 PCSO Adam Westlake gave an update on local policing matters, which included:
 - 4.1.1 There had been a minor road traffic collision on the B4224.
 - 4.1.2 There had been anti-social behaviour and Cannabis smoking at the back of the flats on Mantella Drive, at the top end of Copsewood Drive and in Braemar Gardens.
 - 4.1.3 Community Speed Watch Schemes could be set up to cover 30-40 mph areas. There would need to be at least six volunteers over 18 years of age who have lived in the UK for over 3 years. Vetting would be undertaken on the volunteers and, if successful, they would be issued with high viz yellow jackets. The Safer Neighbourhood Team would assist with getting the group up and running, as well as identifying safe areas for them to operate, once they had received the names and addresses of at least six volunteers, plus one co-ordinator.
 - 4.2 A brief verbal report from Herefordshire Ward Councillor – Graham Biggs, included:
 - 4.2.1 Update on the Model Farm in Ross on Wye.
 - 4.2.2 Herefordshire was one of very few counties to have a balanced budget and it was likely that although it was a much smaller unitary authority than the new ones being encouraged by government, it was likely to be left alone in the devolution arrangements.
 - 4.2.3 Officers were frustrated at not being able to progress repairs to the footpath bridge because of legal challenges, but they were keeping the pressure on.
 - 4.2.4 If any local business were being affected by the new weight restrictions on Mordiford bridge, they should contact the Ward Councillor.
 - 4.3 Views of local residents on parish matters included:

- 4.4 The Village Hall had just held its AGM, and it was noted that it cost £14k to run the hall last year, and their takings were £16k. A Lottery bid had just been submitted.
- 4.5 Vandals had spray painted the new Mantella 'Private Road' signs.

5. Minutes of previous meeting held on 28th January 2026.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record.

6. Footpaths

- 6.1 Update from the Footpaths Officer and considered action:
 - 6.1.1 Generally, the footpaths were in good order.
 - 6.1.2 The right of way across Hampton Meadows was now open.
 - 6.1.3 Parts of the Wye Valley Walk were under mud.
 - 6.1.4 Herefordshire Council had not yet undertaken the long-awaited bridge repair.
- 6.2 It was RESOLVED to consider requesting a public rights of way grant from Herefordshire Council by 30th September.

7. Lengthsman Scheme 2026/7

It was RESOLVED to join the Lengthsman Scheme 2026/7 by the deadline of 15th May 2026.

- 7.1 It was further RESOLVED to apply for a drainage grant by 17th May.

8. Planning

- 8.1 Comments on an application for determination by Herefordshire Council

It was RESOLVED to support the following application.

 - 8.1.1 Application P260286/F: Cock of Tupsley, Hampton Dene Road. Installation of roof-mounted solar photovoltaic panels.

9. Setting up a Speed Watch Scheme ... Discussed at Item 4.1.3 above.

10. Consideration of policies:

- 10.1 New IT Policy required for 2025/6 audit ... It was RESOLVED to adopt the policy.
- 10.2 Updated Financial Regulations ... It was RESOLVED to consider 10.2 and 10.3 at the next meeting.
- 10.3 Updated Standing Orders.

11. West Midland CALCs Call to Action re Devolution Bill

It was RESOLVED to support direct lobbying of MPs on the following two topics, to ensure local views were heard on future decision-making relating to planning and governance.

- 11.1 Parish councils to be left out of consultation on major developments.
- 11.2 New neighbourhood governance arrangements likely to sideline parish councils.

12. **West Mercia Police:** It was RESOLVED that the three parish priorities for policing during April to June 2026, would be:

- 12.1 Speeding.
- 12.2 Thefts from outbuildings.
- 12.3 Anti-social behaviour.

13. **Finance ...** A Bank balance of £98,459.78 was noted.

13.1 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:

13.1.1 Village Hall hire for 2026 ... £132.00.

It was noted that an invoice for flooring at the Village Hall (£3660 + VAT) was about to be paid, following the PC having previously set aside up to £5k for Hall improvements.

13.1.2 John Finch maintenance plan with Norton ... £99.00.

13.1.3 CPRE Annual Membership ... £60.00.

13.1.4 Clerk's March salary.

13.1.5 HMRC for March 2026.

13.2 The following payments made by the Clerk under delegated powers were ratified:

13.2.1 Information Commissioner – annual payment ... £52.00.

13.2.2 HMRC 6.1.26-5.2.26 ... £156.80.

14. **Regulation 5 Notification Telecoms Site Tupsley Trees (Ref: CS 13185201)**

14.1 Members noted the Planning Officer's attempts to address concerns about the impact of the proposed much taller new telecom mast at Tupsley Trees, off Mantella Drive.

14.2 Although not legally obliged to do so, the Planning Officer had suggested that the operator should carry out targeted consultation with residents immediately adjacent to the mast site.

15. **Tree Preservation Order for large Oak off Mantella Drive.**

It was RESOLVED to request a TPO for the Oak.

16. **Date of next meeting ...** Wednesday 27th May.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.30.

SIGNED DATE