

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL, LUSTON

Present: I Stevens (Chairman), C Pearson (Vice Chairman), R Bennett Jones, A Brandish, E Coates, P Edwards and W Talbot Ponsonby.

In attendance: Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb and R Hewitt (Clerk). Six (6) members of the public were in attendance.

1. Receive apologies for absence – K Wood.

2. Co-opt to the vacancy for Eyton Parish and Eye, Moreton and Ashton Parish
DECISION: Deferred.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. None.

3.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

3.3 Non-Pecuniary. None.

3.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

4. Approval of meeting minutes of 7 July 2025

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2025 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters raised by local residents

Cllr. A Brandish reported that Herefordshire Council has completed the maintenance required for trees on public land at The Willows.

6. Flooding matters

Cllr. W Talbot Ponsonby and the Vice Chairman kindly reported on a site meeting to support the Section 19 investigation at Luston. The meeting included an extensive walkabout to look at the surrounding area and uplands. Follow-up queries have been made as well. The parish council should be consulted on the draft report. **DECISION:** The Clerk was delegated to respond to the draft report in consultation with members of the flood group.

7. Ward Councillor D Hurcomb's Brief Report (for information only)

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. The report included an update on resurfacing and patching work scheduled for the B4362 and B4361 at Richards Castle. There is a focus on improving highway drainage.

[Cllr. Coates joined the meeting.]

The drainage grant deadline is 28 September 2025. Footpath grant applications can be submitted throughout the year. The replacement footpath bridge across the Lugg at Eyton is still in the programme for delivery in 2025-26.

Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb kindly offered to follow up the blocked culverts highlighted in the 2024-25 drainage grant with the highway authority.

8. Planning

8.1 251537 Site adjacent to Tudor House, Luston, HR6 0EB – Proposed erection of 2 No. Self-Build 3 bed single storey dwelling houses. Members of the public spoke both in support and against the proposed plans. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

8.2 252069 9 Lilac Grove, Luston, HR6 0EF – T1 - Walnut tree to be removed due to dangerous limbs snapping. T2 - Lawson cypress tree to be reduced by 25/30 percent.

COMMENT: The proposed tree work is supported.

8.3 251669 2 Lustonbury, Luston, HR6 0AP. Large Silverbirch tree, outgrown its surroundings with roots lifting a shed and driveway. Advise to remove tree completely.

COMMENT: The parish council's preference is for the tree to be pollarded and/or the crown reduced so that the tree can be saved if possible.

8.4 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted planning permission for 251151 White House, 251659 Berrington Hall, and 251395 10 The Willows. Works to trees within a conservation area have been allowed for 251534 7 Townsend Park and 251738 Corner Cottage.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Drainage grant and PROW grant applications for 2025-26. The drainage grant application was reviewed. **DECISION:** To apply for a grant as set out in the lengthsman's estimate (£2,220.00) plus additional work to maintain the ditches and grips from Eyton Common to the parish boundary with Kingsland. The Clerk was delegated to approve the estimate for the additional work and include this in the drainage grant application for 2025-26.

9.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** Update on request to extend 30 mph zone on Eye Lane, covered drain on B4361 opposite Dean House Farm, overhanging trees on C1040 and obscured 30mph highway sign on B4361 by York Cottage.

9.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. There were no matters raised.

9.4 PROW noticeboard at The Willows. **DECISION:** Deferred.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths in July 2025 – £1,356.00

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths in August 2025 – £102.00

Yatton Farm Services, weed spraying in village and bridge structures, Eye Lane – £480.00

John Finch Computers Limited, laptop and data transfer – £1,200.00

Clerk, wages increment April-August 2025 (NALC)

DECISION: Payments were agreed for electronic payment.

10.2 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, August and September 2025 – £114.34

DECISION: The payments were noted.

11. Luston Wetland Viewing Area

It was noted that the public viewing platform at the wetland has been completed by Herefordshire Council, and includes a bird hide. It does not provide access to the wetland generally, which is private and off-limits for operational and conservation reasons.

DECISION: To write a letter of thanks to the landowner for allowing permitted access to the viewing area from LJ25.

12. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

HALC advice to commence initial work to review the Luston Group NDP was noted and considered alongside advice received from the planning authority earlier in 2025.

DECISION: To maintain a watching brief for the time being.

13. Parish Summit and Charter for Herefordshire's Councils

The Charter for Herefordshire's Councils and date of the Parish Summit was noted.

DECISION: The Chairman and Vice Chairman kindly offered to attend the Parish Summit on 7 October 2025.

14. Nomination to HALC Executive Committee

The nomination process for casual vacancy appointment to the Executive Committee was noted.

15. Clerk's Report and reports on meetings attended by parish councillors

The status of the defibrillators has been reported to The Circuit. Highway defects have been reported to the highway authority. Information on two drainage matters has been shared with Ward Cllr. Hurcomb as requested. The Lengthsman has cleared brambles and briars by the railway bridge, Eye Lane. The guard rail by the culvert and mini-library, Luston, has been fixed by the highway authority. A request to complete work and re-open the pavement at Luston has been made. An alternative supplier is to be sought for the 'no dog waste' signs for the waste bins at Luston.

16. Matters for consideration at the next meeting (no discussion)

No matters were raised.

17. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next meeting of the group parish council will be at 7.30pm on Monday 6 October 2025 at Cawley Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____