

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 5th March 2026 at 7pm

1. Present: Cllr. David Nuttall (Chair), Cllr. A Jeanes, Cllr. P Jeanes & Cllr. Betteridge, Cllr. B Lomax, Cllr. P Stone, Cllr. A Nuttall

Also present: Clerk, Carole Hirst; (WDC)Cllr L. Tucker, Cllr. D Boatright (WCC) and 2 members of the public.

2. Apologies:

Absent: None

3. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. P Jeanes and Cllr. A Jeanes item 9 A- A payment for reimbursement to P Jeanes for fuel to the mower. Pecuniary Interest. Both Councillors declared an interest and left the meeting for the vote

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time

Notes

4. **To consider approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 8th January 2026:** It was agreed that the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 8th January 2026 were a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. A Betteridge and seconded by Cllr. A Jeanes that the Minutes be approved. All in favour.

5. District Councillor report: Cllr. Liz Tucker –

Wychavon have made the decision not to increase its council tax for 2026/27 (but remember that it is only one element of your council tax bill).

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (started in 2018) is expected to be finally approved as the adopted South Worcestershire Local Plan on Friday 27th March. At that point we will be deemed to have our required five-year land supply of housing land in place. There should be a halt to the number of planning applications being passed as a result of the National Planning Policy Framework's "tilted balance" which favours the benefit of additional houses over the disbenefits of other problems with the application in planning terms. Unfortunately, this will probably only last three months until July when the government is set to increase our requirement to five years supply of housing land plus 20%.

Wychavon is driving ahead with work to establish the feasibility of a New Town based on Throckmorton Airfield and its surrounds. They have approved £73k of capital receipts plus a £75k grant from Homes England for specialist technical and legal advice regarding land in need

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of remediation and toward commissioning initial master planning and deliver studies. I will ask Graham Boocock if he would contact Pinvin Ward parish councils to arrange another meeting of the group of councillors who worked on our objections and evidence in preparation for the Examination in Public last summer.

The government consultation is now finished on their Local Government Review to change Worcestershire councils to a single unitary council for Worcestershire or two unitary councils for North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire. We have to wait for their decision until the summer.

The PACT meeting arranged for 18th March 7.00 pm at Throckmorton Parish Hall has had to be postponed as the Neighbourhood Police Team have been given other duties for that evening. The police officer Alex Prentice is coming back to me with suggestions for other dates.

6. County Councillor report: Cllr Boatright

Local Government Reorganisation

The consultation on the two options continues until 26th March. All the details can be found here:

[Proposals for local government reorganisation in Worcestershire - GOV.UK](#)

Council tax increase

Interestingly, council tax only makes up 20% of the total budgets of councils. 80% comes from generated revenue (selling services or investments) or the government grant. The government grant has continued to be poor, particularly for adult social care but business rates for county councils has been particularly challenging. There remains a cross-party approach to applying pressure to resolve this issue but the government continues to prioritise urban and metropolitan areas.

The external auditors submitted a damning report of the finances of the council in November 2025, noting national pressures and local decision-making of the previous administration had led to a £71 million deficit in the budget. This had accelerated as a result of in year overspends as the new administration took control of the council.

Reform UK voted through a 8.98% increase in council tax after an eight-hour debate which resulted in the Chief Executive and the Legal Officer call out the behaviour of several councillors. Hot tempered debate is an understatement. The administration also had to ask the government for a £59.9 million bailout.

The Conservative amendment, to reduce the council tax to 4.99% and cut £14.4 million in the budget was deemed by the financial officer to not allow the council to produce a legal budget. The senior officers and chief executive therefore refused to sign off the amendment pointing out that it was undeliverable, unrealistic and would require far greater cuts to staff than the £14.4 million required because it would take time to move through the redundancy period, and the redundancies would cost money. The financial officer would have had to

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declare a 114 notice (declare bankruptcy- like Birmingham) if this path had been allowed to be followed. As a result, the officers rejected the amendment and it was not debated.

The financial situation ahead looks just as bad with predictions of in year overspends continuing to soar. The council is likely to be in a similar, if not worse position next year.

The government has finally written off 90% of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) overspend of the council. This does, however, mean that the council now has to find the approximately £43 million that has not been written off and needs to be paid from 2028. This will affect the revenue spend of the council.

7. Parish Councillor reports:

Cllr. P. Jeanes reported that the new defibrillator has been installed at Upper Moor. Defibrillator training now undertaken organised by Wyre Piddle. The existing defibrillator has also been replaced as new parts were required and it was found that the existing defibrillator was obsolete for parts. This has been done.

Cllr. P Jeanes is looking at defibrillator training at Lower Moor, probably a weekend date.

8. Progress reports

- a) **Playing Fields and Mowing** – The field is now being cut
- b) **Play Area:** play equipment needs a clean was reported by Cllr. A Nuttall. Cllr. Jeanes to explore a clean with pressure cleaner
- c) **Footpaths** – Blacksmiths/Manor Road and links to Bridge St - Anti social behaviour and dog mess becoming a problem. Explore ownership, monitor, report options for May meeting.
- d) **Village Hall-** Cllr. Pat Stone Report.

I attended the meeting of the new Hall committee on 16 February 2026 and was duly appointed the Parish Council representative with Peter Holme representing the Church. Finances were confirmed to be stable with a small profit expected at the end of the financial year, 31.03.26

A new logo was discussed and chosen, and it was agreed for an independent website to be professionally designed and setup along with a new Facebook page. A link from the Parish website would be maintained.

Quotes are being sought for repairs to the roof.

Investigation is underway regarding the efficiency of the current heating system and the fire safety equipment is being serviced to bring it into line with current regulations.

It was decided that the cost for villagers and non-villagers to rent the hall would be the same £8.00 per hour in the hope of encouraging more regular hirings.

An Events Group was set up consisting of committee members and volunteers. The first event is a re-launch of the hall to introduce the new committee. It will be held on Sunday 22 March 11.30 – 3pm with free tea/coffee and cake together with children's crafting/games.

A questionnaire has been put online and social media asking parishioners for their ideas and input as to what happens in the Hall.

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The next meeting is scheduled for 16 March 2026.

- e) **Flooding**- Back Way corners are flooding
- f) **Landfill site** – Meeting next week.
- g) **Lengthsman** –WCC Budget now used up and so Lengthsman will only do urgent work.
- h) **SWDP**: covered under District Councillor report.
- i) Newsletter items: Defib training and other items to be advertised. Leaflets to be left in village hall.
- j) **PACT**: Alex Prentice, the Safer Neighbourhood Team police officer. She sends her apologies, but she and her colleague are now unavailable on the 18th due to an operational commitment. She will send through some alternative dates as soon as she can and I will pass them on to you so we can check for the most convenient one.
- k) **Urgent Decisions Group**: New keys purchased for Lengthsman after his were lost new defibrillator purchased following part needed for existing defibrillator and I was ascertained that the defibrillator was now obsolete.
- l) **Explore a bi-annual survey** and maintenance of trees deferred until the next meeting as Cllr. A Nuttall to complete.

8 Planning

a) New planning applications:

Application Number	Address concerned	Description of works	DEADLINE	
W/26/00291/PIP	Land At (OS 9819 4668) Salters Lane, Lower Moor	Permission in Principle for Residential Development of 5 no. houses	5/3/26	Response - objection contrary to certain policies within the SWDP

b) To receive Decision Notices:

Application Number	Address concerned	Description of works	Hill & Moor PC response	Decision
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W/25/02654/HP	The Old Post Office, May Tree Road, Lower Moor, Pershore	Single car port (retrospective)	APPROVED
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c) To note or discuss Planning Correspondence, Information, and Issues:

Application Number	Address concerned	Description of works	Hill & Moor PC response	Planning Inspectorate Decision
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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 5th March 2026. Cllr. D Nuttall proposed and Cllr. P Stone seconded these be approved. All in favour.

Payments for approval 5th March 2026			
08/01/2026	NPOWER	Streetlights	285.04
13/01/2026	C Hirst	Jan Pay	574.26
04/02/2026	HMRC	Tax and Employer NI Jan	188.73
16/01/2026	Tim Hodges	Lengthsman Dec	150.50
16/01/2026	Tim Hodges	Handyman Dec	22.50
18/01/2026	Lower Moor Village Hall	PC Meeting charges 25/26	96.00
29/01/2026	WelMedical	Defib	667.14
03/02/2026	EON	Playing fields elec	27.37
06/02/2026	NPOWER	Streetlights	272.71
10/02/2026	Tim Hodges	Handyman Jan	48.75
10/02/2026	Tim Hodges	Lengthsman Jan	210.00
10/02/2026	Prysmian	Streetlight repairs 2025	1,529.01
12/02/2026	WDC	dog bin empty/cleanse Church Land Lower Moor	116.84
15/02/2026	C Hirst	Feb pay	561.00
15/02/2026	HMRC	Feb EMPLOYER NIC and Tax	182.83

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25/02/2026	Paul Jeanes	Reimburse for petrol for mower and replament keys for Lengthsman	41.44
03/03/2026	EON	Lighting to playing field	25.06
TOTAL			4,999.18

Receipts	Detail	£
David Saunders	Pitch Hire 14/2	50.00
WCC	Lengthsman Dec and Jan	£ 360.50
TOTAL		410.50

B To note the Budget Monitoring Report to 25th February 2026. Noted. Report tabled as Appendix 1:

C To note the Bank Reconciliation to 25th February 2026. Noted. Tabled as Appendix 2

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

E To approve the Hill and Moor Parish Council Financial Regulations 2025/27. Cllr. Annabel Nuttall Proposed and Cllr. P Stone Seconded that this be approved. All in favour.

F To consider Financial Investment Strategy with Cascade Financial Management investing in a 90 day savings account.

Cllr. Betteridge Proposed and Cllr. David Nuttall Seconded that the Financial Investment Strategy Proposal with Cascade Financial Management be approved. All in favour.

10. Agree CCTV Policy.

Cllr. David Nuttall reported that he had met with Nick Butler of the Village Hall Committee to ensure the proposed CCTV Policy of the PC is aligned to the Village Hall. A legitimate Interest Form was also circulated. A joint data controller agreement will need to be finalised later.

Cllr. David Nuttall Proposed and Cllr. Paul Jeanes Seconded that the CCTV policy and Legitimate Interest Form be approved. All in favour.

11. To adopt Hill and Moor Parish Council IT Policy and Publication Scheme, and note the Privacy Policy and Accessibility Statement.

Cllr. David Nuttall Proposed that the IT Policy and Publication Scheme be Approved and accepted and that the Privacy Policy and Accessibility Statement be noted. Seconded by Cllr. Annabel Nuttall. All in favour.

12. Football Pitch Hire

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Crowle Football Club emailed on 22 February 2026 raising concern that the football pitch was being used by other people, despite the Parish Council's contract with them giving them exclusive use during Saturday mornings. Whilst Crowle FC provided a diary of fixtures, these were subject to change at short notice.

It was agreed that, during the times specified in Crowle's contract, they had the exclusive right to use the pitch and the car park. This right was not dependent on Crowle first notifying the PC via a diary. Therefore, if anyone else was permitted to use the pitch during the periods specified in Crowle's contract, the PC was at risk of being in breach of contract.

It was agreed that if any third party asked to use the pitch during these hours, they would be directed to Crowle in the first instance, and it would be made clear that any permission would be subject to Crowle's rights.

Cllr Nuttall would draft an email to Crowle clarifying the position.

13. Correspondence for Information

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

14. Summary of Councillors agreed actions:

- Cllr. D Nuttall to review the CCTV Policy
- Cllr. P Jeanes speak to CCTV Company
- Cllr. P Jeanes to send Cllr. Nuttall info on Crowle
- Cllr. Nuttall to draft email to Crowle
- Cllr. A Nuttall to look at grants policy.
- Cllr. Nuttall to Submit planning response.

15. Date of next Parish Council meeting. Thursday 7th May 2026 at 7pm. It will be the Annual Parish Meeting immediately followed by the AGM of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

APPENDIX 1 Budget update report

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2025_26 Hill & Moor PC Budget Year to Date 25/2/26

	BUDGET 2025_26	Spend/income to date	% to date
INCOME			
Grass Cutting	£ 1,050.00	0.00	0.00%
Playing Field Hire	£ 650.00	800.00	123.08%
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	133.92	103.02%
Lengthsman Reimbursements	£ 2,456.00	2,243.50	91.35%
Section 106 playing field improvements	£ -	0.00	-
VAT on income		0.00	
TOTAL	£ 24,985.00	£ 24,876.42	99.57%
EXPENDITURE, excluding VAT			-
Staff Costs			
CLERK SALARY			
REVIEWED July 2024			
Admin & Clerk Expenses	£ 7,800.00	7,945.15	101.86%
Newsletter	£ 1,000.00	509.25	50.93%
CALC/NALC Subs	£ 250.00	0.00	0.00%
Training	£ 470.00	476.91	101.47%
Regulatory	£ 300.00	0.00	0.00%
Grants & Donations - VE Day celebration grant from WDC	£ 1,000.00	1,158.24	115.82%
	£ -	0.00	-
Purchase Asset	£ 500.00	2,357.28	471.46%
Asset Maintenance	£ 1,000.00	3.78	0.38%
Grass Cutting	£ 1,307.00	1,306.76	99.98%
Open Spaces Maintenance	£ 750.00	437.55	58.34%
Street Light Power	£ 1,800.00	2,118.99	117.72%
Streetlight repairs	£ 1,275.00	1,265.84	99.28%
Lengthsman Costs	£ 2,455.80	1,844.50	75.11%
Handyman	£ 1,650.00	1,406.25	85.23%
Village Hall - Added on grant for VE day from WDC £250	£ 550.00	945.00	171.82%
Playing Field	£ 2,000.00	414.00	20.70%
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		2,112.01	-
TOTAL	£ 30,347	28,091	92.56%

APPENDIX 2 Bank Reconciliation

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HILL AND MOOR P.C. BANK RECONCILIATION at				
25/2/26		£	£	
Current Account		17,193.03	Treasurers account	14,447.79
Deposit Account		20,890.07		
Closing Cash balance at 31/03/25		38,083.10	Business Bank Instant	21,023.99
			HMRC Feb	-182.83
Add Receipts 2025/6	£ 25,296.42			
less Payments 20225/26	(28,090.57)	Bank Balance		35,288.95
Closing Balance at 25/2/26	35,288.95			
		Reconciled		(0.00)
Current account - Lloyds - A/c 01865441				
Balance as at			14,447.79	
Savings account - Lloyds - A/c 07578509				
Balance as at			21,023.99	
TRANSACTIONS NOT YET GONE THRU THE BANK				
Total cash assets			-182.83	
			35,288.95	
Ringfenced				
Flood alleviation			10,000.00	
CIL			173.68	
Section 106 for playing fields	Playing fields improvements		2,011.00	
Total Ringfenced			12,184.68	
Earmarked Reserves				
Asset Maintenance / Replacement / Disposal			996.22	
Purchase Asset (Budget £500 - spent £1801.33 of which £1000 was a grant) over spend was £301.33			0.00	
Throckmorton fighting fund			400.00	
Total Earmarked Reserves			1,396.22	
General Reserve				
(Total cash assets less Ringfenced funds and Earmarked Reserves)				21,708.05