

# BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.00pm at Bredenbury Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors: Jane Berwick, John Hulse, Massie Piggott

**In attendance:** Clerk Vicky Hancock, 1 resident

**1. Apologies for absence:** Ward Councillor Baker, Cllr Libby, Cllr Farey

**2. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** none given

**3. To consider the minutes of the previous meetings:** Parish Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt these minutes and they were signed by the chairman.

### **4. Open Session**

4.1 Views of local residents.

- A resident from Valley View submitted fund-raising ideas.

4.2 Ward Councillor Baker was unable to attend the meeting but sent a brief report

- Governments financial grant to rural councils, cut by £3m
- Housebuilding to increase to 1,363 per year. Will be difficult due to phosphate issues and a shortage of construction workers
- Urban authorities have 40% more spending power and rural households pay on average 20% more in taxes
- Lugg Valley bus services no longer operating. Sergeants of Kington have taken up the slack
- Council tax will increase by 4.99% in April. Council's revenue budget for 2025 will be £231.5m
- We've received £10m for road resurfacing and £3m for road safety schemes
- The cost of sending our SEN children to school in taxis costs £4.5m per year. The council is considering the purchase of our own vehicles to avoid taxi costs
- The A49 diversion route (by-pass) is still on track.
- The Warm Homes Local Grant Scheme is in place. To be eligible the total household income must be below £36k pa
- No new information regarding Devolution

### **5. Councillor Vacancies**

The Clerk informed councillors that due to the resignation of Councillor Gerrard there was a vacancy for Wacton Parish. Elections had been informed and a notice of vacancy displayed for 14 working days to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. If there has been no request for an election during the statutory time period then the Parish Council can co-opt. A reminder that co-option is to take place for the Bredenbury vacancy. Any expression of interest to be emailed to the Clerk.

**6. Budget Monitoring** The Clerk shared the February budget monitoring. Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the monitoring and Cllr Hulse signed the document.

### **7. Finance**

7.1 Chairman requested a new signatory for the following documents. It was **RESOLVED** Cllr Piggott would sign these documents.

7.2 Clerk shared the bank statement to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. It was noted the refund of £350.40 from Stocksigns had been received. Noted and signed by Cllr Piggott.

7.3 Clerk shared the Bank Control Account to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 which detailed payments and receipts to date. There were no outstanding cheque payments to note. Closing balance £7835.88. Noted and signed by Cllr Piggott.

7.4 Noted payment already made to Lengthsman £127.57

7.5 It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following payments:

7.5.1 Clerk's mileage HALC £14.85

7.5.2 Clerk's February Salary & note assessment report re: workplace pension

7.6 Clerk has submitted VAT reclaim July 2024-January 2025. Noted and signed by Cllr Hulse.

**8. Chair's Chat** Cllr Hulse disagreed with HALC/Herefordshire Council recommendation that all NDPs should be on hold as a result of the new housing targets. He reminded Councillors that we have already informed HC of our intent and it had already been **RESOLVED** that we would begin updating our NDP plan. It is hoped that we would still be able to reflect any changes to the Local Plan as they emerge as we recognise that in the event of conflicting policies, the Local Plan would prevail. This would ensure it will be less than five years old when the Local Plan is completed.

Cllr Hulse reported there had been discussion regarding the upkeep of churchyards which is not within our PC remit.

## 9. Planning

9.1 Parish Council representative for planning matters. It was noted that there should be an agreed representative to speak at a HC planning committee if deemed necessary. Cllr Piggott nominated Cllr Hulse, seconded by Cllr Berwick. There being no other nominations It was **RESOLVED** Cllr Hulse would be the Bredenbury Group Parish Council representative to speak on planning issues at committee.

9.2 The Chair reiterated the importance of adding the council S106 wishlist when commenting on planning matters. It was **AGREED** community assets would be a priority.

**10. FPO report** Due to unforeseen circumstances this was not available to the meeting.

## 11. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

11.1 Cllr Hulse reported that the NP Steering Group will be active again and if anyone wished to join they would be welcome. Previous members to be contacted.

11.2 The Clerk requested consultancy fees for Ian Culley to be paid – there is already an allocated amount in the budget for this. It was **AGREED** the invoice could be paid on receipt.

## 12. Lengthsman

12.1 There is no outstanding work to be completed after the resignation of the Lengthsman (thanks recorded to local resident John Berwick for his support in installing the stile).

12.2 As the Lengthsman resignation had been accepted the council will begin the process of looking for a new incumbent.

## 13. Road Safety

13.1 The issue of inconsiderate parking outside the Primary School and on Valley View has been highlighted. The school has been contacted and they were fully aware of a particular issue with a parent and a resident which has been addressed. The school has a dedicated minibus which delivers and collects vulnerable pupils. The bus parks on the dedicated zig-zag lines outside the school for handover. This is where the school responsibility lies therefore the bus cannot collect pupils in the community car park which is private land and therefore not insured for the school. The school has a member of staff on duty morning and after school to ensure safety. They have also made contact with the police to request occasional police presence outside the school to give advice. The PC has also done the same. The school will ensure they remind parents of safety and parking on the roadside through parent communications. Clerk to check on H-bars re-painting with BBLP.

13.2 The PC is awaiting the return on the Speed Indicator Device by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March from Stocksigns.

13.3 The current TRO for reduction of the speed limit through the village of Bredenbury now stands at number 18 on the list and the Chair noted he was hopeful it would be included in the works for the next financial year.

**14. Correspondence** None received

**15. Matters for the next meeting**

- NDP
- Lengthsman
- S106 wishlist
- Co-option of councillors

**16. Meeting dates agreed**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March @ 6.30pm **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** followed by the scheduled meeting

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 @ 7.00pm **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025 @ 7.00pm

**The meeting closed at 8.07pm**