

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 30th July 2025 at 7.00pm (*meeting commenced at 7.10pm*)

At

Bredenbury Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Geoff Arnold, Jane Berwick, Richard Bell, Hugh Farey, John Hulse, Becca Libby, Massie Piggott

In attendance: Clerk Vicky Hancock, 5 local residents

1. Apologies for absence: Ward Councillor Baker

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

3. To consider the minutes of the previous meetings: Parish Council Meeting 25th June 2025. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt these minutes and they were signed by the chairman.

4. Open Session

4.1 Views of local residents

- A concern had been raised regarding the parking of cars on Harp Lane too near to the A44 junction. A local farmer is finding it increasingly difficult negotiating the corner and took an image of problem. Clerk to contact the school on their return in September and ask that parents are reminded *UK Highway Code (Rule 243)*, *you must not park within "10m (32 feet)" of a junction unless you're in an authorised parking space. This rule ensures that: Other drivers have a clear view when approaching or turning into a junction.* Resident pointed out that services often park too near to the junction when carrying out work.
- Rowden Mill Station has expressed concern regarding the Herefordshire Cycling, Wheeling and Walking Plan which is now out for consultation. The Chair and Clerk have looked at this and see that there is still a mention of the Worcester-Bromyard -Leominster Greenway in a long list of potential future projects even after the considerable complaints about existing land use and no mention of landowners consent. However, the costings for this project are listed as more than 10million Parish Council to respond to consultation. It was advised that this consultation is also open for anyone to complete- closing date Monday 18th August.
- A resident raised a complaint about vans parking on the pavement outside Three Pines Garage and therefore forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. Chair to contact the owners.
- A resident has raised concern about the overgrown hedge on the A44 opposite Noakes Farm Riding School running alongside the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust Stockings Meadow Nature Reserve. The overgrown hedge is causing very limited visibility on a very dangerous part of the road. This is a recurring issue with HNT. Clerk to follow this up for immediate attention and request that it is put on an annual hedge-cutting plan.

4.2 No report received from Ward Cllr Baker. (Apologies given)

5. Budget Monitoring The Clerk shared the budget monitoring for July. She asked for permission to vire £1000 from contingency to Neighbourhood Planning for consultancy fees. Councillors **AGREED** to accept the virement. Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the monitoring Cllr Hulse signed the document.

6. Finance

6.1 Clerk shared the bank statement to 30th June 2025. Opening balance £9554.60. Closing balance £9,123.81. Noted and signed by Cllr Piggott.

6.2 Clerk shared the Bank Reconciliation for 30th June 2025 Including 2 unpresented cheques total £494.39. Closing balance £8629.42. Noted and signed by Cllr Piggott.

6.3 Noted payment already made: HALC £330.00 Internal Audit

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

6.4.1 I.P.Culley £525 NP Consultancy

6.4.2 Lengthsman Services £126.00

6.4.3 Clerk's July salary & note assessment report re: workplace pension (to note National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had reached an agreement on the rates of pay increase from 1 April 2025 -31 March 2026).

7. Insurance- Clerk presented the Insurance renewal for August 25-26. There has been an increase in the insurance premium tax of 12%. There was some discussion regarding the inclusion of Cyber Cover as this was a recommendation from the internal audit 24-25. On investigating the requirement and the complexity of the cover with much of it not relevant to our Council it was decided not to proceed. It was **AGREED** to accept the quotation of £482.57.

8. Planning Consultations

8.1 P242070 Site A to the north of Brockington House HR7 4TF. As there have been a number of representations regarding this application a request has been made for it to be referred to the planning committee.

8.2 P252170 Tall Trees, 23 Valley View, Bredenbury HR7 4UJ Works to trees covered by TPO. (Cllr Arnold declared an interest in this item and left the room). It was **AGREED** to support this application and noted that the gardens are subject an area TPO invoked many years previously. (Cllr Arnold rejoined the meeting).

9. Lengthsman The contractual three month probationary period for Matt Perks has now passed. Council was reminded of the work he has done. He has responded quickly to request and carried out the jobs efficiently and safely. It was **AGREED** to continue with the lengthsman contract. Cair agreed to inform Matt

10. Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Hulse updated members of the zoom meeting held with Siobhan Riddle and Spencer Ward of Herefordshire Council regarding the intention to renew our Neighbourhood Plan. HC want to withdraw the plan as it has never been made due to the phosphate issues even though it had such positive support at referendum. Ian Culley confirmed this is a legal legitimate action. With the first community survey already sent out and a further community consultation planned it is hoped that we can get to Regulation 14 before our plan is withdrawn. We have requested that HC do not withdraw the current Plan until we have reached that stage. Going forward we would be working in tandem with Herefordshire Council as they work on their updated Local Plan. Until that time it is worth noting that the current Herefordshire Core Strategy is still relevant. It is important to note the latest changes to NPPF and also the most recent advice from Natural England who have added air quality to the existing requirements for nutrient neutrality.

11. Planned Road Closure A44 is due to be closed for resurfacing during August. The centre line will be taken out and white lines painted at the side of the road with no-overtaking (as in other areas e.g. Ashperton, Stretton Grandison) and red stone chippings between the village gates. Access will be available to residents and also for guests for Bredenbury Court Barns who are staying in the village but on the Leominster side, there may be some short delays.

12. TRO update We have been advised that the long-awaited Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to reduce the speed limit to 30mph through the village has reached consultation stage which is good news.

13. Village Hall Recently, members of the VH committee have been receiving specialist advice from Herefordshire Council officers regarding grant funding. However, they have been informed that the current listing on the Charities Commission website which state that the Hall is a Church Hall used, in part for religious activities is disqualifying these applications with many of the major sources of grant aid for charitable organisations. It has been suggested to the Trustees that these references should be removed as the VH is essentially involved solely in secular activities. There is beginning to be more interest in holding events in the village hall and also more hiring out of tables and chairs.

14. Correspondence Clerk reported fly tipping outside Grendon Firs to BBLP.

15. Matters for the next meeting

- TRO & road markings
- Planning
- Neighbourhood Plan update & community meeting

16. Meeting dates agreed

No scheduled August meeting

Wednesday 24th September 2025 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 29th October 2025 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 26th November 2025 @ 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.06pm