

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 6 JULY 2026 AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL, LUSTON

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

In attendance: Ward Cllr. Dan Hurcomb; and R Hewitt (Clerk). There was one (1) member of the public in attendance.

1. Receive apologies for absence – None.

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

2.1 Eyton Parish – Deferred.

2.2 Eye, Moreton & Ashton Parish – Ms. H Youngson was co-opted. The acceptance of office was signed, and the co-opted member joined the meeting.

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 June 2026

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

5. Matters raised by local residents

Members highlighted potholes on the B4361 at Lustonbury. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb suggested repair of the defects may be postponed until after the planned works by Welsh Water. A large, long branch of a silver birch on the public area at The Willows is overhanging an adjacent garden. Hedges on the B4361 in Luston village.

6. Flooding Matters

The landowner by the Moreton Eye bridleway has kindly agreed to a site meeting. The Vice Chairman said a landowner at The Riddle has requested a follow up meeting with the Natural Flood Management team at Herefordshire Council. **DECISION:** It was agreed to facilitate the requested meeting with the landowner.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. Eye Lane potholes have been reported to the highway authority. Welsh Water is to lay replacement pipes. An onsite meeting to plan for a new patching programme was held last month with a senior highways engineer. The new chief executive has started. The outcome of the review of the recent railway collision with a tractor trailer is that it was caused by the network.

The Community Fund held by the ward councillor is to be used for 'Not Suitable for HGV' signs on Eye Lane. Traffic regulation orders are to be implemented to improve safety by the schools at Luston and Shobdon. The Boundary Commission have proposed that Richards Castle Parish is removed from Bircher Ward and added to Mortimer Ward.

8. Planning

8.1 261603 and 261604 White House, Luston, HR6 0EB. Single-storey extension, internal reconfiguration and new garage. **COMMENT:** The applications for planning permission and listed building consent are supported.

8.2 261351 Bank Villa Gardens, Luston, HR6 0EB. Front porch. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

8.3 261732 Walnut Tree Cottage, Bury Croft Lane, Luston, HR6 0FH. Approximately 5x stools of willows to be re-coppiced and 1x birch to be reduced located with the circled area 'A' on the sketch map. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

8.4 Update on planning decisions. Herefordshire Council have notified the parish council of three new planning applications. The notifications were received too late for inclusion on the agenda.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of the highway authority.

DECISION: Highway defects raised under #5, overgrown hedges on B4361 and Yarpole Lane blocking visibility of road signs.

9.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. The footpaths grant application has been successful (£4,115.00). Concern was expressed at the number of weeds in the gutters.

DECISION: To commission weed treatment.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments to ratify:

Direct365Online Ltd, defibrillator batteries (x2) – £528.00

DECISION: Payment ratified.

10.2 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths, June 2026 – £204.00

J Finch Computers, Office 365 Basic licences (x7) – £463.68

HMRC, PAYE to 5 July 2026 – £54.17

DECISION: Agreed for electronic payment.

10.3 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, July 2026 – £54.61

Clerk, wages (June 2026)

DECISION: Payments were noted.

11. Parish Summit

The invitation to Herefordshire Council's Parish Summit in July 2026 was noted.

12. Member Declarations of Interest

New legislation concerning redaction of member addresses was noted, and that the full set of completed registrable interest forms are held by the parish council, as requested by Herefordshire Council after the election held in 2023. Advice from HALC to ask that Herefordshire Council hold the completed registrable interest forms was noted.

DECISION: It was agreed that the clerk should redact member addresses as requested by the Democratic Services Manager, Herefordshire Council, to comply with the new legislation.

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

The annual return 2025-26 has been submitted to the external auditor. The council response to the 'Mandatory School Keep Clear Markings' has been submitted. A third quotation has been obtained for replacement SIDs. Orleton PC have been asked to advise on their plans for the existing two SIDs where the ownership is shared. The Microsoft licenses to provide .gov.uk email addresses have been purchased and members advised of the process to set up their new email account. Herefordshire Council have updated the frequently asked questions on neighbourhood plans to reflect recent legislative and policy changes.

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

There were no matters raised.

15. Date of Next Council Meeting.

DECISION: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 7 September 2026 at the Methodist Chapel, Luston.

16. Exclusion of Press and Public

DECISION: It was resolved to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the following agenda item relating to staff employment matters.

[The Clerk was asked to remain in the meeting.]

17. Staff Employment Matters

DECISION: To establish arrangements for a lump sum pension payment (to reflect accrued contributions) and ongoing monthly pension contributions per calendar month.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____