

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THORNBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2026, AT 7 PM IN

EDWYN RALPH VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Cllrs Ashley Ede (Chair), Kitty Edwards (Vice Chair), Tom Edwards, and Jim Farrant.

Also, Present: Jennifer Eva (Clerk), Ward Cllr Bruce Baker and 2 members of the public.

26/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absences were accepted from Cllrs William Keown-Boyd, H Lewis, D Manning, Alan Pitt, and Phil Wildig.

26/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

26/03 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 2025.

26/04 WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Ward Councillor Bruce Baker provided the following update.

- Herefordshire Council has recently approved its 2026/27 budget, including a 4.99% Council Tax increase and service savings, including staff reductions, to address a funding shortfall. The budget also allocates £29m for road maintenance and £10m for homelessness support.
- Central Government removed a £7 million Rural Services Delivery Grant for the county, in 2024/25 which has not been replaced.
- The recent recruitment process to replace Chief Executive Officer was unsuccessful. Mr Paul Walker has agreed to remain in post for several more months while a replacement is recruited.
- Herefordshire Council has approved a new contract with M Group Highways to deliver public realm services across the county to replace the current arrangement with Balfour Beatty. The contract will commence from 1st June 2026.
- The Wye Valley Community Diagnostic and Treatment Centre has opened in Hereford. It is expected to help reduce NHS waiting lists by delivering around 65,000 tests annually and includes facilities such as CT, MRI, ultrasound and X-ray scanning to support the diagnosis of a wide range of conditions.

26/05 PUBLIC SESSION

No questions received.

Ward Cllr Baker left the meeting at 7:28pm.

26/06 FINANCE

1. Councillors noted the bank balances for the current and reserve accounts.
Current a/c = £1,803.24

Reserve a/c = £4,159.02

1. To approve invoices for payment.
 - a. HMRC ... PAYE ... month 11
 - b. Clerk ... salary ... February
 - c. Stationery ... printer toner.
2. To note payments made between meetings with the Clerk's delegated authority.
 - a. HMRC ... PAYE ... month 10
 - b. Clerk ... salary ... January 2026
 - c. Freethought ... £77.00 ... website hosting
 - d. Freethought ... £72.00 ... website domain

26/07 PLANNING MATTERS

1. Councillors noted the following planning decisions made by Herefordshire Council.
 - a. P253137/FH ... Beecroft, Edwyn Ralph, Herefordshire, HR7 4LY Carport. HC Decision: Approved with Conditions
 - b. P253449/FH ... Rose Cottage, Edwyn Ralph, HR7 4LX Demolition of conservatory. A new single storey extension, extension of existing dormers, one to be created to a Juliet balcony and other to create gable extension. HC Decision: Approved with Conditions
 - c. P224191/F ... Land at Meadowcroft, Edwyn Ralph, HR7 4LX Construction of 3 bed self-build dwelling with garage and replacement of existing septic tank with treatment plant. HC Decision: Approved with Conditions

29/08 WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Assertion 10: Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Members noted that for the 2025/26 financial year, Assertion 10 has been added to the Annual Governance Statement in the AGAR and requires parish councils to confirm that they have appropriate digital, data protection and IT governance arrangements in place.

This includes using council-controlled email addresses and domain names (not personal accounts), maintaining a legally compliant and accessible website, complying with UK GDPR and data protection requirements, and having formal IT and cybersecurity policies governing the use of council systems and devices.

- b. Set-up of .gov.uk email addresses for councillors and the Clerk
The Clerk advised members that, through the Council's existing hosting package, gov.uk email addresses can be created at no additional cost.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk arrange for .gov.uk email accounts to be set up for all councillors and the Clerk for use in conducting Council business.

26/09 ASSET REGISTER

Members reviewed the Council's Asset Register.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the register as presented.

26/10 DEFIBRILLATORS

To consider any action required for the two defibrillators.

- a. Collington: Cllr Farrant confirmed no action was required
- b. Edwyn Ralph: Cllr Edwards confirmed that no action was required. It was noted that the defibrillator currently in place is a temporary replacement unit provided by the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHBT) under the Council's agreement while the original machine was returned for repair.

It was RESOLVED for the clerk to follow this up with the CHBT.

26/11 HIGHWAYS / FOOTPATHS / TRAFFIC

- a. To consider any matters requiring reporting to Herefordshire Council.
 - Footbridge repairs Collington: no signs of repair to date.
 - Parish Footpath Officer Training: the clerk will inform Cllr Pitt for his information.
- b. Grit bins – Councillors noted that the Clerk submitted requests to Herefordshire Council for two new grit bins: one at The Crest (Edwyn Ralph) and one at Ripplewood (Collington).

It was RESOLVED for the clerk to make enquiries with the Locality Steward regarding the progress of these applications.
- c. Grit bin checks – the grit levels need to be inspected to ensure they are in good condition and adequately stocked for the remainder of the winter period. The parish currently has four grit bins located at:
 - Edwyn Ralph, Church Lane – 2 bins
 - Thornbury, near The Hortons – 1 bin
 - Thornbury, near the Church – 1 bin

It was RESOLVED for the Chairman to check stocks and report back to the next meeting.

26/12 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

The following information and correspondence was noted.

- a. Locality Stewards Updates.
- b. Road works notifications.
- c. Talk Community - Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Webinar.
- d. Next Parish Council Summit – 3rd March 2026.
- e. MP Surgery dates: Bromyard 6th March (AM) and Leominster 10th April (PM).

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:43pm

Signed by Cllr Ashley Ede Dated