

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 28th January 2026, 7:30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

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

In attendance: N Richmond (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllr Llewellyn whose reason for absence was accepted.
2. **Declarations: To receive declarations of interest and consider any written applications for dispensations.**
No written applications for dispensation were received. Non-pecuniary declarations of interest were made by Cllr Watson in respect of agenda item 8.2 Howle Hill Memorial Project as a member of the working group and By Cllr Akers in respect of agenda item 10.1 Planning as a near neighbour to the planning application 253024.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 17th December 2025.**
The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 17th December 2025 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
4. **To consider a report from the clerk on actions taken since the previous meeting.**
Cllr Vine commented that the report was very helpful. Further to the report the clerk advised that he has completed a new 15 page listed building planning application form but needs some further pictures to accompany the application. It was noted that a Heritage Grant may be available from the War Memorials Trust and should be applied for at the same time as the planning application is submitted. The clerk asked if there was any structure underneath the memorial and it was confirmed that there is not the memorial just sits on the ground.
5. **Public participation session:**
 - 5.1. **To receive an update from West Mercia Police.**
No police were present but the PCSO David Alexander had provided feedback about speed checks and the regular appearance of the community police van at Walford Village Hall during the year, information for which has been put on the parish council website.
 - 5.2. **To receive a report from the Localities Steward.**
Weekly reports from the Locality Steward had been circulated. Road potholes can be reported using the Fix My Street website which is linked to the Herefordshire Council system or can be reported directly on the HC website. What 3 Words location details are helpful in both cases.
 - 5.3. **Public participation session: three (3) minute limit per person (15 minutes maximum)**
Bill Cansdale spoke regarding the experimental 30mph traffic regulation order for Leys Hill junction, the implementation of which had been anticipated to happen last summer. He asked what the latest communication was from Herefordshire Council and why the item was not on the agenda, saying that it had been agreed by council that it would always be on the agenda until resolved. The clerk advised that his report contained the latest information from Herefordshire Council that the operational decision to install the TRO had been made in October 2025, and added that as there was no decision to be made it did not need to be on the agenda, however because it was in his report it could be discussed, and of course members of the public were entitled to bring up concerns of any sort during the public participation session. The clerk is to follow up with Herefordshire Council to seek an implementation date and ask if there are any other processes to be completed by Herefordshire Council before the implementation can proceed. Cllr Warburg mentioned in relation to the planning application at Watling Street that the plot had been put up for sale so it appeared that the current planned housing there was not going ahead.

Cllr Postlewhite joined the meeting.

6. **Finance:**
 - 6.1. **To approve the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Warburg proposed that the payments be agreed en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Cole and all voted in favour.
 - 6.2. **To ratify the payments on Appendix A.**

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Cllr Cole proposed that the payments to be ratified were agreed en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and all voted in favour.

6.3. To approve and sign the bank reconciliation as at 31.12.2025.

The bank reconciliation was approved and signed by Cllr Barnett.

7. Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch: To receive reports and consider any actions:

7.1. KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.

Cllr Petersen said there was little to report at this time of year but he was encouraged by the turnover figures for 2025, little changed from 2024 despite a seeming downturn in canoeing in 2025, a contribution of £12k to the council finances. He advised that the transfer of the Riversea Holdings business to Robin Fletcher and Leon Meek seemed to be near a conclusion. Cllr Vine wondered if Robin and Leon are registered to run a café, and Cllr Petersen suggested that this could be added to the Performance Management Checklist. Sian Green advised that the black bins were being used by people to dump rubbish rather than go to Ross to dispose of it. The clerk will ask Charlie Baker about this.

7.2. 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.

Herefordshire Council have said that a specialist assessment is required including a survey of pedestrian usage to determine if a formal crossing is appropriate, and have asked council to advise what time of year the survey would be best to capture the most usage. The clerk advised that the annual turnover figures indicated that August maybe particularly the August Bank Holiday would be the best time. Cllr Akers commented that if we waited until an August survey had taken place then another year would have passed without any action, so it was agreed that she would e-mail Herefordshire Council to make them aware of the urgency of the issue.

7.3. To review any responses regarding the KBCL site draft vision document and any suggestions of what should be included in new signage.

The clerk advised that two responses had been received one on the day of the meeting. It was agreed to publicise the draft vision document as widely as possible and set a deadline for comments of the date of the next parish council meeting, and have a review of the responses in March.

7.3.1. To consider what improvements can be made to the surface and condition of the permissive footpath detailed in 7.2 above.

Cllr Warburg said that this item should in future be combined with agenda item 7.2. Cllrs Warburg, Cole and Barnett are to look at the footpath and bring proposals to parish council. Cllr Watson said that the condition of the footpath is the responsibility of the landowner who is Herefordshire Council.

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

8.1. Community Support Scheme Coordinator.

No report was available. A working group meeting will be arranged in March.

8.2. Howle Hill Memorial Project.

8.2.1 To approve the production of two childrens benches by The Mens Shed using a donation, decide on the style of bench and obtain a quotation from Terry Griffiths for installation.

Cllr Watson explained that the existing benches were too high for children to sit on comfortably, and the proposal was to use the donation to produce two benches with seat heights of 40cms and 60cms 1.8m long.

Cllr Cole left the meeting as he considered he may have an interest relating to the donation.

Cllr Watson proposed that the benches be produced and a quotation obtained to install them. This was seconded by Cllr Berry and all voted in favour.

Cllr Watson left the meeting. Cllr Cole rejoined the meeting.

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

9.1. PROW officer

Cllr Evans reported that she had attended a PROW induction course at Herefordshire Council and felt encouraged by the more positive approach being shown by Herefordshire Council toward the 2100 miles of public footpaths in the county.

9.2. Lengthsman Co-ordinator.

The clerk reported that he had invoiced Herefordshire Council with £2,900 under the Parish

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Lengthsman scheme which has been paid, and has instructed the lengthsman to carry out the ditching work from The Dam to the top of the hill payable under the Local Drainage Grant. Cllr Warburg commented that there was still work on Bulls Hill that had not been completed due to the sewage issue that has now been resolved. Cllr Akers advised that the B4234 at Bishopswood was flooded to the degree that traffic was having to use the opposite carriageway to avoid the flood water. She said she would take pictures the following day for the clerk to report the flooding.

10. Planning:

10.1 To comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council - see Appendix B. **P253024 Pen Y Bryn - Installation of greenhouse.**

Cllr Warburg commented that the greenhouse is very large will have a big visual impact in the Wye Valley National Landscape. Cllr Postlewhite commented that this adds a further structure to a site that already contains many structures involved in the animal sanctuary. In addition there is a lack of detail over the lighting of the greenhouse. Council decided to neither support or object to the application and just make the comments that are noted here.

P253704 Worlds End, Howle Hill - 2 storey extension & garage with loft store.

Cllr Barnett commented that this was a very old property that needs updating and the application should be supported. Councillors agreed and all voted to support the application.

11. To consider correspondence received.

Council noted the increased involvement of Herefordshire Council in PROW matters, and believes that Mr Roy should identify exactly where on the PROW he believes additional footpath signs are required and make a proposal directly to Herefordshire Council explaining the circumstances.

12. Items for next meeting agenda: (No discussion)

12.1. The Dam

12.2. Improvements to the permissive path from KBCL to Kerne Bridge and introduction of a formal crossing at The Inn on the Wye.

12.3. KBCL National lottery grant application.

12.4. Draft vision/plan for the KBCL site.

12.5. New Standing Orders.

12.6. Meeting with Bishopswood Village Hall concerning the public toilets.

12.7 Sewerage issues on Howle Hill.

12.8 HHMP War Memorial planning application.

12.9 Leys Hill junction.

13. Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 25th February 2026 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

Cllr Akers closed the meeting at 21.15

SIGNED

DATE

25/2/26