

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 22nd July 2026, 7:30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

Present: Councillors Akers (Chair), Berry, Evans, Petersen, Vine, Barnett, Warburg

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

1. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Watson, Cole, and Postlewhite whose reasons for absence were accepted.
2. **Declarations: To receive declarations of interest and consider any written applications for dispensations.**
No written requests for dispensation were received and no declarations of interest made.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 24th June 2026.**
The minutes having been circulated Cllr Akers asked if there were any comments. The clerk advised that Cllr Warburg had made him aware of two amendments which he had made. All voted to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting with the exception of Cllrs Vine and Barnett who had not been at the meeting.

Rebecca Purdell the Walford Community Support Scheme co-ordinator having attended the meeting Cllr Akers proposed that agenda item 9.1 be taken next which was agreed.

9.1 **Community Support Scheme Coordinator.**

Rebecca Purdell reported that regular coffee mornings were held at Walford Village Hall and the Bishopswood Lunch Club on the 3rd Wednesday monthly. There are currently 9-12 regular users who all enjoy the activities laid on. Rebecca is engaging with social prescribers to encourage more users and is taking users to hospital appointments. As users pay for their lunch the activities are self-funding and she has given funds back to the clerk from the petty cash balance. DBS checks are in hand for volunteers and in response to a question from the clerk Rebecca said that there are sufficient volunteers at the moment. Cllr Akers said that the Community Engagement working group will consider how to develop more interest in the scheme and that Rebecca should ask council for any assistance she might require.

4. **To consider a report from the clerk on actions taken since the previous meeting.**
The report having been circulated Cllr Akers asked if any questions arose and if the clerk had anything to add. No questions arose but the clerk reported that both the EOI requests to Historic England and the National Heritage Memorial Fund for a grant to move the HHMP War Memorial having been rejected the current position was that there was a credit balance in the funding of £300 and the cost advised by Monmouth Memorials to move the memorial is £ 1,200. It was decided that the clerk would obtain alternative quotations from Ursells and Ernest Heal for consideration at the next WPC.
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.**
No reports had been received. The clerk will enquire with HC if the Locality Steward having previously been an employee of Balfour Beatty the situation has changed.
 - 5.3. **Public participation session: three (3) minute limit per person (15 minutes maximum)**
Rob Macrostitie spoke on a number of issues, firstly the trucks turning in the KBCL car park which he had observed, the danger to cyclists of the Leys Hill junction with the B4234 and the possibility of the permissive path behind Bishopswood Village Hall being made available to cyclists and the sewage spill onto the B4234 near Hazelhurst Nursing Home that he has reported to HC and which causes him to cycle in the middle of the road to avoid the sewage. The clerk had advised that he had spoken to Freeman Homes about the tipper trucks who told him it was a one-off issue so the clerk pointed out the dangers to car park users and potential damage to the car park surface, asking that any future use be pre-arranged with Riversea Holdings and notified to the council. Cllr Warburg asked Mr Macrostitie if he could find out what upgrades might be required to the path to make it a cycle path. It was agreed that the clerk would speak to Hazelhurst Nursing Home about the sewage

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



and also report it to HC and take up the matter with Anna Jordan the HC Environmental Health officer.

6. Finance:

6.1. To approve the payments on Appendix A.

Cllr Berry proposed that the payments be approved en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Warburg and all voted in favour except Cllr Vine who abstained as she did not agree with the council purchasing a brush cutter.

6.2. To ratify the payments on Appendix A.

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

6.3 To receive the June 2026 accounts and sign the bank reconciliation.

The June 2026 accounts were noted and Cllr Petersen signed the bank reconciliation.

7. To nominate an additional KBCL Co-ordinator.

Cllr Barnett agreed to continue as the additional KBCL Co-ordinator and all voted in favour.

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

8.1. KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.

Cllr Petersen reported that he has been in contact with three stone mason companies and will arrange site meetings to discuss the work required and obtain quotations which should lead to three quotations to compare with the one from the parish lengthsman Terry Griffiths. The tree stumps have been dealt with by Adrian Hope Tree Services. The pizza evening held by Riversea was noted and had passed with no adverse comments. Greater notice was required but no alcohol was sold.

8.2. To consider the correspondence received concerning tipper lorries using the KBCL car park as a turning circle.

See comments in agenda item 5.3 above.

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

Ward Councillor Cole has this matter in hand with HC but in his absence this will be on the next agenda.

8.4. To receive an update on the grant application in respect of the Buttress.

Cllr Petersen is liaising with Cllr Watson to take this forward.

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

9.1. Community Support Scheme Coordinator.

See above.

9.2. Community Engagement.

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

9.2.2. To update the Social Media Policy

9.3. To consider a Community Speed Watch.

The three agenda items above all falling under the remit of the Community Engagement Working Group that had been unable to meet ahead of WPC Cllr Akers advised that a working group meeting would be arranged ahead of the next WPC so these items were carried forward to the next agenda.

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

HC had reported that they continue to monitor the situation while a drainage solution is considered. The clerk has asked what the drainage solution is and who is implementing it, but no further response has been received.

9.5 To receive an update on bus shelter benches.

Walford Parish Council gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Barnett for installing the first bus shelter bench, which Cllr Watson advised has been much appreciated by residents.

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

10.1. PROW officer.

The clerk advised that he has cleared around 5 stiles along WA22/23 and at Lower Wythall with the brush cutter.

10.1.1 To consider a request from HC for WPC assistance in completing a register of PROW assets.



WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council

Cllr Evans said she had not received the invitation to the HC teams meeting to discuss the register so the clerk forwarded it to all councillors, and it was agreed to put this on the next agenda.

10.1.2 To consider the recutting of verges and the poor condition of footways towards Bishopswood Garage and through Walford village towards the school.

Cllr Akers questioned why verges had been cut again so it was agreed that the clerk will ask HC what the policy on this is now along with asking about overgrown hedges. The clerk will respond to the enquiries about the hedges in Church Road asking that the correspondents report the issues to HC with pictures and what 3 words location details. While WPC have no statutory powers in relation to hedge cutting HC can issue notices to landowners/occupiers to cut back overgrowth within 14 days.

10.2. Lengthsman Co-ordinator.

To receive an update.

The clerk had nothing new to report. The lengthsman advised him that drainage grant awards are starting to filter through.

11. Planning:

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

No new planning applications were received.

12. Leys Hill Junction.

To receive the latest correspondence from Herefordshire Council.

Herefordshire Council are progressing the permits required to deliver the 30mph TTRO works. They have advised that the scheme will consist solely of replacing the existing speed limit roundel road markings with '30' markings and updating the speed limit signs to reflect the new 30mph limit. This approach will enable us to assess the impact of the speed limit reduction in isolation. It was agreed that the clerk will go back to HC pointing out the lack of a junction warning sign from the Lydbrook direction.

13. To consider correspondence received.

The correspondence from Rob Macrostie having been covered earlier the remaining correspondence was from Mr G Lewis. Cllr Akers advised that both she and the clerk had received numerous e-mails from Mr Lewis asking what council resources had been spent in Coughton and expressing his concerns over PROWs. The clerk has answered all his e-mails advising him that no records are kept on expenditure in particular areas but that the lengthsman carries out maintenance days on a rotation basis through the parish. Mr Lewis asked for details of lengthsman expenditure on certain roads which the clerk provided. Cllr Akers also responded to Mr Lewis e-mails.

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 HHMP War Memorial quotations.

14.4 Community speedwatch.

14.5 Social Media Policy.

14.6 Kerne Bridge 200 year anniversary

14.7 Sewage issues on Howle Hill and on the B4234 near Hazelhurst Nursing Home.

14.8 Bus shelter benches.

14.9 PROW register of assets for HC.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

17. Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 23rd September 2026 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

SIGNED

Joanne Akers

DATE

23/09/2026