

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL, LUSTON

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

In attendance: Ward Cllr. Dan Hurcomb; and R Hewitt (Clerk). There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Receive apologies for absence – A Brandish and E Coates.

2. Co-opt to the vacancy for Eyton Parish – 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 6 July 2026

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

5. Matters raised by local residents

Members asked to review the speed limit on Eye Lane. Illegal 20mph stickers have been placed on top of 30mph signs on the Luston village end.

6. Flooding Matters

The site meeting concerning the Moreton Eye bridleway will take place next week. A report from the Natural Flood Management (NFM) team on delivered, planned and projects in development was noted.

A question arose concerning responsibility for the public drainage (two silt traps and concrete lined drainage channel) that runs through Bethany off the B4361 in Luston village: riparian owner, highway authority or other body? This was a question asked when the drainage survey was undertaken by Herefordshire Council (for which the published report is outstanding). Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb kindly offered to check the responsibility for this drainage infrastructure.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. Welsh Water is to replace a 13.4-kilometre stretch of water pipes over the next two years. A formal plan for traffic management has been requested to help minimise disruption.

Herefordshire Council's accounts for the first quarter are expected soon. Rural areas generally have had their funding from government reduced. The resurfacing of the C1040 from Eyton Common to the parish boundary has been scheduled. A resurfaced pothole from the earlier section is to be sorted. Litter picking groups can obtain bags and pickers from the council.

The defective tree on public land at the Willows will be re-reported. A new 40mph speed limit is to be introduced to improve safety on the B4362 Croft Castle junction. The 30mph zone north of Yarpole will be extended to the B4362 Croft Castle junction.

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb said The Boundary Commission's recommendation to place Richards Castle parish in Mortimer Ward is not supported. The public realm contract, save for a few minor issues, is going well. Eye Lane will be highlighted when the new chief executive visits the group parishes in October 2026. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's council grant is to be used in part for new 'Not suitable for HGVs' signs either end of Eye Lane.

The B4361 is to be patched north of Lady Meadow Farm. A silt step at the entrance to the culvert under the B4361 by Lady Meadow Farm is thought to be the reason it became blocked so soon after the recent resurfacing. The landowner will be approached to see what can be done. The new footpath bridge over the Lugg from Eyton to Kingsland is expected to be in place soon.

8. Planning

8.1 262320 Coppice Cottage, Tunnel Lane, Ashton, SY8 4HY. Self-build restoration and residential reuse of a former dwelling along with its extension and associated works including the extension of the existing track, installation of drainage infrastructure, and landscaping. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

8.2 262230, 2 Luston Court Barns, Eye Lane, Luston, HR6 0DU. Flue from woodburning stove going internally from lounge through second floor bedroom (vaulted ceiling) and out through slate roof. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

8.3 262146 Blackpole Cottage, Black Pole Cottage Access From B4361 Luston, HR6 0EG. Upgrading of existing septic tank. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

8.4 262486, 3 Westland View, Luston, HR6 0EA. Removal of the 3 trees.

COMMENT: The proposed tree work is supported.

8.5 Update on planning decisions. Herefordshire Council have granted permission for 261351 Bank Villa Gardens and 210358 Land at Long Acre. Works to trees within a conservation area are allowed for 262217 Walnut Tree Cottage, 261732 Walnut Tree Cottage, 261951 Walnut Tree Cottage, and 261915 Ashfield.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Lustonbury corner – A request to extend strimming on the B4361 in Luston village to include the verge opposite the new Border Oak properties was discussed.

DECISION: To ask the lengthsman to undertake the strimming once the growth from the adjacent property has been cleared. The adjacent landowner will be contacted to discuss the best way forward.

9.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of M Group/ highway authority. The traffic calming report prepared by the working group was noted. **DECISION:** Mr A Brandish is thanked for the report and recommendations. Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb kindly offered to facilitate contact with the highway authority.

9.3 Drainage grant: Herefordshire Council have awarded a grant of £3,048.64 for ditching maintenance and £2,450.00 for amendments to the dew pond project at Eyton. The dew pond amendments have been completed by the lengthsman. A proposal to top up the ditching maintenance grant to do all ditching work as set out in the grant application was considered. **DECISION:** An additional budget of £1,631.36 was set so that all ditching maintenance in the grant application can be completed. This maintenance will include the scraping of drain cover(s) by the chicken farm on Yarpole Lane.

9.4 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. A request to bring forward the scraping of kerbs and gutters from the autumn was discussed. Ideally, after a few weeks, a sweeper should go through areas that have received weed treatment. Herefordshire Council have awarded a grant of £3,565.00 for footpath maintenance. The work has been carried out and the grant received by the parish council. The footpath officer has kindly agreed to support the PROW team's development of an asset register.

DECISION: To ask the lengthsman to commission a sweeper to assist in the clearing of kerbs and gutters. To share the footpath officer's reports with Herefordshire Council's PROW team in support of the asset register.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths, July 2026 – £156.00
D C Gardening Services, footpaths (grant funded) – £1,410.00
D C Gardening Services, minor drainage works (grant funded) – £2,450.00
D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths, August 2026 – £65.40
PKF Littlejohn, external audit 2025-26 – £252.00

DECISION: Agreed for electronic payment.

10.2 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, August and September 2026 – £120.00
Clerk, wages (July and August 2026)

DECISION: Payments were noted.

10.3 Grant application to Police and Crime Commissioner for renewal of the Speed Indicator Devices: The parish council reviewed the proposed grant application.

DECISION: It was resolved to make a grant application for £7,985.00 to support the purchase of two SWARCO devices. The existing devices will be re-deployed to Eye Lane subject to highway authority permissions.

11. Integrating the Luston Wetland and Hide

A proposal to approach Herefordshire Council to re-open discussions on a proposed footpath connection from Eye Lane to Luston was considered. A member of the public has kindly offered to act as a warden for the public observation area at the wetland which could enhance the area's appeal when walking between Luston and Eye Lane to access Cawley Hall. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb kindly offered to support the initiative and facilitate an introduction to the appropriate officer(s). **DECISION:** To re-open discussions with Herefordshire Council following an introduction by Ward Cllr. Hurcomb.

12. Local Policing Community Charter and Parish Council Survey

12.1 Policing Community Charter: Local priorities proposed by the Safer Neighbourhood Team, West Mercia Police were reviewed. **DECISION:** The priorities are supported.

12.2 Parish Council Survey: The Annual Survey by the Police and Crime Commissioner was noted.

13. www.lustonparishes.gov.uk

Nominet have advised that a new registrar is required for the parish council's domain.

DECISION: To transfer the domain to an appropriate new registrar.

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

Cllr. H Youngson kindly provided a report on the Wildfire Ready online briefing from Herefordshire Council, which took place earlier in the evening.

The Clerk reported that the status of the defibrillators has been updated over the summer. West Mercia Police have been asked to consider enforcement action following a report of speeding made by a member of the public. Weed treatment of kerbs and gutters was completed in July 2026. Obscured signs on the B4361 and Yarpole Lane will be addressed by the highway authority. The overgrown branch from a tree on public land at the Willows has been assessed as not requiring 'immediate remedial works', however as highlighted under #7, above the defect is to be re-reported.

HALC have advised that defects reported via Fix My Street require manual transfer and reports are encouraged via www.Herefordshire.gov.uk. The external audit has been completed by PKF Littlejohn. The annual return process is going online.

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

Speed limit on Eye Lane and Wildfire Ready planning.

16. Date of Next Council Meeting.

DECISION: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 5 October 2026 at Cawley Hall, Eye.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____