

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 1 JUNE 2026 AT THE METHODIST
CHAPEL, LUSTON

Present: I Stevens (Chairman); C Pearson (Vice Chairman), A Brandish, E Coates, P Edwards, K Wood, and W Talbot Ponsonby.

In attendance: Ward Cllr. Dan Hurcomb; and R Hewitt (Clerk). There were two (2) members of the public in attendance.

1. Receive apologies for absence – R Bennett Jones.

2. Co-opt to the vacancy for Eyton Parish and vacancy for Eye, Moreton & Ashton Parish

DECISION: Deferred.

3. Declarations of Interest

4.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. None.

4.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

4.3 Non-pecuniary. None.

4.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

4. Approval of annual meeting minutes of 11 May 2026

DECISION: The minutes of the annual meeting were agreed to be a true record.

5. Matters raised by local residents

Members noted that the highway annual plan includes the C1040 from Eyton Common to the parish boundary. Grips and gullies have been cleared by the highway authority after resurfacing work was completed on the first section of the C1040 from the B4361 to Eyton Common.

6. Flooding Matters

The Clerk reported on limited contact with landowners regarding the proposed site meetings on LJ22 behind Westland View, Luston and bridleway at Moreton Eye.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. The county council had a balanced budget in 2025-26, albeit by using £1.8 million of reserves in support of adult social care. A review of school transport is underway. The carbon management plan is intended to reduce costs, as was achieved through the LED change over for street lighting.

The new public realm contract begins today. Much more information will be available to ward councillors via a dedicated dashboard. Pothole categorisation changes are aimed at improving the time taken to fix each reported defect. Access to the dashboard may be extended to parish councils in the future. M Group will be installing the new footbridge over the Lugg.

A consultation on highway lining outside schools and other public buildings is underway and should support future enforcement. A new locality steward has been appointed to cover Bircher Ward. Herefordshire Council is looking at an alleged change to a watercourse at Canon Pyon.

8. Planning

9.1 Parish council comments on applications for tree works in a conservation area made to the planning authority: Disappointment was expressed at the apparent lack of support from the planning authority for requests made by the parish council to object to proposed tree works due to the local amenity provided. Based on reports and decision notices on recent applications, the issue appears to be that the authority is reaching a different conclusion concerning the amenity provided and/ or that other issues such as overhead cables need to be considered. **DECISION:** To continue to monitor on a case-by-case basis.

9.2 Update on planning decisions. Herefordshire Council have allowed works to trees within a conservation area for 260777 Green Orchard.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Consultation on Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on Mandatory School Keep Clear Markings: The proposed lining by the school was noted. **DECISION:** It was agreed to support the proposed TRO including plans to follow through with enforcement.

9.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of the highway authority. There were no matters raised.

9.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. Two broken down stiles on EY1 located at the end of the footpath by the Hill Road/ Seggin Lane junction were reported. **DECISION:** To inform the footpath officer about the defective stiles on EY1.

10. Finance

10.1 Internal audit and report: : Completion of the internal audit and report was noted. There are no recommendations or actions to consider.

10.2 Annual Governance Statement. **DECISION:** Reviewed and approved.

10.3 Annual Return 2025-26. **DECISION:** Reviewed and approved. An external audit is required due to the expenditure of the parish council being more than £25,000.

10.4 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman – £462.00

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

Clerk, admin/ expenses to 31 March 2026 – £505.41

Clerk, Office 365 subscription 2026-27 – £138.24

Methodist Chapel, meetings (x3) – £90.00

DECISION: Agreed for electronic payment

10.5 Review direct debit payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, June 2026 – £67.26

Clerk, wages (May 2026)

ICO, data registration fee 2026-27 – £47.00

DECISION: Payments were noted.

11. Broadband service at Cawley Hall

Options to upgrade, re-contract or end the broadband service, which is now out of contract, were considered. **DECISION:** To renew the contract with the existing service provider for £50.00 per month (+VAT).

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

Purchase order received from Herefordshire Council for lengthsman scheme 2026-27 (£1,683.00). HALC's concerns regarding the lengthsman agreement, insurance and the big picture, as set out in 'Ten things you need to know' were noted. The application for a drainage grant in 2026-27 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council (£4,000.00 and £2,450.00 respectively for each element of the grant). The PROW grant application has been submitted to Herefordshire Council (£4,115.00).

Renewal of the SID support contract for a period of three years will cost £1,693.50 (+VAT) in total. Orleton Parish Council will be approached to ask if they wish to deploy the SIDs in their parish.

An online briefing on changes to the new public realm service was attended. The following highway defects have been raised with the highway authority: poor road surface on Red Hill, Eye Lane, junction of The Willows/ B4361 and junction of Lilac Grove/ B4361; and overgrown hedges in Luston.

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

There were no matters raised.

14. Date of Next Council Meeting.

DECISION: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 6 July 2026 at the Methodist Chapel, Luston.

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

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____