

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 27th January 2026 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall

Present: Cllr. M. Slocombe - Chairman
Cllr. M. Windham
Cllr. L. Mair
Cllr. C. Tobey
Cllr. S. Crozier
Cllr. A. May

In attendance: Nick Richmond-Clerk, Ward Councillor Barry Durkin and 13 members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Rolt and Hawkins. No written requests for dispensation were received. Cllr Slocombe made a declaration of interest advising that he will be working for a political movement.
3. **Public participation session: (3) minute limit per person (15minutes maximum).**
Cllr Slocombe invited members of the public to speak as many had attended regarding Pentoloe Brook. Several speakers questioned the conclusions of the Herefordshire Council report. Neil Brown from Pentoloe Cottage said he had seen the digger that removed the dam that had favoured the brook over the Canwood spur, and that the result of the action taken was now excessive flooding in the field adjacent to the cottage. Heather Fortey of Daddlebrook Farm advised that in her 60 year experience, despite many dry summers the brook had never dried up before, a statement confirmed by Neil Brown with 40 years knowledge of the brook. Cllr Windham commented that several streams had dried up last year. Cllr Crozier commented that the report conclusion that a 50/50 distribution of the flow should be established was not sufficient as a much greater preferential flow into the brook had existed previously. Cllr Slocombe said that the pictures of exposed tree roots in the Canwood spur was surely evidence that the Canwood spur had been dug out to encourage the water to flow to Canwood. It was agreed that the clerk will write to Herefordshire Council again to ask that the report be reconsidered. Andy Williams spoke saying it was a disgrace that Scar Lane had not been resurfaced.
5. **Planning Matters**
Other members of the public having attended for the planning application this item was taken next.
 - a) **To consider new applications received since the last meeting now due for consideration:**
P253590 Land at Cotsbelle – Self build replacement 4 bedroom dwelling.
The clerk advised that the applicants had sent an artists impression of the dwelling and some plans which had been circulated. Tony Fox spoke in favour of the application as a good use of neglected land and that he believed that the applicant had a background in environmental concerns which he felt would be reflected in the design. Alex Denney expressed some concern over increased traffic but overall councillors favoured the application and voted unanimously to support it.
 - b) **To note decisions made:**



P253036 Woolmoor House side and rear extensions – Approved with conditions.

This was noted.

2. Ward Councillors Report.

To receive the report and consider any issues arising.

The report had been circulated and no questions arose. Cllr Durkin said that Herefordshire Council had seen a cut of £30 million in funding from central government but despite this it had made real progress in childrens services which are now rated as good. Cllr May commented that the £30 million should be covered by efficiency measures. Cllr Durkins view was that Herefordshire Council was already very efficient.

4. Meetings:

To consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2025.

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd December 2025 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

6. To consider measures to help prevent the water supply issues to those dependant on Pentoloe Brook.

See agenda item 3.

7. To discuss what measures may be taken to prevent further vans/lorries falling off Glowson Wood Road.

Cllr Durkin advised that a Traffic Regulation Order had been initiated to introduce a weight limit on the road to help prevent large vans using the road.

8. To discuss correspondence received concerning the poor condition of Scar Lane.

The clerk had reported in June 2025 that the entire lane required resurfacing but was advised that it was not in the current resurfacing programme. All concerned parishioners should also report the lane on the Herefordshire Council website, but it was noted that in several places roadside ditches could be dug out by landowners to prevent water pooling on the road destroying the road surface.

9. Financial Matters

a) The following payments were authorised :

£ 540.13 Clerk salary Dec 2025.

£ 135.00 Clerk tax Dec 2025.

£ 540.13 Clerk salary Jan 2026.

£ 135.00 Clerk tax Jan 2026.

£ 960.00 Terry Griffiths Contracts Inv 3615 Street cleaning including Woolhope Manor.

£ 192.00 Terry Griffiths Contracts Inv 3616 Install and fill salt/grit bins.

£ 587.16 Terry Griffiths Contracts Inv 3617 maintenance day.

£ 2,880.00 Terry Griffiths Contracts Drainage Grant work at The Nurdens.

£ 100.00 Eyelid Productions website support .

£ 52.50 Woolhope Village Hall room hire.

b) The December 2025 accounts were approved and Cllr May signed the bank reconciliation.

10. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

To approve the revised and amended Reg 16 draft of the NDP.

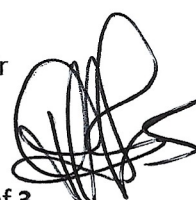
Cllr Mair had updated the draft NDP which was approved by parish council. She then explained that the two documents drawn up by Herefordshire Council now had incorrect numbering and required amendment by Herefordshire Council. Cllr Mair has been in contact with Herefordshire Council about this and it is intended for Parish Council to approve the remaining documents at the February meeting.

11. Footpaths.

Cllr May identified two missing/damaged signs for the footpaths officer to investigate.

12. To consider a litter pick/clean up in the village.

It was agreed to hold a litter pick day in the village in April. Cllr May will consult with Cllr



Hawkins to finalise a date. The clerk will ask Herefordshire Council about equipment/high vis jackets.

- 13. To consider the draft National Lottery application to provide funds for the updating of the play area and provision of a basket swing for disabled children.**

The draft application was approved with an amendment to the effect that it was a council decision to introduce a swing for disabled children.

- 14. To consider quotations for the dismantling of the wall at the Church and a replacement chestnut fence.**

The clerk had asked three contractors for a price for dismantling the wall but had not received any response so far.

- 15. Date, time and venue of next meeting and items for the next agenda.**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th February 7pm at Woolhope Village Hall.

Clerk - Nick Richmond
2nd February 2026

