

WESTON BEGGARD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council,
Held at Yarkhill Village Hall
On Saturday 31st January 2026
At 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Keith Bayliss (Chairman), John Young and Keith Lawrence.

In attendance: Rosie Thomas – Parish Clerk
Jonathan Lester – Ward Councillor

Public: 0

1.To receive and accept apologies for absence
NONE

2.To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items
NONE

3. Minutes

3.1 To agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th September 2025
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

4.Public Question Time
NONE

5. Reports

5.1 Ward Cllrs report & Q&A time

Ward Cllr Lester's report included the following items:

- November Ofsted inspection for children's services, service has been raised to 'Good'.
- M.Group Highways Limited will replace Balfour Beatty.
- New CEO is being appointed for Herefordshire Council

6. Finance

6.1 To consider the January finance report and bank balances – Appendix 1

The finance report was received, APPROVED and signed as evidence of bank reconciliation and budget monitoring

6.2 To consider the following invoices for payment

- 6.2.1 – Clerk's January Salary
- 6.2.2 – Clerk's expenses £170.80 previously circulated
- 6.2.3 – Autela Payroll services - £70.20
- 6.2.4 – Yarkhill Village Hall – January Meeting - £16.00
- 6.2.5 – HALC – Domain name and hosting £145.00
- 6.2.6 – HMRC PAYE £23.60

The above payments were APPROVED for payment by BACS

6.3 To note payments made between meetings under clerk's delegated authority

- 6.3.1 – Clerk's September, October, November and December salary
- 6.3.2 – Zurich insurance – as agreed – 6th September 2025 £277.00

NOTED

6.4 To consider the 2026-27 budget and precept figure – Appendix 2

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the draft budget and precept figure of £4600 for 26/27. This means an annual precept figure for an average Band D house of £53.66.

6.5 To note the increase in monthly bank charge to £7
NOTED

7. To consider the following planning application for determination by Herefordshire Council

7.1 253102 – Land at Munns Cottage, Shucknall Hill, HR1 3SL

Proposed self-build three-bedroom, two-storey, detached dwelling and replacement of existing drainage system serving Munns Cottage.

It was RESOLVED to object to the application. The council was concerned about the overshadowing nature of the build being at the top of the hill, and it being overbearing to the surrounding lower properties. The council was concerned about the loss of trees or ecological habitat due to the size of the development, and the proximity to the common,

8.1 To consider work to be undertaken on the parish footpaths
NONE

8.2 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty
Blocked drain by Shucknall Court.

9. Community Matters

9.1 To receive an update on the distribution of SmartWater kits

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Young would contact the We Don't Buy Crime Co-ordinator North, to arrange the collection of kits for their distribution.

9.2 To note the resignation of Cllr Fenton, the ability to now co-opt, and note the remaining council vacancies
NOTED

9.3 To consider signing up to A Charter for Herefordshire's Councils 2025
It was RESOLVED to sign up to the charter.

9.4 To consider reconfirming the three Parish priorities for enforcement by the Safer Neighbourhood Team
It was RESOLVED to name the parish priorities as: fly tipping, speeding along the A4103 in 50mph zone, and rural crime.

10. Correspondence

Local Government Boundary Commission consultation – closes 2nd February 2026

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation – closes 11:45pm 10th March 2026

NOTED

11. To consider items for the next meeting – No discussion
To receive an update on the distribution of SmartWater.

12. To consider the date of the next meeting, and subsequent meetings for 2026
It was RESOLVED to agree a meeting dates for 2026 as: 14th March, 9th May, 12th September, and 28th November

The meeting closed at: 20:42

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

9-5-26