

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 23rd April 2025, 7:30pm at Walford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Berry (Chair), Evans, Warburg, Barnett, Petersen, Watson, Vine, Cole.

In attendance: N Richmond (Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

1. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllr's Akers, Llewellyn, and Robinson whose reasons for absence were accepted.
2. **To note the resignations of Chris Field and Sandra Cole.**
The resignations were noted. The clerk will inform Herefordshire Council who will set in motion the election/co-option process.
3. **Declarations: To receive declarations of interest and consider any written applications for dispensations.**
No written requests for dispensation were received. Cllr Watson declared an interest in agenda item 9.3 Howle Hill Memorial Project as an active member of the working group, and in agenda item 11 planning as the applicant for planning application P242024. Cllr Cole reserved the right as Ward Councillor to change his vote on any planning matters should they go to Planning Committee.

Members of the public having attended to discuss an item under planning Cllr Berry suggested that agenda item 11 was taken next. This was proposed by Cllr Cole, seconded by Cllr Barnett and all voted in favour

11. Planning:

11.1. To comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council. ~~object~~ *Carver. B*

240309 Land North of Leys Hill - 2 Dwellings

Frecknall JB
Graham Fretwell spoke first objecting to the application which he considered un-neighbourly unsuitable in design and adding to already heavy levels of traffic. Brian ~~Cornor~~ *Carver* also spoke in opposition citing systematic overdevelopment and a 50% increase in traffic given the planning applications approved already and suggested that the matter be referred to the Planning Committee. Terry Saunders also spoke against the application as the scale of the three storey design would overpower their home and privacy. Cllr Watson pointed out that the application was within a Neighbourhood Development Plan settlement area, and Cllr Vine advised that three dwellings were allowed on the 3 acre site. Cllr Warburg advised that the designs had been changed to a different shape of building not quite as big. Councillors voted 7 to support the application 1 against and instructed the clerk to comment on concerns of the amount of glazing, concerns over the three storey design, the lack of ecological surveys and it's concerns over increased traffic both on Leys Hill and at the dangerous junction with the B4234.

Cllr Watson left the room.

242024 Land opposite Caenwood Re-consultation self build dwelling

Cllr Warburg commented on this application that while the disposal of liquid sewage waste was provided for the disposal of solid waste was not and carried a risk of contamination. Cllr Cole commented that if a digester was included there would be no problem. Cllr Berry proposed that the application be supported but that more information was required on the disposal of solid waste. This was seconded by Cllr Petersen and all voted in favour.

Cllr Watson rejoined the meeting.

250743 The Chapel, Church Road Outdoor timber framed building

Cllr Watson proposed that council supported the application. Cllr Evans commented that the applicants had ticked a box stating that the proposed building could not be seen from the public highway which was not the case. Cllr Petersen seconded the proposal and all voted in favour.

4. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 26th March 2025.**
The clerk having made handwritten amendments to the minutes suggested by Cllr Warburg, Cllr Watson proposed that they be accepted. Cllr Petersen seconded the proposal and all voted in favour

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with Cllrs Cole and Vine abstaining as they had not been present. The minutes were signed by the Chairman Cllr Berry.

5. **Public participation session:**
 - 5.1. **To receive an update from West Mercia Police.**
No member of the police was present.
 - 5.2. **To receive a report from the Localities Steward.**
Reports had been circulated. No questions arose.
 - 5.3. **Public participation session: three (3) minute limit per person (15 minutes maximum)**
Christine Puzey enquired why the Bishopswood Village Hall toilets were not on the agenda. The clerk explained that he had been instructed to put up a sign to the effect that the toilets were closed until the canoe launch season began, but in speaking to Charlie Baker he said that the toilets were already open, adding that he felt it was the responsibility of Herefordshire Council to maintain the toilets. It was suggested that Parish Council had agreed to take over responsibility for the toilets and Cllr Berry suggested that a councillor look into this. It was agreed however to refer the matter to the Safety and Environmental Working Group and in the meantime the clerk is to obtain some quotations for maintenance of the toilets all year round. Bill Cansdale enquired about drainage issues on Leys Hill advising that many drains were blocked with water running across the road, and with increased housing planned the drains will not take the amount of surface water produced. It was noted that the pipes under the B4234 at the bottom of Leys Hill had eventually been jetted by Balfour Beatty and agreed that the clerk will ask the parish lengthsman Terry Griffiths to clear the drainage network on Leys Hill.
6. **Finance:**
 - 6.1. **To approve the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Cole proposed that the payments be approved en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and all voted in favour.
 - 6.2. **To ratify the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Watson proposed that the payments be approved en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Cole and all voted in favour.
 - 6.3 **To receive and approve the year end accounts 2024-25 and approve the draft AGAR.**
Cllr Warburg proposed that the year end accounts and draft AGAR be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and all voted in favour.
 - 6.4 **To approve the revised assets register.**
Cllr Warburg proposed that the revised assets register be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Petersen and all voted in favour.
7. **Leys Hill Junction Traffic Calming: To receive an update.**
Bill Cansdale reported on the experimental 18 month trial of a 30mph speed limit for the Leys Hill junction which has been agreed with Herefordshire Council to be installed this summer. He said this is a great step forward and a great improvement to the safety of drivers exiting Leys Hill.
8. **Kerne Bridge : To receive reports and consider any actions:**
 - 8.1. **KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.**
Cllr Petersen outlined the works for which Terry Griffiths has provided quotations. Cllr Berry requested that the quotations include materials costings such that they can form the basis of a grant application, and Cllr Petersen agreed to speak to Terry about this. It was noted that the wild swimming sign had not been removed and the clerk was actioned to make sure this was done. The clerk is also to ask Charlie Baker what was happening regarding the planning application to have a new café structure on site.
 - 8.2. **To approve expenditure on the following safety works:**
 - 8.2.1 **Making safe the railway buttress pillar.**
 - 8.2.2 **Levelling the steps leading to the canoe launch.**
It was noted that as emergency safety measures the clerk has issued a works order to Terry Griffiths for the work on the railway buttress and upon receipt of a quotation for the steps within his discretionary limit he will issue a works order for the steps to be levelled.
 - 8.3 **To receive an update on the improvements to access the permissive footpath (from Kerne Bridge to the Canoe Launch) directly from the Inn on the Wye.**
Cllr Cole continues to pursue this and advised that a survey had been carried out. Cllr Berry said that this item had been on the agenda too long without any progress.

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8.4 To receive an update on the survey of Kerne Bridge.

Both the clerk and Cllr Cole have asked Herefordshire Council what the result of the survey was without an answer. Cllr Cole believes that the removal of vegetation under the structure may mean that repair work is required.

9. Projects: To receive written reports from the following projects and working groups and consider action:

9.1. Community Support Scheme Coordinator

No report but Cllr Barnett said the scheme was running as normal.

9.2. Police Liaison.

Cllr Robinson not being present this was held over to the next meeting.

9.3. Howle Hill Memorial Project.

9.3.1 To receive a report.

A report had been circulated. No questions arose.

9.4 To receive an update on the installation of a defibrillator on Bulls Hill.

The clerk reported that Cllr Akers has advised him that an issue has arisen with the electrical connection between the solar panel and the defibrillator which her technicians are working on. The pole having been installed as soon as the connection issue is resolved the defibrillator will be fitted to the pole.

10. Highways and public rights of way: To receive written/verbal reports and consider actions:

10.1. PROW officer – to receive a verbal report.

Cllr Evans had nothing to report other than a landowner had replaced a stile on WA76. It was noted that parish council is responsible for the footpaths themselves but landowners are responsible for hedges that overgrow from their land onto footpaths.

10.2. Lengthsman Co-ordinator: To receive an update, and to approve the signing of a new Parish Lengthsman Scheme agreement for 2025-26 for submission with an annual maintenance plan.

It was agreed that the clerk will complete the Parish Lengthsman Scheme forms for submission to Herefordshire Council, and will provide copies to Cllr Warburg first for his input.

10.3. To receive an update on the sewage discharges on Bulls Hill and Howle Hill.

Work having been carried out on the septic tank believed to have been the source of the issue on Bulls Hill the Environmental Health officer advised that no new discharges were observed on revisiting the site so they consider the issue resolved. The clerk is now to take up with the officer the issues on Howle Hill.

The time having reached 9.30 Cllr Berry proposed a 10 minute extension which was agreed by all.

10.4. To receive an update on the reported subsidence on the B4234 between Walford Timber and Kerne Lodge.

The clerk enquired with the Balfour Beatty Locality steward what was happening and has been told that investigative work has been carried out and the matter is now at a planning stage.

10.5. Parish Council agrees that it follows a policy of 'No Mow May' for all grass verges within the Parish excluding visibility splays and any significant footpath encroachment where obvious health & safety requirements would prevail.

11. Planning:

See above between agenda items 3 and 4.

12. The Dam

To receive an update on negotiations to sell the plot.

The clerk advised that he had visited the party interested in buying the plot and shown them the revised valuation. They are considering making an offer with certain conditions relating to drainage issues. Cllr Berry asked the clerk to arrange a further meeting with the party to move things forward.

13. To consider correspondence received.

Councillors considered the one item of correspondence regarding missing signs at Starve Beech, and suggested that the correspondent report the missing signs to Herefordshire Council and that they thought the issue was not in Walford parish in any case.

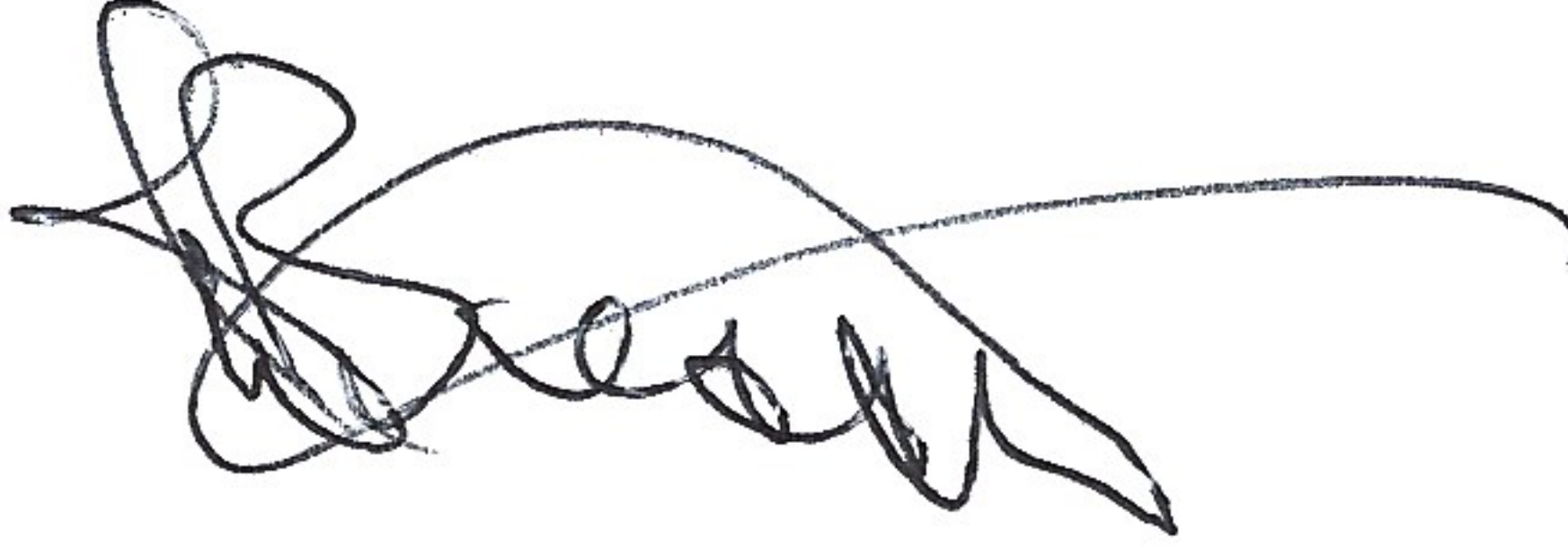
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14. Items for next meeting agenda: (No discussion)
- 14.1. The Dam
 - 14.2. Defibrillator installation Bulls Hill
 - 14.3. Improvements to the permissive path from KBCL to Kerne Bridge.
 - 14.4. Toilets maintenance at BVH.
15. Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 28th May 2025 7.30pm at Walford Village Hall.

DATE _____

 28/5/25