

Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Carole Hirst Address: 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL
Email: clerk@hillandmoorpc.org.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held at Lower Moor Village Hall

Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7pm

Present: Cllr. David Nuttall (Chair), Cllr. A Jeanes, Cllr. P Jeanes & Cllr. Betteridge.

Also present: (WDC)Cllr L. Tucker, Cllr. D Boatright (WCC) and 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr. B Lomax, Cllr. P Stone, Cllr. A Nuttall

Absent: None

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Betteridge declared a Disclosable Non-pecuniary interest in Planning item W/25/02654/HP The Old Post Office, May Tree Road, Lower Moor as a neighbour to the property.

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time

Notes

3. To consider approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 30th October 2025: It was agreed that the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 30th October 2025 were a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. P Jeanes and seconded by Cllr. A Betteridge that the Minutes be approved. All in favour.

4. District Councillor report: Cllr. Liz Tucker –

Planning: W/25/00127/OUT Blacksmiths Lane 4 bungalows - all matters reserved including accesses. Planners are concerned about ecology and are making another site visit.

Main Modifications public consultation on the SWDPR 6th Jan to 5 pm 17th Feb – brings the document into line with the Inspectors requirements. Lower Moor is still listed as a Category 2 village despite no shop or return bus to Pershore.

Throckmorton New Town is reduced to an area of search only for this Plan. The next Plan Review starts immediately after adoption, hopefully in March, and it is stated clearly in the Main Modifications that work will continue on evidencing the viability of a proposal for a Throckmorton New Town. Consultants have already been engaged.

Government is arranging a public consultation in early February on the Local Government Reorganisation proposals for One Worcestershire or North and South Worcestershire.

The results from Wychavon Resident's Survey says that satisfaction is down a bit, particularly that Planning doesn't take account of residents' concerns (36% down from 45%). Next lowest is flytipping (60% down from 65%) and street cleansing (67% from 75%). Top is Waste/Recycling

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(93%), Parks and Open Spaces (91%), Wychavon's sport and leisure facilities (89%), public toilets (86%). Full results will go up on the Wychavon website later this month.

5. County Councillor report: Cllr Boatright

Pipe bursts and potholes: Severn Trent are currently experiencing a large volume of burst pipes. If you see one, please report on stwater.co.uk/reportaleak or call 0800 783 4444. This time of year we see a lot more potholes emerging too (water gets in and freezes) and again, please report ASAP to <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue/report-pothole>. Feel free to copy me in so I can chase.

There have been some reports of Highways reports for planning applications showing some disparity in approach. This is something I am currently pursuing and have a couple of reviews in motion.

LGR

Consultation starts in Feb. Both plans will be put to the public. The final plan will be unveiled in June-July. The regional mayor plans remain vague and if we use Surrey as an example it is looking like elections will likely be 2029 or 2030 at this point but details expected to follow. I personally had an FoI request upheld for a document the council refused to give me. The harmonisation issue is massive. Expect £400 increase a year added to your tax bill for a band D property if it is a whole county approach. It is less for a North-South as we have lower council tax in the south overall.

Current financial situation of the council

The council has already taken a £33 million loan from the government for 2025-26 and is looking for another loan of over £70 million again for 26-27. The financial situation has been caused by a combination of underfunding from central government and decisions made by the council over the past 15 years (as explained in the recent external auditors report which flagged the council as being in a serious financial situation). The council has also requested that they are able to increase council tax up to 10% without a referendum.

Negotiations on the budget are ongoing.

6. Parish Councillor reports: Cllr. P Jeanes reported that the new defibrillator has now been installed in Upper Moor and thanked Cllr D Boatright for his financial support. A local resident has agreed to take on the responsibility of the weekly checks and uploading to The Circuit website. Wyre Piddle Parish Council has offered to organise and pay for a training session for residents in Upper Moor.

7. Progress reports

- a) Playing Fields and Mowing – Cllr. P Jeanes Reported that a hirer of the Village Green had commented that the football pitch needing rolling. Due to the time of year and condition of the pitch, it was decided not to do this at this time and seek advice from Smartcut.
- b) Play Area: Cllr. P Jeanes Reported that one of the ropes on the play equipment had been damaged and although not unsafe it was discussed and agreed to leave this until the next inspection later this year.
- c) Footpaths – None
- d) Village Hall-

Appointment of New Village Hall Administration Committee: The following were proposed and seconded and unanimously approved: Chairman: Nick Butler (NB): Proposed Ray Poole

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(RP), seconded Emma Castle (EC) Secretary: Blair Holme (BH) Proposed NB, seconded Liz Hewitt (LH) Treasurer: Diana Ward (DW): Proposed PS, seconded Lynne Foord-Saunders (LF-S) Committee Members: LF-S – Football refreshments organiser Proposed DW, seconded Emma Castle (EC) Ashley Pattison (AP) Proposed Caroline Godkin (CG), seconded NB David Saunders (DS) Simon Treacy (ST) – absent but had previously agreed to be a committee member.

Pat Stone to meet up with Nick Butler after Christmas to hand over all necessary paperwork, sets of keys held and to discuss Charity Commissioners regulations, Trustees, bank signatories, information etc and general update.

Pat Shaw will carry on with day-to-day management until this meeting takes place.

- e) Flooding- Cllr. P Jeanes Reported that the ditch in bogs lane still needs clearing and it was discussed to try and contact the landowner to get this done.
- f) Landfill site – Cllr. A Jeanes Reported that at the last landfill site meeting there were no issues reported
- g) Lengthsman – Cllr. P Jeanes Reported that the Lengthsman was busy at the moment clearing gullies and ditches especially due to the recent wet weather. His work pattern is still well within budget
- h) SWDP: This has already been reported in detail within the district councillors report. Consideration given to submitting a response to the current consultation, limited to comment on village categorisation. However, as the consultation is only on the proposed modifications, and village categorisation is not one of these modifications, it was decided not to submit a response.
- i) Newsletter items: It is intended to produce a digital newsletter to include not only defibrillator training sessions coming up in the village but also to include a survey being prepared by Cllr. B Lomax
- j) PACT: District councillor has now three dates for a possible PACT meeting and will send those to Cllr. P Jeanes as soon as possible.
- k) Urgent Decisions Group: Cllr. P Jeanes Reported that the Lengthsman had possibly lost his keys and if necessary, a new set will need to be purchased.
- l) Explore a bi-annual survey and maintenance of trees deferred until the next meeting as Cllr. A Nuttall not present

8 Planning

a) New planning applications:

Application Number	Address concerned	Description of works	DEADLINE	
W/25/02654/HP	The Old Post Office May Tree Road Lower Moor	Single car port (retrospective)	26/1/26	Supporting comment to be sent

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b) To receive Decision Notices:

Application Number	Address concerned	Description of works	Hill & Moor PC response	Decision
W/25/02409/HP	Homeleigh, Church Lane, Lower Moor	New front porch and extend existing garage		APPROVED

c) To note or discuss Planning Correspondence, Information, and Issues:

Application Number	Address concerned	Description of works	Hill & Moor PC response	Planning Inspectorate Decision

9 Finance:

A To report on the financial situation of the Parish Council and to approve invoices for payment. To approve all payments not previously approved up to 8th January 2026. Cllr. D Nuttall proposed and Cllr. P Jeanes seconded these be approved. All in favour.

Payments for approval 8th January 2026			
03/11/2025	EON	Playing Fields Power	£ 24.66
09/11/2025	NPOWER	Streetlights Oct	£ 218.33
12/11/2025	C Hirst	Nov Pay (with agreed increase)	£ 554.27
12/11/2025	HMRC	Tax & Employer NI Nov	£ 179.98
13/11/2025	WCC	Grant for defib	£1,000.00
19/11/2025	Pensax PC	Shared Stationery between 5 councils	£ 50.92
21/11/2025	Cllr. P Stone	Reimburse for xmas tree	£ 120.00
01/12/2025	WDC	New litterbin and empty 1st year	£ 653.11
01/12/2025	EON	Playing Fields Power Nov	£ 26.06
01/12/2025	T Hodges	Oct and Nov Handyman	£ 255.00
01/12/2025	T Hodges	Oct and Nov Lengthsman	£ 399.00

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01/12/2025	Wel Medical Ltd	New Defib/cabinet	1,528.80
05/12/2025	Safety Signs and notices Ltd	bands and clamps for defib	35.20
05/12/2025	NPOWER	streetlights nov	253.16
06/12/2025	C Hirst	Dec net pay	554.27
06/12/2025	HMRC	Dec tax and employer NI	179.98
19/12/2025	G S Adams Ltd	install defib	597.60
03/01/2025	C Hirst	Clerk Expenses 2 months	102.18
05/01/2025	EON	Playing Fields Power	28.84
TOTAL			6,761.36

Receipts	Detail	£
Crowle Football	Annual Pitch Hire 2025/26	750.00
WCC	Lengthsman Oct/Nov	£ 399.00
TOTAL	-	<u>1,149.00</u>

B To note the Budget Monitoring Report to 22nd Dec 2025. Noted. Report tabled as Appendix 3:

C To note the Bank Reconciliation to 22nd Dec 2025. Noted. Tabled as Appendix 2

D To consider replacement battery and pads for old defibrillator. Cost will be £145 ex VAT. Cllr. Jeanes Proposed and Cllr. Betteridge Seconded that this be approved. All in favour.

E To note the Budget Requirement for Hill and Moor Parish Council for 2026/27 in the sum of £21,213 and to confirm that this would result in a Band D charge of £60.78 on the 2026-27

Council Tax Demand. An increase of 0.5% compared with the current year's charge. **Noted.**

F To review the H&M Grants Policy. Deferred to the March meeting to allow Cllr. A Nuttall to present the draft policy

10. To approve the Planning Application Process Policy and to appoint a Councillor to lead it. Cllr. Betteridge Proposed and Cllr. D Nuttall Seconded that the policy be approved, subject to a minor amendment. The amendment was to reduce the number of councillors needed to trigger full council consideration of an application from two to one. All in favour. Cllr Betteridge appointed as designated councillor.

11. Agree CCTV Policy. Deferred to the March meeting to allow Cllr. A Nuttall to present the draft policy

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12. Correspondence for Information

All correspondence received has been circulated and noted and where necessary added to the agenda for discussion.

13. Summary of Councillors agreed actions: Cllr. P Jeanes to purchase the new battery and pads for the defibrillator. Cllr D Nuttall to investigate the village categorisation in respect of planning. Cllr A Betteridge to submit a comment to the SWDP consultation querying Lower Moor's categorisation as category 2 or 3. Cllr D Nuttall to submit a supportive comment in relation to the planning application made by The Old Post Office. Cllr. P Jeanes to liaise with Wyre Piddle Parish Council regarding the defibrillator training for Upper Moor and to investigate training sessions for Lower Moor.

14. Date of next Ordinary Parish Council meeting. Thursday 5th March 2026 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Public Questions – APPENDIX 1

One parishioner said that they felt the parish council should have put the church report as an agenda item. Cllr Betteridge explained that the request to add it to the agenda had been received too late and it could easily be put into the Public Question Time. Councillor Nuttall also explained that the church has nothing to do with the jurisdiction of the parish council but suggested that the annual parish meeting would be a suitable time for the church group to present a report. Another member of the church group present read out a small report detailing the recent services at the church and reported that the finances of the church were very positive.

One parishioner commented that it was disappointing that the Parish Council was not visibly supporting the church.

Steve Guy reported that after four years of trying to negotiate with Wychavon DC planning regarding outline planning permission for the land adjacent A44 he had given up and as a result had this week given instructions for the land to be sold to the highest bidder. It was agreed in the meeting that Steve had done his utmost to negotiate with Wychavon District Council planning but with very little success.

A Parishioner asked about flood alleviation maintenance and mentioned a flood tank adjacent to the land down Bridge St. As details about this were sketchy it was agreed that Cllr P Jeanes would investigate by contacting Jim Tapp.

A suggestion as an alternative to a newsletter was for the Parish Council to investigate the possibility of a digital sign at the entrance to the village.

Another parishioner mentioned that he had visitors staying with him recently who commented that the number of dog waste bins was amazing compared to where he came from in Llandudno. He said the parish should be very thankful.

Another parishioner asked if the new dog waste bin installed recently was in fact being used and it was reported that it was.

It was also asked if the CCTV on the village hall could read number plates and a discussion ensued about the quality of the CCTV and the fact that the parish council paid for the upgraded camera and hard disc but overall, the whole system belonged to the village hall.

APPENDIX 2 Bank Reconciliation at 24th December 2025

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HILL AND MOOR P.C. BANK RECONCILIATION at		
22/12/25		
Current Account	£ 17,193.03	Treasurers account £ 19,096.64
Deposit Account	20,890.07	
Closing Cash balance at 31/03/25	38,083.10	Business Bank Instant 21,003.79
		HMRC -179.98
Add Receipts 2025/6	£ 24,865.72	
less Payments 20225/26	(23,028.37)	Bank Balance 39,920.45
Closing Balance at 22/12/25	39,920.45	
		Reconciled (0.00)

APPENDIX 3 Budget update report

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2025_26 Hill & Moor PC Budget Year to Date 22 dec 025

	BUDGET 2025_26	Spend/income to date	% to date
INCOME			
Grass Cutting	£ 1,050.00	0.00	0.00%
Playing Field Hire	£ 650.00	750.00	115.38%
Grants & Donations includes VE grants of "50 from WDC			
	£ 885.00	1,885.00	212.99%
Events	£ -	0.00	-
Other Income	£ -	0.00	-
Precept	£ 19,814.00	19,814.00	100.00%
Bank Interest	£ 130.00	113.72	87.48%
Lengthsman Reimbursements	£ 2,456.00	1,883.00	76.67%
Section 106 playing field improvements	£ -	0.00	-
VAT on income		0.00	
TOTAL	£ 24,985.00	£ 24,445.72	97.84%
EXPENDITURE, excluding VAT			
Staff Costs CLERK SALARY REVIEWED July 2024			
	£ 7,800.00	6,438.33	82.54%
Admin & Clerk Expenses	£ 1,000.00	398.57	39.86%
Newsletter	£ 250.00	0.00	0.00%
CALC/NALC Subs	£ 470.00	476.91	101.47%
Training	£ 300.00	0.00	0.00%
Regulatory	£ 1,000.00	1,158.24	115.82%
Grants & Donations - VE Day celebration grant from WDC	£ -	0.00	-
Purchase Asset			
Asset Maintenance	£ 1,000.00	3.78	0.38%
Grass Cutting	£ 1,307.00	1,306.76	99.98%
Open Spaces Maintenance	£ 750.00	340.18	45.36%
Street Light Power	£ 1,800.00	1,587.80	88.21%
Streetlight repairs	£ 1,275.00	0.00	0.00%
Lengthsman Costs	£ 2,455.80	1,484.00	60.43%
Handyman	£ 1,650.00	1,335.00	80.91%
Village Hall - Added on grant for VE day from WDC £250	£ 550.00	849.00	154.36%
Playing Field	£ 2,000.00	360.46	18.02%
Events	£ -	0.00	-
Other Expenditure	£ 300.00	434.00	144.67%
CiL funding	£ 717.94	544.26	75.81%
Section 106 playing field improvements	£ 4,821.60	2,810.80	58.30%
SWDP - Throckmorton Campaign	£ 400.00	0.00	0.00%
VAT on expenditure		1,698.95	-
TOTAL	£ 30,347	23,028	75.88%