

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 27th May 2026, 7:30pm at Walford Village Hall

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

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

1. **To elect a Chair and receive the declaration of acceptance of office, and to elect a Vice-Chair.**
Cllr Cole proposed that Cllr Akers be appointed as Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Postlewhite and all voted in favour. Cllr Akers signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr Cole proposed that Cllr Berry be appointed as Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Akers and all voted in favour. Cllr Berry signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
2. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**
Apologies had been received from Cllr's Petersen, Barnett and Llewellyn whose reasons for absence were accepted.
3. **Declarations:**
 - 3.1. **To note the requirement that all Councillors update their personal Declaration of Interest lodged with Herefordshire Council.**
Cllr Akers put this on the agenda following an e-mail reminder but it was unclear if this had come from Herefordshire Council. It was therefore noted that new declarations are required by all councillors after an election year, by any new councillor co-opted to council and if councillors change of circumstances meant that a fresh declaration was needed.
 - 3.2. **To receive declarations of interest and consider any written applications for dispensations.**
No written applications for dispensation had been received and no declarations of interest were made.
4. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2026.**
The minutes having been circulated Cllr Akers asked for any comments. Cllr Warburg pointed out a small grammatical error in agenda item 8.1. Its correction was accepted and made and all approved the minutes as a true record of the meeting, which Cllr Akers then signed.
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 from the locality steward had been circulated. No questions arose.
 - 5.3. **Public participation session: three (3) minute limit per person (15 minutes maximum)**
Bill Cansdale spoke firstly to ask Cllr Cole if Herefordshire Council intended to follow Gloucestershire Council in community participation in setting speed limits. Cllr Cole advised that Herefordshire had no current proposal in that respect. Bill noted that Leys Hill Junction had not been put on the agenda and was advised that it would be put on the next agenda. He then asked that council requested a scope of works for the introduction of the 30mph speed limit and to ask that as this is not the 'experimental' scheme if it is temporary or permanent. It was agreed that the clerk would do this.
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 Warburg and all voted in favour.
 - 6.2. **To ratify the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Cole proposed that the payments be approved en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Warburg and all voted in favour.
7. **To appoint representation to the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee and to nominate representatives to the Community Support Working Group, Safety and Environmental Working Group and Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Working Group, and to appoint a Public Rights of Way Officer, a Police Liaison Officer, a Resilience Co-ordinator, and two KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinators.**
The following representations/appointments were agreed:
Finance Committee : Cllrs Warburg, Akers, Berry, Petersen and Vine.

JA

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Walford Parish Council



Personnel Committee : Cllrs Akers, Berry, Watson and Barnett.

Community Support Working Group : Cllrs Akers, Barnett, Watson, Berry.

Safety and Environmental Working Group : Cllrs Evans, Akers, Vine, Petersen, Berry.

KBCL Co-ordinator : Cllr Petersen

KBCL Working Group : Cllrs Evans, Vine, Akers, Petersen, Berry.

PROW Officer : Cllr Evans

Police Liaison Officer : Cllr Postlewhite.

A second KBCL Co-ordinator and Resilience Officer will be on the next agenda.

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

8.1. KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.

No report was received.

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.

Cllr Cole reported that this was still under discussion at Herefordshire Council, but with officials changing and the end of the Balfour Beatty contract little progress was possible at the moment. Cllr Warburg advised that he and Cllrs Cole and Barnett had met on site to look at the condition of the path which in some areas is unsafe. It was agreed that Cllr Cole would raise this with Herefordshire Council.

8.3. To consider the use of the Kerne Bridge site by The Severn Training Group with courses possibly four or five times per year with between four and twelve participants.

Cllr Watson was concerned that any activities should not interfere with the operations of Riversea Holdings, and that Severn Training group should provide evidence of insurance cover. Cllr Akers proposed that a site meeting be arranged with Severn Training Group and Riversea Holdings to agree procedures that would allow the river training to take place.

8.4. To consider the notes and actions arising from the KBCL Working Group meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026, summarised as follows:

8.4.1. Local Resident Permits.

Riversea Holdings had asked if they could be provided with a list of permits issued. It was agreed that this should not happen as a breach of GDPR rules. There being a clear system in place for parishioners to apply to the clerk for a permit which appears on a site notice and on the council website it was agreed that the system was sufficient. Riversea Holdings can use their discretion on site if approached by someone claiming exemption from paying for parking.

8.4.2. Unauthorised/unplanned use of the site by large lorries for unloading

8.4.3. Unlockable height restriction barrier

These agenda items were taken together as covering the same issue. Cllrs are concerned about heavy lorries churning up the car park surface and two issues are identified firstly lorries using the car park as a turning circle and secondly lorries using the car park to offload onto smaller vehicles for delivery/removals on Leys Hill. In respect of the second issue Cllr Akers believes that as these are planned exercises it should be possible with good communication to have these instances supervised which would be beneficial to prevent further HGVs getting stuck on Leys Hill. It was agreed on her suggestion that Cllr Petersen as KBCL Co-ordinator speak to Riversea Holdings to obtain a record of instances of HGVs using the car park to have a better understanding of the extent of the issue and an understanding of any regular HGV users who council might approach.

8.5. To consider the Heritage Lottery Fund application in respect of the Buttress.

Cllr Watson advised that the application proposal had been circulated to the working group and any suggestions/comments should be sent to the clerk who will liaise with Cllr Watson for a final draft to be presented at the next meeting. Cllr Watson noted that such a grant was not constrained by a £20k limit and suggested that an all encompassing name for work around the site might be Kerne Bridge 200 to recognise the upcoming 200th anniversary of the completion of the bridge. Cllr Berry will provide the National Lottery application figures to Cllr Watson. The issue of a tree stump at the buttress may require structural investigation to determine if its removal might undermine the structure itself. Cllr Cole will contact Adrian Hope Tree Services to obtain a quotation and opinion and he and Cllr Share will also look at the problem.

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

9.1. Community Support Scheme Coordinator.

No report was provided. The clerk advised that appointments for DBS checks for volunteers were now being arranged with the Ross Community Development Trust.

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Walford Parish Council



9.2. Police Liaison

No liaison officer currently.

9.3. HHMP

9.3.1. To note the response from War Memorials Trust stating the relocation of the War Memorial is ineligible for grant funding, and to consider other options to fund the relocation.

Cllr Watson expressed disappointment that the grant application was rejected. Her back up plan is to apply to Historic England using the same documents. It was proposed by Cllr Watson that the clerk makes the application. This was seconded by Cllr Evans and a vote taken with 8 in favour and 1 against.

9.3.2. To consider ongoing maintenance of the site including costs.

There has been a team of volunteers taking turns to maintain the garden but it is proving difficult to maintain this over the summer. There is a local gardener who is available who could be employed at £20 per hour to maintain the garden. It was proposed by Cllr Watson that, subject to evidence of insurance and at a maximum of £20 per month for a period of six months annually council employs the gardener. This was seconded by Cllr Berry and a vote taken with 6 in favour and three abstentions so was **PASSED**.

9.4. To consider the addition of a working group to organise for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the building of Kerne Bridge.

The Annual Parish Meeting earlier had discussed the possibility of a Community Engagement Working Group and a distinct social media engagement policy and it had been agreed to put these matters on the next WPC agenda. Cllr Watson suggested that a sub-group might be formed to work on the 200th anniversary in conjunction with Goodrich Parish Council.

9.5. To consider options for a Community Speed Watch as detailed in the Neighbourhood Matters publication.

This matter also falls under the umbrella of Community Engagement as it requires parishioners to come forward who are prepared to undertake the training required to carry out a community speed watch.

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

10.1. PROW officer

* Cllr Evans had nothing to report other than an enquiry about WA104 where she advised that the PROW had actually disappeared and could not therefore be used.

10.2. Lengthsman Co-ordinator: To receive an update.

The clerk had nothing new to report. Cllr Cole advised that the lengthsman had cleared grips on Howle Hill but as the ditches were full of leaves this work would prove ineffective. The clerk will speak to the lengthsman about this and also remind him that Cllr Warburg wishes to have a meeting with him to look at unfinished work on Bulls Hill.

11. Planning:

11.1. To comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council - see Appendix B. P260903 Arbor Hill Farm - Change of use of agricultural fields and existing access and hardstanding to provide a secure dog walking facility.

Cllr Warburg commented that it seemed a good use of a difficult area agriculturally and provided the noise level was reasonable he supported the application. Cllr Akers asked who supported the application and all voted in favour.

P260950 Orchard Bank, Bishopswood - Single storey side extension, single storey front porch, alterations to the garage façade.

Cllr Vine thought the application detail difficult to follow and it was decided not to comment on the application.

P260654 12 Wyese Caravan Park - Single storey garden shed and storage area (retrospective).

A small matter possibly reported to Herefordshire Council thus leading to this retrospective application. Council decided not to comment.

P260065 Hazelhurst Nursing Home - Works to trees covered by a TPO

Cllr Watson advised that there was no actual report confirming that the oak tree was diseased. Cllr Warburg said that the tree was at an unusual angle threatening a property below so the application should be supported. It was agreed to support the application.

12. To consider correspondence received

No correspondence was received.

Addition per Cllr Evans:

* 'The actual line of path was eroded & fell into the river some years ago.'

JA

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Walford Parish Council



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

- 13.1. Improvements to the permissive path from KBCL to Kerne Bridge and crossing at The Inn on the Wye.
- 13.2 Community Engagement and Social Media Policy.
- 13.3 Leys Hill Junction.
- 13.4 Additional KBCL Co-ordinator and Resilience Officer.
- 13.5 Severn Training Group use of KBCL.
- 13.6 Community Speed Watch

14. Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 24th June 2026 7.30pm Walford Village Hall

SIGNED

Joanne Athers

DATE

24/6/2026