

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026 AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL, LUSTON

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

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

1. Receive apologies for absence – E Coates and 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 2 March 2026

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

5. Matters raised by local residents

Cllr. Edwards proposed that the editors of The Eye newsletter are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2026.

6. Flooding matters

The locality steward has advised that a job has been raised for a camera to check the condition of the highway drain on Eye Lane at Moreton. This was as a result of jetting by the highway authority. The drains by The Fold have been jetted as well.

The Internal Lugg Drainage Board have cleared the field bridge by the pumping station in Luston. Photos which highlight the flooding problem on the Herefordshire Way at Luston (LJ22) have been sent to the Natural Flood Management team at Herefordshire Council. The lengthsman will clear the associated culvert on LJ22 on a regular basis. The existing drainage channel to the culvert can be maintained as well.

The costed amendments to the minor drainage scheme at Eyton were reviewed. The lengthsman has estimated the cost of implementing these will be £2,450.00 (+VAT). It was noted that they have been shared with the Internal Lugg Drainage Board and flood officer from Herefordshire Council who attended the recent site meeting.

DECISION(S): Maintain the existing drainage channel to the culvert on the Herefordshire Way at Luston (LJ22). Make an application for minor highway project funding to implement the amendments to the minor highway drainage project at Eyton.

7. Planning

7.1 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have refused prior approval for agricultural and forestry buildings and operations for 260638 Oaker Wood Leisure.

8. Highways and environmental matters

8.1 Lengthsman grant 2026-27: **DECISION:** The parish council noted the available lengthsman grant and agreed to make an application for the full funding (£1,683.00) including match funding of £561.00. The proposed annual maintenance plan was agreed and will form the basis of the grant application.

[Ward Cllr. Hurcomb joined the meeting.]

8.2 Drainage grant 2026-27: **DECISION:** It was resolved to apply for a drainage grant, including maintenance such as ditching (up to £4,000.00), and agreed amendments to the minor highway drainage project at Eyton (£2,450.00). Ditching work will include The Seggin, Yarpole Lane, Croft Lane and Eye Lane up to £4,000.00. The exact location of the parish boundary on Yarpole Lane will be confirmed.

An additional minor highway drainage project at Moreton will be considered as well, albeit possibly under the PROW grant scheme.

8.3 PROW grant 2026-27: **DECISIONS:** It was resolved to submit a PROW grant application for £4,015.00 based on the work planned for 2025-26. It was agreed to obtain quotations for footpath furniture from an alternative supplier. The cap of £5,000.00 per PROW application was noted.

8.4 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISIONS:** To re-report pothole on B4361 by The Willows and report breaking up of B4361 southbound by temporary traffic lights in Luston (near new development).

8.5 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISIONS:** Loose flagstone on footpath off Croft Lane and missing stile on the approach to YP11 on the parish boundary with Yarpole to be checked.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. Patching and resurfacing of the C1040 from the B4361 to Eyton Common is due shortly. The section from Eyton Common to the parish boundary has yet to be scheduled. Renewal of water network by Welsh Water is to be undertaken. Work is ongoing to improve the road junction at Ashley Moor, near Orleton. The B4361 at Richards Castle is scheduled for resurfacing and patching. Two new PROW officers have been appointed to help improve the network of footpaths.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, site meeting at Eyton – £58.80
Cawley Hall, meetings 2025 – £72.00
Clerk, wages underpayment 2025-26 – £24.05
HMRC, PAYE for period ending 5 April 2026 – £539.36
DECISION: Agreed for electronic payment.

10.2 Ratify direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, March 2026 – £57.17
DECISION: The payment was noted.

10.3 Standing order for payment of Clerk's wages. **DECISION:** Update for new tax code.

11. Speed Indicator Devices

The Speed Indicator Devices owned by the parish council are more than 10 years old. They are currently covered under a three-year maintenance contract. A quotation for replacement units was noted. **DECISION:** It was agreed to consider purchase of new devices, possibly with the support of grant funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Additional quotations will be obtained.

12. .Gov email addresses for councillors

DECISION: HALC's recommendation for .gov.uk email addresses for councillors is supported in principle subject to confirmation of the cost. A quotation will be obtained from the parish council's IT provider.

13. Police Force Mergers

DECISION: The consultation by the Police and Crime Commissioner on proposed force mergers was noted.

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

Herefordshire Council have paid the lengthsman (£3,366.00) and drainage (£1,606.00) grants for 2025-26. Highway defects have been reported: Leaning tree on B4361/ Hill Road junction in Luston; bank on Seggin Lane; footway at The Willows; debris on footway in Luston village. The external auditor has emailed with details of the annual return 2025-26. The first verge cut by the highway authority will be completed earlier than usual. The communication agreed with peers concerning the right to consultation on planning matters has been completed.

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

None.

16. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The annual meeting of the group parish council will be at 7.30pm on Monday 11 May 2026 at the Methodist Chapel, Luston. The annual parish meetings will be held from 7pm on Monday 11 May 2026 at the Methodist Chapel, Luston.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.28 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____