LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2026 AT CAWLEY HALL, EYE

Present: I Stevens (Chairman); C Pearson (Vice Chairman), A Brandish, E Coates, 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 – None.

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 3 August and 7 September 2026

DECISION: The minutes of the meetings held on 3 August, and 7 September 2026 were agreed to be a true record.

5. Matters raised by local residents and councillors

Photos showing the risk from the overgrown branch on a tree on public land at The Willows, which is overhanging private property, were reported to have been shared with the ward councillor. Cllr. E Coates said a well on the verge of the C1040 at Eyton may have been covered inadvertently by the highway authority. Potholes to the south of Luston village have not all been repaired.

6. Flooding Matters

The Vice Chairman and Clerk reported on a site meeting with the landowner. The proposal to install a wide, deep ditch on the field side of the bridleway to slow surface water run off at times of heavy rainfall was supported by the landowner, subject to further consultation with the tenant. Additional work to maintain existing ditches towards Megan Baker House was agreed as well, including renewal of grip(s). Once all permissions have been obtained, the lengthsman can provide a quotation for the planned drainage work.

The Chairman said the natural flood management initiative has put in large new drainage works by the wood at The Riddle. Unfortunately, the fields have been left in "a bit of a mess" and will need re-seeding.

DECISION(S): The proposed work to relieve surface water flooding on the bridleway and ditches at Moreton Eye is supported subject to permissions and quotation. A budget to re-seed the fields affected by the natural flood management drainage works at The Riddle will be considered at the next meeting.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's verbal report was noted. The forthcoming PC Summit will provide an update on lengthsman, footpath and drainage grants in 2027-28. A new guide highlighting public realm responsibilities is to be provided shortly. Gully details are now highlighted to aid reporting of defects online. Resurfacing is to take place soon at Orleton and Bircher as well as on the C1040. Welsh Water, to judge by road markings, will be doing significant work when replacing 13.4-kilometres of water pipes locally.

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb reported that he is now a governor at Luston and Shobdon Primary Schools. Planning decisions are to be made primarily by officers under delegated powers. A freedom of information request has been made to understand the outcome of speed enforcement by West Mercia Police in Luston village.

8. Planning

Herefordshire Council have granted permission for 261603 White House and listed building consent for 261604 White House. Prior approval is not required for 262609 Blackpole Farm. Works to trees within a conservation area are allowed for 262486 3 Westland View.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Eye Lane: Re-submission of request for a new traffic regulation order to reduce the speed limit. **DECISION:** To ask the highway authority to implement a 30mph speed limit from Luston village to the A49.
9.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of M Group/ highway authority.
DECISIONS: Potholes on Townsend Park and Hill Road, Eyton.
9.3 Drainage grant: The variation to lengthsman contract was signed to enable the completion of grant funded drainage works.
9.4 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. The lengthsman has cut the additional section of verge by Lustonbury Corner. **DECISIONS:** The extent of verge cut was agreed to be sufficient to improve pedestrian safety. To confirm the extent of verge strimmed is satisfactory from the perspective of the adjacent landowner.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths, September 2026 – £296.10
Luston Methodist Chapel, meetings July and September 2026 – 60.00
HMRC, PAYE to 5 October 2026
DECISION: Agreed for electronic payment.

10.2 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, October 2026 – £60.00
Clerk, wages (September 2026)
Clerk, pension (July-September 2026)
DECISION: Payments were noted.

10.3 Completion of Annual Return 2025-26: Consider 'Except for' matter in External Auditor's Report and Certificate. **DECISION:** The Except for matter was noted.

10.4 Local government services pay agreement 2026/27: Recommendation to apply pay award retrospectively from 1 April 2026 (HALC). **DECISION:** It was agreed to implement the pay award from 1 April 2026.

10.5 Recommendation to outsource payroll and pension administration services.
DECISION: To keep payroll and pension administration in-house for the time being.

11. Wildfire Ready Parish

Herefordshire Council's Parish Wildfire Planning Template was reviewed.
DECISION: To form a working group to develop a draft Luston Group Wildfire Plan for approval by the parish council. The working group comprises Cllrs. Brandish, Coates, Youngson and the Clerk.

12. Blood kit for Luston defibrillator cabinet

Blood kits (2) have been donated by West Midlands Ambulance Service and placed in the community defibrillator cabinets at Luston and Eyton. **DECISION:** It was resolved to support the initiative.

13. Parish Summit

DECISION: The Clerk agreed to attend the Parish Summit on 13 October 2026.

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

Herefordshire Council have sent the second part of the 2026-27 precept (£11,250.00). The status of the defibrillators at Luston and Eyton has been confirmed on The Circuit. The grant application for two SIDs has been submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Fund. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's kind offer to facilitate a meeting with "the right people in highways" to discuss traffic calming will be taken up by the working group (currently comprises one member of the public). The transfer of the parish council's domain to a new registrar has been completed.

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

There were no matters raised.

16. Date of Next Council Meeting.

DECISION: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 2 November 2026 at Cawley Hall, Eye.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed as a true record_____

Date_____