

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 25th February 2026, 7:30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

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

In attendance: N Richmond (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Akers, Barnett, Watson and Llewellyn whose reasons for absence were accepted.
2. **Declarations: To receive declarations of interest and consider any written applications for dispensations.**
No written applications for dispensation were received and no declarations of interest were made.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2026.**
The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 28th January 2026 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.**
The report had been circulated. Cllr Petersen commented that the residents at Crossways will have documentary evidence of the septic tank being 'regularly emptied' and this should have been made available to the Environmental Health officer, and it was agreed that in following this up the clerk will ask if such evidence has been presented. Cllr Cole commented that the new pipe discharging sewage into the ditch in Church Lane was not legal unless permitted/licenced by the Environment Agency.
5. **Public participation session:**
 - 5.1. **To receive an update from West Mercia Police.**
No police officer 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)**
Bill Cansdale wished to speak about agenda item 11 Leys Hill junction so it was agreed to take this agenda item next:
11. **Leys Hill Junction.**
To consider the latest correspondence from Herefordshire Council that the 30mph ETRO cannot now proceed.
Bill Cansdale expressed disbelief that Herefordshire Council having proposed an ETRO and issued its Record of Operational Decision last October it has now been withdrawn. Cllr Cole as Ward Councillor said he would speak to Traffic Management to find out why it had been withdrawn. Cllr Warburg commented that it seemed that Herefordshire Council had withdrawn it due to the possibility of a legal challenge from a driver prosecuted for exceeding the speed limit, a situation that has apparently happened elsewhere. Bill Cansdale called for the Parish Council Chairman to write in the strongest possible terms to the Herefordshire Council CEO to protest at the withdrawal of the scheme following years of campaigning. Cllrs Berry and Evans advised that such correspondence should be sent by the clerk. It was agreed that Bill Cansdale will provide the clerk with a summary of the campaign to form the basis of the correspondence, and the clerk will circulate drafts both to the HC CEO and Traffic Management prior to sending. Cllr Postlewhite commented that the idea of an e-petition had been suggested previously and would provide backing to the correspondence.
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 Petersen and all voted in favour.
 - 6.2. **To ratify the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Cole proposed that the payments be ratified en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Evans and all voted in favour.
7. **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch: To receive reports and consider any actions:**



7.1. KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.

Cllr Petersen had nothing new to report. He noted that the clerk had confirmed that Robin Fletcher and Leon Meeks had been appointed as Directors of Riversea Holdings on 1st January 2026 and Boo resigned on 24th February leaving Charlie Baker continuing as a Director for the time being. Robin and Leon expressed the wish to meet asap with representatives of the parish council to discuss site issues and it was agreed that Cllrs Berry, Petersen and Cole would meet them on Saturday morning at 10.00am to take things further.

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, and to consider improvements to the surface and condition of the path.

There being no update on these matters they will be included on the next agenda.

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

Two responses had been received which will be considered at the next KBCLWG meeting along with suggestions put forward by Robin Fletcher and Leon Meeks.

7.4. To consider the way forward following the news that the National Lottery application has not been successful.

Cllr Berry was encouraged that although the application had not been successful the suggestion made we might approach the Heritage Lottery Fund in relation to work on the Railway Buttress was well worth pursuing and he advised that Cllr Watson had offered to take that matter forward.

7.5. To consider a proposal from Bishopswood Village Hall that Walford Parish Council contributes 25% of the cost of operating the public toilet digester during the canoe launch operating season.

7.6. To consider a proposal from Bishopswood Village Hall that Walford Parish Council contributes 25% toward the cost of repairing any breakdown of the digester system on production of the invoice detailing the repair.

Cllr Berry proposed that these items be taken in closed session at the end of the meeting as they contained an element of sensitive financial negotiation. Although recognising an irregularity in doing so council voted to agree that they be discussed in close session at the end of the meeting.

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. Cllr Berry reported that the scheme was running its normal activities.

8.2. Howle Hill Memorial Project.

8.2.1 To record a vote of thanks to Mary Sinclair-Powell for her commitment to the HHMP and her efforts in raising funds for the project.

Councillors unanimously supported the recording of a vote of thanks to Mary Sinclair-Powell.

8.2.2 To approve the text of grant applications to The War Memorials Trust and The National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Cllr Postlewhite proposed that the text be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Petersen and a vote taken with 6 in favour and 1 abstention so was **PASSED**.

8.2.3 To note that BBLP has been given 21 days notice that the information boards will be installed.

This was noted.

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

9.1. PROW officer

Cllr Evans advised that a further 'temporary' closure notice had been put up on WA50, a situation that has continued for several years while remedial action has not been forthcoming from Herefordshire Council. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the Open Spaces Society to question the legality of a county council continually temporarily closing a PROW.

9.2. Lengthsman Co-ordinator.

The clerk reported on the action taken by Terry Griffiths to clear drains on the B4234 at Bishopswood where pooling water meant one side of the carriageway was effectively blocked, which was appreciated by local residents. It should be noted that such work is the responsibility of Herefordshire Council but in the circumstances Terry is to be thanked for acting promptly in the interests of the parish. Regarding the correspondence from the lady at Deep Dean Cllr Cole believes that Balfour Beatty may be engaged in works there but the clerk will ask Terry Griffiths to inspect the area and make a recommendation. Cllr Warburg asked that the clerk also arrange a meeting with Terry to look at unfinished work on Bulls Hill.

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10. Planning:

10.1 To comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council - see Appendix B.

The planning application for pollarding trees at Priory Lea did not require comment from parish council. It was agreed however to ask for an extension for comments on the electricity pole at Crossways Howle Hill as Cllr Warburg said it represented quite a large visual impact and should be discussed.

11. Leys Hill Junction.

See above following agenda item 5.3

12. Council Policies. To agree the wording of the following policies to be published as Walford Parish Council documents subject to the agreement of the meeting:

12.1 To approve the new amended Standing Orders based on the NALC version.

The clerk explained that the model required various choices to be made and following several exchanges between himself and Cllr Warburg the final version is presented for approval. Cllr Warburg proposed that the new version be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Cole and all voted in favour.

12.2 To re-approve the following existing policies:

12.2.1 Code of Conduct (last approved March 2024)

12.2.2 Financial Regulations (last approved May 2024)

12.2.3 Risk Register (last approved Feb 2024)

Cllr Warburg proposed that these policies be approved en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Cole and all voted in favour.

13. To consider correspondence received.

Covered under agenda item 9.2.

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

14.1. The Dam

14.2. Improvements to the permissive path from KBCL to Kerne Bridge.

14.3. Leys Hill junction.

14.4. Draft vision/plan for the KBCL site.

Cllr Berry closed the meeting to the public at 9.05

7.5. To consider a proposal from Bishopswood Village Hall that Walford Parish Council contributes 25% of the cost of operating the public toilet digester during the canoe launch operating season.

7.6. To consider a proposal from Bishopswood Village Hall that Walford Parish Council contributes 25% toward the cost of repairing any breakdown of the digester system on production of the invoice detailing the repair.

Cllr Petersen having analysed the figure suggested by Bishopswood Village Hall he thought it was unnecessarily high and not backed up with any documentary evidence. Cllr Cole proposed that Walford Parish Council accept in principal making a contribution subject to further negotiation up to a maximum of £1000. This was seconded by Cllr Petersen and all voted in favour. Cllrs Berry and Petersen to meet with the Trustees of Bishopswood Village Hall to progress the negotiation.

15. Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 25th March 2026 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

Cllr Berry closed the meeting at 21.14

SIGNED

DATE

25/3/26