

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 29th October 2025 at 7.00pm

At

Bredenbury Village Hall

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

In attendance: Ward Councillor Bruce Baker, Clerk Vicky Hancock, 2 local residents, PC Doug Hamilton

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Farey

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

The Chairman welcomed PC Doug Hamilton, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Bromyard to the meeting.

PC Hamilton gave a brief overview of recent events in Bromyard and the surrounding area.

- The speeding measures on the A44 through Bredenbury have had a calming effect on the area. There has been some police monitoring and no vehicles were exceeding the speed limit.*
- The police have been under-staffed but are welcoming PC Steras to the Bromyard team.*
- Locally attempted burglaries have tailed off in the area. A reminder to call 999 if a break-in is happening or the culprits have only just left the premises. If it is a burglary that has been discovered after the event ring 101.*
- There has been a burglary at Edwyn Ralph church which the police are investigating.*
- An Engagement Van is visiting rural areas. (Bredenbury requested a visit)*
- **North Herefordshire Police** has a FB page which people are encouraged to follow for local updates.*
- A reminder that Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) are not now on duty after 8pm. (Ward Cllr Baker expressed his disappointment at this)*

There being no questions Cllr Hulse thanked PC Hamilton for his time and he left the meeting.

3. To consider the minutes of the previous meeting: Parish Council Meeting 24th September 2025. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt these minutes and they were signed by the chairman.

4. Open Session

4.1 Views of local residents

- Local resident thanked the Parish Council for their intervention regarding the parking outside the school as things had very much improved

4.2 Ward Cllr Baker report

- Road improvements continue apace around the county
- Latest initiative is to install average speed cameras on Dinmore Hill
- Chief Executive Paul Walker is to retire in March 2026
- Garden Waste Service to start in March 2026. The cost will be £70 for the first year to include the bin and the £60 per annum after that. Collections will take place every fortnight
- Herefordshire Council has been designated 'Child Friendly' keeping welfare and well-being in mind
- A decision by a West Mercia **police** force to stop employing **police** community support officers (**PCSOs**) after 20:00 has faced a backlash from local councillors.
- Good reports from the recent Parish Summit
- 'Exercise Pegasus' a pandemic simulation is ongoing to shape a robust approach to dealing with any future pandemics
- Cllrs encouraged to ensure Password Policy is robust

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- Money has been allocated for footbridge restoration. Parishes encouraged to apply if they have need
 - A move to increase the numbers of county councillors in each ward e.g. 1 member per ward
 - Positive Ageing Week in Herefordshire to empower and support ageing residents
- There being no further questions the Chairman thanked Ward Cllr Baker for his comprehensive report

5. Budget Monitoring The Clerk shared the budget monitoring for October. Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the monitoring and Cllr Hulse signed the document.

6. Finance

6.1 Clerk shared bank statement to 1st October 2025. Opening balance £7038.86 and closing balance £9267.88. Noted and signed by Cllr Berwick.

6.2 Clerk shared the Bank Reconciliations for 1st October 2025 Including 2 unpresented cheques total £221.10. Closing balance £9046.78. Noted and signed by Cllr Berwick.

6.3 Noted payments already made

6.3.1 HMRC Q2 DD £113.57

6.3.2 I P Culley NP Consultancy Fees £525.00

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

6.4.1 J Hulse Parish Summit Mileage £17.10

6.4.2 M Perks Lengthsman Services £108.00

6.4.3 V Hancock Viking Inks & Paper Supplies £178.80

6.4.4 Clerk's October salary & note assessment report re: workplace pension

Cllr Libby asked about the Finance Working Group. A date is to be agreed between the members of this group for reporting back at the November meeting.

7. Parish Summit

- Cllr Hulse and Cllr Arnold attended this event and agreed it was a very worthwhile evening. The main item was the Parish Charter which has now been completed and is going out to Parish and Town Councils for adoption. The Charter Group will be elected on an annual basis.
- A reminder that email correspondence with Herefordshire Council should always go through the shared email addresses which are .gov addresses.
- Siobhan Riddle gave an update on NDPs and the current status prior to the Local Plan being in place. There is no clarification on funding but it seems Herefordshire will have to pay for certain areas for renewing NDPs e.g. examination and referendum .The Local Plan will be in 3 stages or gateways before completion June 2026/27/28
- Peter Stoddart Finance and Corporate Services announced a 27million budget shortfall mainly due to withdrawal of government funding. There is a strong hand on any expenditure at the moment.
- Herefordshire could remain an autonomous unitary authority alongside other similar bodies under a 'single mayoral authority'.
- Drainage grant – there is currently no news on whether the current scheme will be available next year because of financial constraints
- Herefordshire Council have been audited by an outside body and have achieved their targets for the year
- Parish Council summits will continue on a quarterly basis with the charter group setting the agenda
Councillor Hulse recommended the Summit to councillors as a positive and valuable experience

8. Parish Charter The Parish Charter has been sent to all parish councils. Councillors have all received a copy. It was agreed it reflected a mutual pact between Herefordshire Council and Parish Councils. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Charter.

29.10.2025

9. Councillors Code of Conduct Local Resolution It was **AGREED** to adopt the Local Resolution Protocol.

10. Planning update Ward Cllr Baker requested a timeline for the two planning applications on the A44. Ollie Jones (Planning Officer) commented he hoped to progress the applications by the end of the year.

11. NDP update 'Call for the Sites' is the next stage in the NDP renewal process. It has been decided to wait until planning applications have been resolved before progressing this and the 2nd community survey.

12. BBLP Ward Cllr Baker reminded council the BBLP contract will terminate in May 2026. Contractors will be advised next month who the successful applicant will be. Herefordshire Council will continue to use 'in-house' contractors for some work.

12.1 The pavements on Valley View have been investigated by BBLP and have not met the threshold within the Highways Maintenance Plan for repair.

12.2 The Clerk has submitted a request for the land drainage issue opposite 3 Pines Garage to be investigated and jetting and repairs to be carried out.

The pavement from 3 Pines Garage to Grendon Firs has finally been cleared and the spoil removed.

13 Bridleways BU1 & BU3 The Clerk received a letter from a David Howerski, Local Correspondent of The Open Spaces Society reporting 13 Public Rights of Way defects encountered in the Bredenbury Parish. The gist of which is suggesting that the Bridleways have been deliberately obstructed. PROW Officer Cllr Farey has investigated this and written a comprehensive support covering the 13 defects cited. The report was shared with the councillors. Clerk to respond to Mr Howerski. Thank him for his observations and point out that Herefordshire Council will deal with this.

14. Footpaths A resident has informed the Parish Council that the public footpath gate down Wacton Green Lane on the Glebe land is currently off its hinges and therefore barring the way for walkers. Cllr Hulse has investigated and the gate is currently closed and off its hinges impeding access. He is to contact the relevant party to get this rectified.

15. Road Safety The A44 TRO is currently undergoing statutory consultation

16. Village Hall update The Village Hall has been registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) by the Parish Council for several years now. Councillors were reminded that historically the Trustees of the hall have always been the Vicar and two churchwardens. As the vicar has now retired and there is currently a vacancy it was felt that the time was right to appoint a secular Trustee. There has been an issue for the Village Hall committee with obtaining any grant funding as the statement on the Charity Commission website states that the hall is a church hall and used for religious activity which is not the case. The proposal was put to the council that we should write to the current Trustees and set out the case for a secular trustee to be in place. Councillors **AGREED** to support the proposal. Cllr Hulse to write to the Trustees.

17. Correspondence

- Chair has written to Jonathan Lester regarding a letter sent to him from Ashperton Parish Council in which Bredenbury Group Parish Council were copied in. The concern was that the comments made in the email were a misrepresentation of both the legal status our NDP and the support we have received from Herefordshire Council officers on this matter as we did not share this view. Jonathan Lester acknowledged the communication.
- Cllr Hulse read a letter from a resident regarding two issues on which he wished to make representation as the consultation on NDP renewal progresses. 1) Land known as The Clay Pigeon Field 2) Light Pollution Cllr Hulse to write in response to these concerns.
- **18. Matters for the next meeting**
- Report from Finance Working Group (FWG)
- Precept 2026/27

- PROW
- NDP
- Road Safety
- Planning

19. Meeting dates agreed

Wednesday 26th November 2025 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 17th December 2025 @ 7.00pm

Wednesday 28th January 2026 @ 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.28pm