

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 7 JULY 2025 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

In attendance: Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb and R Hewitt (Clerk). One (1) member of the public was in attendance.

1. Receive apologies for absence – W Talbot Ponsonby.

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. Cllr. I Stevens declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application 251738 Corner Cottage.

3.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

3.3 Non-Pecuniary. None.

3.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

4. Approval of meeting minutes of 2 June 2025

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2025 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters raised by local residents

The following concerns were raised: ‘No dog waste’ signs for bins; deteriorating guard rail above culvert by mini-library; closed pavement on B4361; briars on railway bridge, Eye Lane; concern at length of time it is taking the highway authority to resolve poor visibility of ‘sharp bend’ sign at Luston; and overgrown trees on county council maintained land adjacent to stream on C1040 off the B4361.

[Cllr. E Coates joined the meeting.]

Cllr. Coates reported that white lining and grip work has been completed and asked that potholes on Bury Corner, Luston and on the C1040 towards Kingsland are raised with the highway authority.

6. Flooding matters

The Vice Chairman kindly reported on the flood summit held with local landowners in June 2025. Follow up discussions are understood to be underway. The exit channel of the culvert at Luston appears to have partial remains of a structure which has been left in place, affecting the flow of the channel. Ideally, this structure should be removed to improve the speed of flow through the culvert.

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb said Herefordshire Council is due to undertake a Section 19 investigation and report which should include recommendations. The partial structure at the culvert will be looked at during the investigation.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. The county council has issued a call for sites in support of the local plan review. Public rights of way grant funding is available up to March 2026. Applications for the Drainage grant are due by end September 2025.

Highway resurfacing work is scheduled for the B4362, including white lining. The speed limit by Lucton School is to be reviewed. Herefordshire Council has taken speedy action in respect of unauthorized camping on Eyton Common. Wigmore Group took similar action on land owned by the parish council. Herefordshire Council will meet on 25 July 2025.

The Vice Chairman asked about recent ditching work which has created impractically high earthworks from the spoil. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb asked for photos and said the highway authority will be asked to look at the problem.

Cllr. Coates reported pooled water by Cheese Bridge and suggested an additional grip to take the surface water into the adjacent stream. Long standing reports of surface water run off onto Seggin Lane were highlighted. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb kindly offered to put the proposal for a new grip to the highway authority and to request an update on what may or may not be happening to mitigate problems caused by surface water run off on Seggin Lane.

8. Planning

8.1 251534 7 Townsend Park, Luston, HR6 0DZ. Large ash tree on the boundary between 7 Townsend Park and the adjacent field (marked T1 on the aerial photograph) - both the field owner and the applicant are aware and happy with the proposed works. The proposed work is to remove the large limbs (and associated smaller limbs) on the eastern side of the tree that overhang No.7 Townsend Park. This is precautionary work due to the fact that it is an ash tree, already showing minor symptoms of dieback, and the aforementioned limbs overhang the roof and driveway of No 7 - removal will minimise risk of damage to property and vehicles. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

8.2 251659 Berrington Hall, Berrington, HR6 0DW. Creation of two passing places on the driveway of Berrington Hall. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

[Cllr. I Stevens left the meeting which was chaired by the Vice Chairman.]

8.3 251738 Corner Cottage, Eye Lane, Luston, HR6 0DX. Cypress (T1) at Corner House (Corner Cottage) Eye Lane Luston to be removed. Tree has grown significantly large for the space, causing a lack of sunlight to properties adjacent. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

[Cllr. I Stevens rejoined the meeting and resumed chairing the meeting.]

8.4 251395 10 The Willows, Luston, HR6 0DF. Removal of existing open porch and replacing with WC/shower room and entrance hall. Addition of two number windows to existing gable end. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

8.5 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted planning permission for 250937 Berrington Hall and allowed works to trees for 251347 8 The Willows.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Drainage grant and PROW grant applications for 2025-26. **DECISIONS:** PROW grant application(s) will be made with the footpath officer. Quotations will be requested for ditching work from the lengthsman and the contractor that did the recent drainage survey of the parishes.

9.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** To report highway defects raised under #5 and highlight issues raised under #7 above. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb kindly offered to request the clearing of a culvert. An overhanging tree obscuring a school sign by the Luston mini library will be reported.

9.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** To clear briars on railway bridge, Eye Lane.

9.4 PROW noticeboard at The Willows. Cllr. K Wood reported that the PROW noticeboard needs to be cleaned. A proposal to commission a locksmith to open/ renew the locks so it can be opened was considered. **DECISION:** Deferred pending further enquiries to try and locate a key to open the noticeboard.

10. Finance

10.1 Receipts:

Herefordshire Council, minor highways drainage grant (£3,450.00). Noted.

10.2 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths in June 2025 – £93.00

The Balance Inn, flood management summit – £79.70

HCI Data, renew .gov.uk domain name – £114.00

HMRC, PAYE to 5 July 2025 – £513.64

DECISION: Payments were agreed for electronic payment.

10.3 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, July 2025 – £57.17

ICO, data protection fee 2025-26 – £47.00

Clerk, wages (June 2025)

DECISION: The payments were noted.

10.4 Parish council laptop. **DECISION:** It was agreed to purchase a new laptop for parish council business at a cost of £1,000.00 (+VAT) based on a quotation provided by J Finch Computers Ltd. The cost includes data transfer.

11. Funding of Neighbourhood Plans

The meeting considered a motion calling on the government to provide dedicated funding for Neighbourhood Plans. **DECISION:** The resolution was supported unanimously.

12. Community Policing Charter

The policing charter with West Mercia Police was reviewed. **DECISION:** It was agreed to request that action to tackle speeding and theft from outbuildings is prioritised.

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

Defects have been reported to the highway authority including potholes on Eye Lane at Moreton Eye and obscured highway sign at Luston. Herefordshire Council have been thanked for the wetland viewing platform. Waymarker signs were collected from Plough Lane for the footpath officer. The highway authority have been asked for an update on the long standing request to extend the speed limit on Eye Lane. The new signatory has been set up by the bank and the reserve account opened. **DECISION:** Transfer £5,000.00 to reserve account.

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

Pathway to the Wetland viewing platform.

16. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next meeting of the group parish council will be at 7.30pm on Monday 1 September 2025 at the Methodist Chapel.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed as a true record_____

Date_____