

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall

Present: Cllr. M. Slocombe - Chairman
Cllr. P. Hawkins
Cllr. M. Windham
Cllr. S. Crozier
Cllr. A. May

In attendance: Nick Richmond-Clerk, Ward Councillor Barry Durkin and 12 members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Rolt and Mair. The resignation of Cameron Scott was noted. The clerk will inform Herefordshire Council who will set in motion the vacancy procedure. No written requests for dispensation were received and no declaration of interests made.
3. **Open forum. To consider the views of local residents on parish matters.**
Cllr Slocombe asked if any members of the public wished to speak. Several members of the public had attended to raise their concerns over the lack of water in Pentaloe Brook, and the potential cause of this by the diversion of the stream by the owners of Canwood Gallery. Adam Jones, William Smith and a lady from Dabblebrook Farm complained that actions taken by Canwood Gallery had left no water flow downstream so no water in their houses or available to the sheep on Dabblebrook Farm. Hannah Dale of Canwood Gallery said that the actions they had taken had been checked by Herefordshire planning and they had done nothing wrong. Cllr Durkin agreed to take the contact details of all concerned and would contact them all individually to try and resolve matters. The Hills Ford Rally organisers were present and thanked the council for the support shown by parishioners. They were disappointed that the road closures decision had been delayed so long that they were obliged to cancel the stage through Woolhope. Cllr Slocombe advised that the poll of Woolhope parishioners had been sent by the end of May as requested and council had expected a decision shortly after that. He added that the majority supported the event but the voices of those opposed to it were amplified to a great degree.
2. **Ward Councillors Report.**
The report had been circulated. Cllr Durkin highlighted the call for housing sites and advised that the 20 year target for new housing in Herefordshire had been raised from 16,100 to 27,250.
4. **Meetings:**
The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 24th June 2025 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
5. **To consider the adoption of revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations based upon models received from NALC/HALC.**
The clerk explained that he had circulated both the original model and his version which contained the necessary amendments to reflect the situation of Woolhope Parish Council.

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There having been little time to consider the changes it was agreed to hold the matter over to the September meeting and Cllr May will look at the amendments.

6. Planning Matters

No new applications were received.

To note decisions made:

P242950 – Agricultural building near Little Canwood – Temporary equestrian worker caravan within existing barn – Approved with conditions – **Noted**.

7. Highways Matters

a) To consider any new highways issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty.

No new matters

b) To receive an update on the Hills Ford Motor Rally.

It was agreed that the clerk will write to Cllr Durkin asking for details of the process of the road closures decision to understand where the delay arose.

c) Village signs.

The clerk will contact Herefordshire Council to ask for a timescale to replace the missing village signs.

8. Financial Matters

a) The following payments were authorised:

£ 540.13 Clerk salary July 2025

£ 135.00 Clerk tax July 2025.

£ 1,080.00 Terry Griffiths Contracts – Drainage grant work Court Farm

£ 2,160.00 Terry Griffiths Contracts – Drainage grant work Lower Buckenhill

£ 1,080.00 Terry Griffiths Contracts – Council funded drainage Terrace Hall area.

£ 587.16 Terry Griffiths Contracts – Maintenance day.

£ 21.02 Phil Hawkins Annual Parish Meeting expenses.

£ 330.00 HALC – Internal Audit invoice.

£ 75.00 Woolhope Village Hall – bookings April-June

The clerk advised that he has invoiced Herefordshire Council for £2,700 in respect of the drainage grant invoices detailed above.

b) To receive and approve the 30th June 2025 accounts and sign the bank reconciliation.

The council accounts were approved and Cllr Hawkins signed the bank reconciliation.

c) To consider amendment of the terms of marquee erection on Berryfields.

The existing fees of £100 for parishioners and £250 for non-parishioners having been in place for some years it was proposed that they be increased to £200 and £350 respectively and all voted in favour.

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

To receive an update.

Cllr Rolt having discovered that due to the withdrawal of government funding there was now a delay in the appointment of the external referee. It was agreed that the clerk will write to Cllr Durkin about this.

10. Broadmoor Common

To consider the working of the Broadmoor Common Steering Group.

A meeting has been arranged at the HALC offices on 23rd July for all interested parties to discuss the steering group and the issues that have arisen.

11. Lengthsman.

To consider new parish lengthsman work.

The clerk advised that the lengthsman will now carry out monthly maintenance days partly funded under the Herefordshire Council Parish Lengthsman Scheme. New drainage grant projects will be put forward and it was proposed that a blocked pipe at Bent Orchards/The Nurdens be put forward. The clerk will contact the residents of The Manor to ask them about the upkeep of the highway land in front of their property.

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12. **Footpaths.**
To consider any footpaths issues.
No new issues – the new gates are due to be installed in August.
13. **To consider the problem of rooks in the village.**
There is a plan to use legal means of control in September.
14. **Correspondence.**
No new correspondence received.
15. **To consider further work on the wall at the Church.**
The unfortunate burning of the debris from clearing the ivy has damaged the cricket club wall, and it was agreed that the cricket club should advise the council of the cost of repairs.
16. **To discuss the resignation of the Clerk.**
The process of identifying a replacement has been instigated with HALC. The clerk is happy to continue until a new clerk can be appointed and will help with the transition.
17. **Date, time and venue of next meeting and items for the next agenda.**
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd September 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall.
An item for the next agenda – dog poo signage.

Clerk - Nick Richmond
31st July 2025

23.9.25
