

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2025 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

In attendance: Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb and R Hewitt (Clerk). There were no members of the public 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. 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 3 November 2025

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.

5. Matters raised by local residents

A member of the public highlighted the poor condition of Eye Lane at Moreton Eye caused by standing water. It was noted that the defect has been raised with the highway authority several times over the years but remains outstanding. It is understood to have been referred to 'asset management' by the highway authority.

Members reported road defects on Eye Lane – at Red Hill, entrance to Berrington Hall and by Ivy Cottage – as well as the junction of Lilac Grove with B4361 at Luston, and grips on C1040 opposite Eyton Common and between North Lodge and Hill Farm, Eyton.

A member of the public was concerned that new external lights in Luston village were being left on all night and felt that this was against the 'Dark Skies' policy in the Neighbourhood Plan. **DECISION:** To review dark skies and external lighting at the next meeting. The Vice Chairman kindly agreed to research the reasons why external lights might be left on through the night.

6. Flooding matters

Leaking from the sewerage manhole cover by the B4361 culvert at Luston has kindly been reported to Welsh Water by the Vice Chairman. Natural flood management projects are being implemented above Luston village. Community flood equipment provided by Herefordshire Council has been collected and split between Cllrs. Brandish and Pearson. **DECISION:** The number of Aquasacs provided by Herefordshire Council will be checked.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. There are financial challenges including an expected overspend in 2025-26 driven by increased cost of special educational needs and transport costs. The grant for ditching works has been reduced in order to prioritise grant funding for minor highway projects. A smell has been reported as coming from the sewage works and is under investigation. Highways England are looking at placing a 'Not suitable for HGVs' sign at the top of Eye Lane. Welsh Water may soon undertake water main replacement work.

8. Planning

8.1 253046 Land at Clee View Barn, Luston, HR6 0AS – Conversion of redundant building to create two self-build dwellings, carports and associated works. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

8.2 253122 The Steppes, Luston, HR6 0EA – Sycamore (1) - remove lower branches/raise the crown. Sycamore (2) - several long, spreading lateral branches; remove these to reduce risk of snap-out and make a more aesthetically symmetrical crown shape. Ash (3) - remove/fell entirely. Showing signs of ash dieback. Tall, thin tree, with long horizontal scaffold branch. Tree is located above two outbuildings and is growing in the middle of a yew tree and adjacent to sycamore detailed above (2). Removal will benefit the sycamore and yew and protect the outbuildings from damage. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

8.3 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted permission for 242104 Barns at Eyton Court Farm and granted listed building consent for 242105 Barns at Eyton Court Farm. Works to trees within a conservation area are allowed for 252854 Hopyard Cottage and 252857 Bank Villa Cottage.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISIONS:** To report highway defects highlighted under #5 above. Re-report potholes on Lustonbury corner, Luston.

9.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. The PROW grant has been successful with £4,435.00 awarded to support the work set out in the application. The gates have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in late January 2026. For an additional £20.00 the footpath furniture will be delivered to the Lengthsman. Concern was expressed at the delay in obtaining an outcome on the electric fence reported as blocking a footpath near Luston village.

DECISIONS: Cost of footpath furniture was agreed (£2,868.00). To consider an official letter of complaint regarding the electric fence.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

Evans Farm and Country Supplies, footpath furniture – £ 2,868.00

HMRC, PAYE to 5 January 2025 – £530.72

DECISION: Agreed for electronic payment.

10.2 Ratify direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, December 2025 – £57.14

DECISION: The payment was noted.

10.3 Donation to support Community Eye. **DECISION:** To donate £400.00 in 2025-26.

10.4 Financial statement for 2025-26 to date and parish precept for 2026-27. The finance working group reported on the mid-year accounts 2025-26 and proposed a recommended budget and precept for 2026-27. **DECISIONS:** The mid-year accounts were noted. It was resolved to include a subscription to HALC in the budget for 2026-27 and to meet the projected overspend from reserves. With this amendment the recommended budget was supported and it was resolved to leave the precept unchanged at £22,500.00.

10.5 Internal financial controls. **DECISION:** Financial controls were reviewed and considered to be effective.

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

Bank charges are to increase from £6 to £7 per month from February 2026. The Boundary Commission is consulting on a review of council wards in Herefordshire. A note to explain the parish council's request not to use the two public waste bins at Luston village for dog waste has been published in the Eye. Highway defects have been reported to the highway authority.

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

No matters were raised.

13. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next meeting of the group parish council will be at 7.30pm on Monday 2 February 2026 at Cawley Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____