

# WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 7:30pm at Walford Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Akers (Chair), Berry, Cole, Evans, Postlewhite, Petersen

**In attendance:** N Richmond (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Watson, Vine, Llewellyn, Barnett and Warburg whose reasons for absence were accepted. The resignation of Cllr Share was noted and council thanked him for his contribution.
2. **Declarations: To receive declarations of interest and consider any written applications for dispensations.**  
No written requests for dispensation were received. Cllr Akers declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 Planning as a close friend of the applicant for planning application P261394 Brook House.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 27th May 2026.**  
The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Akers asked if there were any comments but none were made. All voted to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting with the exception of Cllr Petersen who abstained as not present at the meeting. Cllr Akers signed the minutes.
4. **To consider a report from the clerk on actions taken since the previous meeting.**  
The clerk's report had been circulated. Cllr Berry questioned why the KBCL Management fees had not been invoiced. The clerk said he normally invoiced in April but given the change of ownership and the possibility of a discount for the BVH toilets he was waiting for the best time to do so.
5. **Public participation session:**
  - 5.1. **To receive an update from West Mercia Police.**  
No police were present.
  - 5.2. **To receive a report from the Localities Steward.**  
The clerk will chase the Locality steward as reports seem to have dried up. This may be because of the ending of the Balfour Beatty contract and it was suggested that an operational chart of HC services would be very useful given the changes, something Cllr Cole said he had asked for.
  - 5.3. **Public participation session: three (3) minute limit per person (15 minutes maximum)**  
No members of the public wished to speak.
6. **Finance:**
  - 6.1. **To approve the payments on Appendix A.**  
Cllr Berry proposed that the payments be agreed en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Postlewhite and all voted in favour.
  - 6.2. **To ratify the payments on Appendix A.**  
Cllr Berry proposed that the payments be ratified en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Postlewhite and all voted in favour.
  - 6.3. **To sign the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements and to note the dates of the Notice of Public Rights to examine the accounts.**  
Both statements were agreed and signed by Cllr Akers and the Clerk. The dates of the public rights were noted as between Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026.
7. **To nominate representatives to the Community Engagement Working Group, and to appoint a Facebook Co-ordinator, a Resilience Co-ordinator, and an additional KBCL Co-ordinator.**  
Council appointed Cllrs Akers, Watson and Postlewhite as the members of the Community Engagement Working Group. Cllr Postlewhite was appointed Facebook co-ordinator and Cllr Petersen was appointed as Resilience Officer. It was agreed that at the next meeting Cllr Barnett would be invited to be the second KBCL co-ordinator.
8. **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch: To receive reports and consider any actions:**
  - 8.1. **KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.**  
Cllr Petersen advised that he had spoken with Cllr Watson about the Heritage Grant for the railway buttress. He said he would meet with Terry Griffiths and obtain further quotations from other



contractors for the work. Cllr Cole advised that using a stump grinder to remove the tree stumps around the buttress might undermine the structure and proposed that Adrian Hope Tree Services be employed to poison the stumps prior to any restoration work. This was seconded by Cllr Petersen and all voted in favour. Cllr Evans commented that the additional structure at the canoe launch was in a dangerous position so it was agreed that Cllrs Petersen and Cole would talk to Riversea about making it safe.

- 8.2. 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 was nothing new to report on this so it would be held over to the next meeting.

- 8.3. To consider a discount on the annual management fees charged to Riversea Holdings to take into account the operation of the toilets at Bishopswood Village Hall.**

Council having recognised the costs involved in maintaining the toilets Cllr Akers proposed that a 10% discount be applied to the annual management fees. This was seconded by Cllr Berry and all voted in favour.

- 8.4. To consider the use of the car park for HGVs to offload onto smaller vans for deliveries and removals and the conditions suggested by Riversea Holdings.**

Cllr Berry urged caution as Parish Council has responsibility for safety matters at the KBCL car park. Cllr Akers advised that several HGVs had got stuck on Leys Hill in the recent past and council should consider how best to avoid this happening. Cllr Akers proposed that in principal Parish Council allows the use of the car park subject to prior agreement between the HGV operator and Riversea Holdings on an appropriate date and time for the offloading and public liability insurance being provided by the HGV operator. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cole and a vote taken with 4 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention so was **PASSED**.

- 8.5. To consider the use of KBCL by the Severn Training Group.**

Cllr Cole proposed that with prior agreement with Riversea Holdings and evidence of public liability insurance Severn Training Group be allowed to use KBCL. This was seconded by Cllr Petersen and all voted in favour.

- 8.6. To receive an update on the grant application in respect of the Buttress.**

Covered in 8.1.

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

- 9.1. Community Support Scheme Coordinator.**

Cllrs expressed some concern over the long term viability of the scheme given the small number of users. It was agreed that the clerk will invite the Co-ordinator Rebecca to the next parish council meeting to provide an update.

- 9.2. Community Engagement.**

- 9.2.1. To consider the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the building of Kerne Bridge.**

The new working group will meet and produce some proposals for main council to consider. Cllr Cole advised that Goodrich Parish Council have said they will support but not be involved in the organisation, and he also advised that some repair work to the bridge is due to be carried out.

- 9.2.2. To update the Social Media Policy**

The Community Engagement Working Group will propose any changes.

- 9.3. To consider a Community Speed Watch.**

Given the need for local residents to come forward the Community Engagement Working Group will also consider this.

- 9.4 To consider the response from Herefordshire Council regarding the road sewage spills at Crossways Howle Hill.**

It was agreed that the clerk will respond supporting the concerns of Cllr Petersen and request information on exactly what remedial measures are being considered and who is to implement them.

- 9.5 To receive an update on bus shelter benches.**

Cllr Barnett had advised the clerk that he has cleared around the bus shelters in preparation for putting in benches.

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

- 10.1. PROW officer.**

Cllr Evans had nothing new to report other than the correspondence that the clerk had regarding stiles that needed clearing.

- 10.1.1 To consider the draft footpaths officer job description.**

The clerk noted that the job description included allowing parish council to trim around overgrown

# WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



stiles using battery operated equipment. The clerk requested parish council authority to buy an electric brush cutter with weed brushes which he said he was happy to use himself to clear overgrown stiles. Cllr Cole proposed that council give authority for the purchase and its use by the clerk subject to informing the councils insurers. This was seconded by Cllr Petersen and all voted in favour.

### 10.2. Lengthsman Co-ordinator.

The clerk still awaits news of the drainage grant application. Cllr Cole advised that the pavements from Vine Tree Vets through the village need clearing again – the clerk to instruct Lewis Fowler. There are signposts around the village that have fallen down – the clerk asked for pictures and locations in order to instruct the lengthsman to reposition them.

### 11. Planning:

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

P261394/5 Brook House - Single-storey extension and detached garage. Internal reconfiguration to first floor bathroom.

The extension being at the back of the house council voted to support the application ( 5 in favour Cllr Akers abstaining ).

### 12. Leys Hill Junction.

To receive the latest correspondence from Herefordshire Council.

No further information from HC about implementation. The clerk will chase.

### 13. To consider correspondence received.

Not discussed – held over to the next meeting.

### 14. Items for the next agenda no discussion:

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

14.2 Leys Hill junction.

14.3 Draft vision/plan for the KBCL site.

14.4 Community speedwatch

14.5 Kerne Bridge 200 year anniversary

14.6 Sewage issues on Howle Hill

14.7 Bus shelter benches.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

17. Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

SIGNED

Joanne Akers

DATE

24/7/2026