

BREDON & BREDON'S NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Bredon Parish Council Annual Meeting held at Bredon Village Hall on **Monday 9th June 2025 at 7:00pm.**

Present: Councillors: Mr Nick Bradley (Chairman), Mr Kevin Falvey, Mr Declan Shiels, Mr Rob Sly and Mr Brod Whiting.

In Attendance: Mr Tim Drew (Clerk) and Cllr Mr Adrian Hardman.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs Ms Karen Brooks, Mr Colin Davidson, Mr Matt Darby, Ms Katie Hill and Mr Andrew Rhodes.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Sly has an ODI dispensation, for the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (8 e) specific to the strategic allocation at Mitton, until 8th December 2025.

3. To consider the Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025.

These minutes were **agreed**.

4. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2024-25.

Proposed by Cllr Sly, seconded by Cllr Whiting that the annual governance statement, as circulated to Councillors, is correct and **agreed**. The document was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

5. To approve The Accounting Statements for 2024-25.

Proposed by Cllr Sly, seconded by Cllr Whiting that the annual accounting statement, as circulated to Councillors, is correct and **agreed**. The document was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

6. To approve the Annual Accounts 2024-25.

Village Hall reduction in Bar Takings and Telecom costs were discussed and **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Falvey, seconded by Cllr Whiting.

7. Finances:

a) Invoices to be paid:

Village Hall

Jo Lomasney	Balance of Wages – May 2025	£118.89
RPK Maintenance	Courtyard Fence, Skirting, Toilet Door & Gate Entry	£210.02
RPK Maintenance	Repair leak - Lady's Toilet & replace Pan Connector	£191.25

Parish Council:

Timothy Drew	Balance of Wages – May 2025	£265.16
Clear Insurance Ltd	Annual Insurance Renewal 2025-26	£3662.37
David Gray	Lengthsman – May 2025 Highways	£544.00
David Gray	Lengthsman – May 2025 Parish	£546.23
Greenworks	Mowing – May 2025 (x2)	£1995.72
S Merrett Services	Playing Field Herbicide (25% Coverage)	£159.60
Booth Electrical	Old Hall, Stage & Bar LED Lighting	£1970.52
Pippins Accountancy	Q4 2024-25 VAT, AGAR & Annual Accounts	£580.00
DKE Audit Services	Internal Audit 2024-25 & AGAR	£275.00

Details of the various works carried out by RPK Maintenance were reviewed. All payments above were **agreed**.

b) To approve the Financial Report.

The May 2025 bank statements and Scribe Cashbook were **approved**.

8. Planning:

a) For Approval:

- i. W/25/00816/HP Westhurst Cottage, Eckington Road, Bredon, GL20 7EX
Two Storey Side Extension for Lift Enclosure.
No objections or comments.
- ii. W/25/01068/HP Yew Tree Cottage, Lower Lane, Kinsham, GL20 8HT
Construction of a conservatory, single storey extension and relocation of porch.
No objections or comments.

The above comments were **agreed**.

b) Approved:

- i. W/25/00588/HP Box Cottage, Watery Lane, Kinsham
- ii. W/25/00587/LB Box Cottage, Watery Lane, Kinsham
- iii. W/24/02572/HP Stonehouse, Lower Westmancote, Bredon, GL20 7EU

c) Appeal Dismissed:

- i. APP/H1840/W/24/3354318: Croft Farm Leisure and Water Park GL20 7EE

d) Withdrawn:

- i. W/25/00316/FUL Land Adjacent to Gravel Pits Close, Bredon

e) SWDP Review:

There is no update to the hearing session in w/c 8th September 2025 where further work on ecology (curlew surveys) and transportation will be considered.

National Highways have prepared a technical note for the proposed allocation at Mitton and two options to mitigate the impact on Junction 9 of the M5. Option 1 proposes to widen the existing off slip to enable the formation of an extra lane further in advance of the stop line whilst maintaining the end of hard shoulder arrangement. Option 2 is to remove the hard shoulder in advance of the junction and replace it with a 1m wide hard strip. The technical note suggests both options are feasible.

Councils have been asked to provide an updated Local Housing Need (LHN) calculation using the most up to date inputs. This will assist Inspectors to decide what, if any, implications for the Plan may arise from an updated assessment of LHN.

Updates on the national landscape have been requested from Cotswold and Malvern Hills Councils.

f) Tewkesbury Garden Town (TGT):

Newland Homes presented at the recent Oversight Board. The North Ashchurch Consortium have submitted a planning application to Tewkesbury Borough Council for the Ashchurch Bridge over Rail (ABoR) and 2,000 homes.

The Environment Agency are due to present at the next Parish Liaison meeting.

The M5 Junction 10 has now been approved by the Secretary of State and £1m has been allocated to progress Junction 9.

g) Other Planning Matters:

Richard Buxton Solicitors have sent a letter to Wychavon Planning regarding Long Furlong.

Two planning applications, W/25/01182/PIP - Land at Lower Lane, Kinsham for up to 3 houses and W/25/00832/FUL - Land at Eckington Road, Bredon for change of use of land to two Traveller

pitches. Extensions have been requested to consider the Council's response at the July 2025 meeting.

9. Scale of Charges.

The Village Hall (VH) revenue has reduced to £34k in 2024-25 from £45k in 2017. To secure the long-term future of the VH a scale of charges for the use of Council assets should be reviewed and considered to generate additional revenue for sustainability. A new approach to the daytime facilities available in the VH, based on a 'root and branch' review, will be discussed by the Assets Working Group to possibly include the public. Considerations could include the provision of a café facility.

10. Bredon Community Play and Recreation (BCPR) Update.

The RoSPA reports been reviewed by the BCPR committee at their AGM, attended by Cllr Whiting. It was noted that Richard Price, who carried out monthly Play Area inspections was retiring. The Council thanked Richard for his excellent contribution and acknowledged a successor would need to be appointed.

A quotation for the dead tree in the toddler park area has been received and will be reviewed at the July meeting.

A quotation from Theoc Fabrications, to replace the damaged slide, was **agreed** as a long-term solution. The current slide can be removed, repaired and reinstalled.

PD Hughes have quoted for Play Area Surface Repairs. More detail and information are required (e.g. dimensions, extent of work & covering) around the roundabout, with BCPR asked to provide 3 quotes. This for discussion at the July meeting. Given Health & Safety implications, a quote to repair the Slide, from Theoc Fabrication was **agreed**.

11. Progress Reports and Updates.

a) County and District Councillor:

- The County Council currently seems to lack direction due to the new representation.
- Wychavon have a funding surplus and grants such as New Homes Bonus need replacing.
- A Councillors Fund Grant for £300 will be paid for Curlew monitoring compensation and grips cut by the Railway Bridge.
- Network Rail's communications relating to the works on the railway Brige have been poor and confusing.
- An update on the proposed Unitary Authority was provided.

b) Police and Defibrillator Report:

- Carl Price is now fully trained to support Cllr Falvey and will carry out monthly checks.
- Bleed Kits are not fitting in cabinets, and alternative locations are being investigated at Bredon's Norton and Bredon Village Halls.
- The Westmancote Kiosk was temporarily out of use due to an administration error on outdated pads.
- Next Police Surgery event to be held in Bredon's Norton and Westmancote.
- Some Smart Water now out-of-date and on Agenda for July meeting.

c) Executive & Finance Working Groups:

- Met on 22nd May 2025 and proposed a 3.4% pay increase (based on the CPIH index for March 2025, from 1st May 2025 for the Clerk, Village Hall Manager and Lengthsman. This was **agreed**.

- Proposal to renew Annual Insurance with Clear Council by end of May 2025 was **agreed**.
- d) Transport & Organisations Working Group:
- Met on 29th May and discussed Radar Speed Camera locations around the parishes. Public Transport links also being reviewed.

12. Correspondence, Progress Reports and Updates for Information.

The Clerk circulated the following correspondence for consideration by the Council:

- A Technical Specialist in Hydrometry & Telemetry from the Environment Agency has asked to meet the Council to discuss locating equipment in a suitable housing at The Dock within the picnic area towards the car parking spaces.
- The approval of the Assets of Community Value application for Royal Oak Inn, Bredon.
- Applications for £245,000 Wychavon Rural Fund – EOI submitted by Clerk.
- The Local Government Reorganisation briefing was circulated to Councillors.
- A Local Government reorganisation document for Worcestershire & Wychavon (Corporate Peer Challenge) was also circulated to Councillors.

13. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda:

Cllr Falvey advised the boiler repair is still held for a circuit board issue, but the Hive system should be fitted w/c 16th June.

Cllr Whiting advised an abandoned car in the Eckington Road Car Park is to be removed.

14. Date of Next Meeting:

14th July 2025