

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at 7.00pm

At

Bredenbury Village Hall

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

In attendance: Ward Councillor Bruce Baker, Clerk Vicky Hancock, 4 local residents

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Piggott (email received)

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

3. To consider the minutes of the previous meeting: Parish Council Meeting 30th July 2025. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt these minutes and they were signed by the chairman.

4. Open Session

4.1 Views of local residents

- Clerk reported that there had been an attempted break-in at Silvertop bungalow. The occupier was at home alone at the time. The two intruders rang the doorbell and as there was no answer they went to the back of the property and attempted to break-in. The resident called out and they left. Police were called and arrived quickly. They checked immediate neighbours for any doorbell footage. There has also been a report of two men acting suspiciously at The Barneby Inn. The police are aware and encourage everyone to remain vigilant. Their advice is not to leave the house. If the perpetrators are still on site ring 999 and if they have left ring 101.
- A resident mentioned the encroaching grass verge on to the pavement by the corner of the school from the A44 to Harp Lane. To be checked out.
- A thank you from Bredenbury Court Barns for a local nomination for wedding venue of the year
- Vehicles parking outside the school have become an issue again. An agricultural vehicle was unable to get through with the forage harvester and had to call at the school to get a car moved. Clerk to contact the school and remind about parking with consideration. (A reminder was given to the meeting that the children have to be handed over to parents at the end of the day to comply with safeguarding and cannot be discharged on to the community car park as there it is not HC land and therefore there is no insurance)
- Residents from Valley View have concerns regarding the state of the pavements where the asphalt has broken down. Clerk to raise as an issue
- Request for a 30mph repeater sign on Valley View. Clerk to chase up with HC
- The condition of the pavement at the end of the lane leading to 5 residences has become a concern. Clerk to raise as an issue
- Pooling water outside The Barneby

4.2 Ward Cllr Baker report

- Herefordshire Council will have a funding gap of 27.3million during this financial year
- Rural Services network are lobbying the government regarding cut in funding for rural areas
- A reminder to Parish Councils that there is a Local Resolution Protocol for disputes in councils. Councils are encouraged to resolve these in-house or inform the Monitoring Officer for support
- HC has had a visit as part of Corporate Peer Challenge initiative whereby Chief Executives from other councils look at the procedures of the council. HC received a good outcome to this visit

- Children's Services received another monitoring visit from Ofsted which was positive. There is to be a presentation at Marden School on October 2nd by Children's Services
- Hereford bypass is still on track for the southern link road
- Hereford to have a new fire station to be built on the original site of the old fire station on St Owen's Street
- Road re-surfacing programme is on-track
- There has been a series of scam phone calls regarding the winter fuel payment – a reminder to be vigilant
- Cllr Baker made representation regarding the Local Cycling Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan which had once again omitted to mention that Greenway plans should always involve discussion and inclusion of landowners. This has now been resolved
- There has been a visit from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) looking at Adult Social Care in Herefordshire

There being no further questions Cllr Hulse thanked Cllr Baker for his comprehensive report.

5. Budget Monitoring The Clerk shared the budget monitoring for September. It was noted that halfway through the year expenditure was on track. Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the monitoring and Cllr Hulse signed the document.

6. Finance

6.1 Clerk shared bank statements to 31st July 2025. Opening balance £9123.81 and closing balance £8498.65. To 31st August opening balance £8498.65 and closing balance £7038.86. Noted and signed in the absence of Cllr Piggott by Cllr Berwick.

6.2 Clerk shared the Bank Reconciliations for 31st July 2025 Including 4 unpresented cheques total £1375.79. Closing balance £7122.86. Noted and signed by Cllr Berwick. Bank Reconciliation for 31st August including 3 unpresented cheques total £1817.20. Closing balance £5221.86. Noted and signed by Cllr Berwick.

6.3 Noted payments already made

6.3.1 Autela Payroll £84.00

6.3.2 Business Services @ CAS Ltd Insurance 2025/6 £486.47

6.3.3 I P Culley NP Consultancy Fees £875.00

6.3.4 Clerk's August salary

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

6.4.1 Village Hall Hire April-September 2025 £204.00

6.4.2 J Hulse Mileage Plough Lane £17.10

6.4.3 Clerk's September salary & note assessment report re: workplace pension

7. Finance Working Group Date TBA

8. Chair's Chat Cllr Hulse reported one update - that a quorum of a meeting should be determined by the number of Council member places irrespective of whether they are filled. The quorum for our council remains at 3 council members.

9. Facebook Page It was proposed to delete the Parish Council FB account that was set up for the Parish Council in December 2018. Cllr Hulse to contact S Sayce. This was **AGREED**. Councillors were informed there is now a Bredenbury Community FB account.

10. Drainage Grant Scheme Cllr Hulse attended a presentation regarding this scheme. HC have employed 4 people to deal with local drainage issues. It was confirmed that this funding is not linked to the Lengthsman Scheme. Whilst we are too late to apply for anything this year there could be a new announcement regarding funding for 2026/7.

11. Planning update There has been a redirection decision for application P242070 Site A to the north of Brockington House. This will be referred to the Planning Committee if the delegated officer recommends refusal. It is likely that Application P242071 Site B to the south of Brockington House will be referred to Planning Committee as it shares the same drainage strategy.

12. Road Safety – road-resurfacing. Council has received a concern from two local residents regarding the safety of the road through the village with the removal of the centre line, no road studs and no road markings. Cllr Hulse contacted Simon Hobbs, Highways Accident Investigation & Safety Manager for Herefordshire Council for comment on each of the concerns raised.

i. Road studs and lining are for general guidance and many major roads are without reflective studs

ii. Centre line removal has been practice in Herefordshire for 11 years with 22 villages on A class roads, B & C roads and both 40mph and 30mph speed restrictions.

iii. No roundels painted in the interim period while the village is waiting for the 30mph Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) to be in place.

iv. Introducing 30mph and no overtaking would not be possible without this road design.

Cllr Hulse to write to the residents with this information.

TRO Update – awaiting final approval to implement the traffic restriction and to get new signage and road marking in place.

Hedging adjacent to the entrance to Noakes Riding School. Herefordshire Nature Trust has cut back the lower portion of the hedge to enable better visibility and this will now go on to an annual plan.

A request was made for a working party to install the post and the solar panel for the Speed Device.

Cllrs Arnold, Hulse and Piggott to co-ordinate.

13. NDP Update Having been in correspondence with Herefordshire Council regarding the status of the current plan it seems better to keep this plan in place until such time as the current planning applications are resolved. Once these have been resolved then the process of formal withdrawal can take place. Council **AGREED** to support this proposal.

Councillors were reminded of the Community Forum to be held on Saturday 27th September in the Village Hall. The day would begin with a welcome by Cllr Hulse followed by a presentation by Ian Culley (NP consultant) with a brief background to Neighbourhood Planning, the status of the current Plan, why we are producing a new plan and the purpose of the Community meeting. This would be followed by an interactive session with participants looking at and commenting on the 7 themes:

Theme 1 Vision, Objectives and Strategy

Theme 2 Housing

Theme 3 Protecting and enhancing local character

Theme 4 Infrastructure

Theme 5 Traffic and accessibility

Theme 6 Employment, Business and Agriculture

Theme 7 Community facilities

14. Parish Summit & Charter Cllr Hulse & Cllr Arnold to attend on Tuesday 7th October. Clerk to book.

15. Correspondence Clerk received a copy of a letter to Ellie Chowns MP from Baroness Taylor of Stevenage (Parliamentary Under – Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government) regarding the withdrawal of funding support for Parishes renewing their Neighbourhood Plans.

16. Matters for the next meeting

- Report from Finance Working Group (FWG)
- Report from Parish Summit
- NDP
- Road Safety
- Planning

17. Meeting dates agreed

Wednesday 29th October 2025 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 26th November 2025 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 17th December TBA

Wednesday 28th January 2026 @ 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.26pm