

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THORNBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 30th MARCH 2026, AT 7 PM IN
EDWYN RALPH VILLAGE HALL**

Members Present: Kitty Edwards (Vice Chair), Jim Farrant, David Manning and Phil Wildig.

Also, Present: Jennifer Eva (Clerk), and Ward Cllr Bruce Baker.

26/13 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absences were accepted from Cllrs Ashley Ede, Tom Edwards, William Keown-Boyd, H Lewis, and Alan Pitt (work).

26/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Manning declared a pecuniary interest in item 26/21.1.

26/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd February 2026.

26/16 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC *LGA 1972 ss 101, 102*

To agree on any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded, as publicity would prejudice the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

26/17 WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Herefordshire Council (HC) Ward Councillor Bruce Baker update.

- Heating oil: low-income households in Herefordshire using oil or LPG can apply for a new government-funded financial support scheme, launched by HC in response to rising energy costs driven by global issues.
- Homelessness: HC has launched a five-year, £5.4m county-wide plan to prevent homelessness, featuring 42 actions across five key principles to expand accommodation, services, and support, and tackle rough sleeping.
- Armed Forces: HC has been awarded the prestigious Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (DERS) Gold Award, the highest honour for supporting the Armed Forces community, alongside other organisations.
- HC's 'Back the Bypass' campaign has been launched.
- UK City of Culture 2029: Herefordshire's bid to be the first rural county to win, did not make the official March 2026 shortlist.
- Ward Members will each receive £1,000 to allocate to worthwhile projects within their parishes.

Senior PCSO, Sue Berrett arrived at 7:05pm.

26/18 PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

Senior PCSO Berrett updated members on actions to address antisocial behaviour in Bromyard and plans to resume speed enforcement in Edwyn Ralph.

Ward Cllr Baker and PCSO Berrett left the meeting at 7:35pm.

26/19 FINANCE

1. Members considered the March finance report; inc. spend against budget, bank rec. and following account balances.

Current a/c = £1,436.42 and Reserve a/c = £4,162.05

2. Members considered the following invoices for payment via online transfer.

- a. HMRC ... PAYE ... Month 12
- b. Clerk ... Salary ... March
- c. Edwyn Ralph Village Hall ... meeting hire

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments listed above.

26/20 ASSERTION 10 REQUIREMENTS

Members considered the adoption of the following policies and necessary changes to its digital operations as per Assertion 10 of the AGAR 2025/26.

1. IT Policy – **it was RESOLVED** to adopt this policy with a minor amendment.
2. Data Protection Policy – **it was RESOLVED** to adopt this scheme.
3. Publication Scheme – **it was RESOLVED** to adopt this scheme.

It was RESOLVED to adopt policies 1 and 2 and scheme 3.

4. To confirm that the PC has and uses a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain.
5. To confirm that the PC meets legal requirements for its existing website.
6. To confirm that the PC has an accessibility statement on the website and to confirm this has been reviewed.
7. To confirm that the website includes published documentation as specified by in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Transparency Code for smaller authorities.

It was RESOLVED to confirm that the parish council complies with items 4 to 7.

26/21 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors considered the following planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council.

1. P253644/F ... Ralph Court, Edwyn Ralph, Herefordshire HR7 4LU
Small extension to approved dinosaur garden to create Ice Age exhibit and associated works. Type: Planning Permission.

It was RESOLVED to OBJECT to this application for the following reasons.

- Ongoing concerns over excessive and intrusive noise from existing dinosaur models in a quiet rural area.
- Proposed extension would increase noise levels, with cumulative impact from multiple motion-activated models causing frequent or continuous disturbance.

- Noise mitigation measures are considered insufficient, with local perception that noise has already worsened.
 - Concerns over increased light pollution from additional illuminated features and evening use.
 - Harm to rural dark skies, residential amenity, and the setting of the Grade II listed Church of St Michael.
 - Adverse visual impact from additional large-scale structures, incongruous in the rural landscape.
 - Harm to the setting and significance of the Grade II listed Church of St Michael.
2. P260768 - Edwyn House, Edwyn Ralph, Herefordshire HR7 4LY
Removal of Monterey Cypress - as it is too close to the house. To replace it with a native species of tree further away from the house to prevent a similar problem arising. Type: Works to trees covered by TPO.
- It was RESOLVED** to SUPPORT this application.

26/22 CODE OF CONDUCT

Members considered the code and **RESOLVED** to adopt it.

26/23 RISK REGISTER

Members reviewed the Council's Risk Register and **RESOLVED** to approve it subject to the following amendment.

- Removal of reference to cheques as this method of payment is no longer used by the parish council.

26/24 INSURANCE

1. Members reviewed the annual insurance cover / schedule. **It was RESOLVED** not amendments were required.
2. Members considered two quotations for the renewal of the annual insurance. **It was RESOLVED** to accept the quotation provided by the existing provider Zurich at a cost of £379.62.

26/25 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the correspondence circulated to them by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

26/26 DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Monday 18th May

1. Annual Parish Meeting 6:45pm
2. Annual Council Meeting to commence straight after the parish meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:25pm

Signed by Cllr Ashley Ede Dated