

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2025 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

In attendance: Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb and R Hewitt (Clerk). The footpath officer attended. There were no other members of the public in attendance.

1. Receive apologies for absence – E Coates.

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 1 September 2025

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2025 were agreed and signed.

5. Matters raised by local residents

Members reported the following matters: graffiti on waste bin in Luston, overgrown hedges in Luston village, debris on pavement in Luston village, overgrown tree by BT pole in Luston, defective stiles at Eyton and reported blocked footpath by Luston village.

6. Flooding matters

It was noted that work on the NFM funded projects agreed earlier in the year does not appear to have started. The Clerk reported that community flood equipment is going to be provided by Herefordshire Council, and a request by the school has been passed on to the relevant landowner. The bridge by the pumping station was reported as blocked.

DECISIONS: To request an update on NFM projects agreed at Luston. To accept the offer of community flood equipment, which will be held by Cllrs. A Brandish and C Pearson. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb kindly offered to raise the blocked bridge by the pumping station with the drainage board engineer.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. Herefordshire Council have agreed a budget of £2 million for drainage projects. Priority will be given to recommendations in section 19 reports. Over half of PROW grant funding has been allocated. The highway authority should be on-site shortly to do the outstanding work at Luston which has closed the pavement. The Eyton Common annual inspection will be done soon.

Government is consulting on the local government funding formula. The outcome may be a significant reduction over several years. It is likely council tax will increase by 4.99 percent for 2026-27. Spending on capital projects such as the bypass is unaffected.

Drainage and PROW grant funding may not be possible in 2026-27. Lengthsman funding may revert to £30 per kilometre. Road resurfacing, which reduces the cost of pothole repairs, will continue to be important.

8. Planning

8.1 252029 Luston Primary School, Westland View, Luston, HR6 0EA – W1: Willow; to be pollarded - there has been a branch tear out in the past, leaving a cavity partway up the stem. Pollard to below this height to stabilise tree and reduce any risk of failure from decayed cavity. W2: Willow; long overhanging limb to be removed - it overhangs the play area - in order to remove risk of limb failure into play area. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

8.2 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have allowed works to trees within a conservation area for 252069 9 Lilac Grove and 251669 2 Lustonbury.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** The highway defects raised under #5 will be passed to the highway authority.

9.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISIONS:** To highlight the location of the public viewing platform at Luston Wetland, including access. Defective stiles reported under #5 will be investigated and included in the forthcoming PROW grant application as required. The lengthsman will be requested to clear the gutters of debris/silt on the B4361 by The Broad.

9.3 Orleton Footpath Maintenance Volunteers. An offer of support to help maintain the footpaths was considered. **DECISION:** An expression of interest was agreed subject to the agreement of the parish council's insurers.

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

10. Finance

10.1 Receipts:

Herefordshire Council, precept 2025-26, Part II – £11,250.00

10.2 Payments for consideration:

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

Sign It, 'no pet waste' stickers – £16.80

PKF Littlejohn, external audit 2024-25 – £252.00

HMRC, PAYE for period to 5 October 2025 – £556.44

DECISION: Agreed for electronic payment.

10.2 Ratify direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, October 2025 – £57.14

DECISION: The payment was noted.

11. Dangerous driving on C1040 from B4361 to Eyton Common

A request to ask the highway authority to look at measures to improve highway signs and address speeding/ dangerous driving was considered. Recent roadworks at Leominster were felt to have exacerbated the problem. **DECISION:** To ask traffic management to review and advise on the available options. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb kindly offered to approach traffic management.

12. Review schedule and location of meetings 2025-26

A proposal to revert to holding all meetings of the parish council at Cawley Hall was considered. **DECISION:** To meet at Cawley Hall over the winter months, which will mean rescheduling the November 2025 and February 2026 meetings subject to the availability of Cawley Hall. The venue for future meetings of the parish council will be reviewed again in February 2026.

13. Charter for Herefordshire's Councils

It was noted that the Charter for Herefordshire's Councils is included on the agenda of the forthcoming Parish Summit in October 2025. **DECISION:** Deferred.

14. Schedule of Council Matters articles for The Eye

The updated schedule of articles was reviewed. The availability of the Clerk for fact checking was noted. **DECISION:** The schedule of articles was agreed. Councillors are strongly recommended to fact check articles prior to submission to the Eye.

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

Sticker signs have been produced for the two litter bins at Luston to discourage their use for disposal of pet waste. The drainage grant application has been submitted. The additional ditching work requested at the last meeting will cost £650, and this has been included in the submitted application. Members of the public have written in regard to the comment of the parish council on a recent planning application. A member of the public has been signposted to planning services and the ward councillor.

Highway defects have been reported to the highway authority: blocked 30mph sign north of Luston village, dip in B4361 by Dean House Farm, trees on Kingsland Road, Eyton, white lining over potholes at Lilac Grove and electric fence blocking a footpath. A request has been made for an update on the extended 30 mph limit requested for Eye Lane. The location of blocked culverts included in the 2024-25 drainage grant application have been shared with the ward councillor.

The External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2024-25 was noted. The report and certificate have been posted on noticeboards in the parishes and published on the council website.

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 3 November 2025 at Cawley Hall (subject to availability of the hall).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.17 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____