

# **LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2025 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

**In attendance:** Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb and R Hewitt (Clerk). There were no members of the public in attendance.

**1. Receive apologies for absence** – I Stevens (Chairman).

**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 6 October 2025**

**DECISION:** The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2025 were agreed and signed.

**5. Matters raised by local residents**

Members highlighted two recent thefts from outbuildings and an alleged incident of damage to a vehicle.

**6. Flooding matters**

The Clerk reported that the Internal Lugg Drainage Board have raised a job to clear the bridge over the brook behind the Luston pumping station, the draft Section 19 investigation report has been submitted to Herefordshire Council for review. It is expected to be circulated to the parish council for comment prior to publication. A report on NFM funded projects has been provided by Herefordshire Council. The community flood equipment made available to the parishes will be collected shortly and distributed to the members as agreed at the last meeting.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. Finances are expected to be challenging in future years. Government is expected to provide a draft settlement in December 2025. It is hoped to be able to continue some grant support for parishes. Resurfacing work and patching are planned for the B4361 and B4362 in the coming weeks. Eye Lane is being put forward for inclusion in the asset renewal programme. A new principal PROW officer has been appointed, providing additional enforcement capability.

Cllr. E Coates asked whether the highway authority would permit a new grip by Cheese Bridge to stop surface water pooling on the road by taking it into the nearby watercourse. Office equipment dumped and reported as flytipping is still in the watercourse by the bridge.

## 8. Planning

**8.1** 252736 Cross Brook Farm, Moreton Eye, HR6 0DP, Retrospective application for ancillary annex/home office. **COMMENT:** There is no objection to the retrospective planning application. This is the second retrospective application for the same site in three years (223417). The parish council does not understand how a second retrospective application could have come about given the earlier experience. The group parish council disapproves of retrospective applications.

**8.2** 252854 Hopyard Cottage, Luston, HR6 0EB. 1x Ash Tree (1) to be pollarded to a single stem at a suitable height/union. This ash is in very close proximity to the house and outbuilding, and showing early signs of dieback. Pollarding will stabilise the tree, reducing risk of failure but retaining the tree. 1x Ash Tree (2) to fell. This ash is showing signs of dieback and decay. It is proposed to fell this tree completely before it becomes too advanced that any work is rendered unsafe. **COMMENT:** There is no objection to the proposed tree work.

**8.3** 252857 Bank Villa Cottage, Luston, HR6 0EB. Poplar (P) to be removed/felled. Tree was planted as a small sapling but has since outgrown the space. Roots are causing uplift to the lawn, and this could potentially lead to damage to the adjacent brick wall and driveway. **COMMENT:** There is no objection to the proposed tree work.

**8.4** Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have allowed works to trees within a conservation area for 252029 Luston Primary School.

## 9. Highways and environmental matters

**9.1** Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISIONS:** To report potholes on B4361 opposite Hill Road and poor condition of the road from Eyton to Kingsland parish. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb said potholes on the B4361 above Luston village will be raised with the locality steward.

**9.2** Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. The submission of the PROW grant application was noted (£4,435.00). The lengthsman is to include clearing of gutters on the B4361 by The Broad in the autumn programme of work at Luston village.

**9.3** PROW noticeboard at The Willows. Local volunteers would like to clean the inside of the noticeboard. The key to open the noticeboard, however, has not been located. **DECISION:** To make enquiries via previous chairman. If the key cannot be located, a replacement lock is to be fitted.

## 10. Finance

**10.1** Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths, October 2025 – £288.00

Luston Chapel, meeting – £30.00

**DECISION:** Agreed for electronic payment.

**10.2** Ratify direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, November 2025 – £57.14

**DECISION:** The payment was noted.

**10.3** Provision of internet/ broadband at Cawley Hall:

**DECISION:** To request a contribution to the cost of the ongoing broadband subscription.

### **11. Location of meeting scheduled for 2 February 2026**

It was noted that the main hall at Cawley Hall is unavailable. **DECISION:** To meet in the committee room at Cawley Hall.

### **12. Charter for Herefordshire's Councils**

The Charter for Herefordshire Councils was considered. **DECISION:** It was resolved to adopt the Charter.

### **13. Local Resolution Protocol**

The proposal by Herefordshire Council to adopt a local resolution protocol was considered. **DECISION:** It was resolved to maintain the status quo. No action required.

### **14. Clerk's Report and reports on meetings attended by parish councillors**

The Vice Chairman kindly provided a brief verbal report on the recent Parish Summit facilitated by Herefordshire Council. It included budgets and funding, parish grants, and an update on the Local Plan and possible implications for neighbourhood development plans.

The Clerk reported that the status of the defibrillators has been updated with The Circuit. The battery status for both remains at two bars. They should be replaced once the battery status is at one bar. The finance working group is to meet to look at mid year accounts and propose a budget and precept for 2026-27. The developer of the field by Lustonbury corner has said the hedges on the B4361 will be cut back. The Lengthsman has cleared graffiti on one of the waste bins at Luston.

### **15. Matters for consideration at the next meeting (no discussion)**

No matters were raised.

### **16. Date of Next Full Council Meeting**

**DECISION:** The next meeting of the group parish council will be at 7.30pm on Monday 1 December 2025 at Cawley Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Signed as a true record \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_