

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.00p.m.
in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall

Web site address: <https://bishopstonegroup-herefordshire-pc.gov.uk>

PRESENT: Cllr S. Crump (Chairman) Cllr. R Morgan; Cllr S Keefe; Cllr H Birch; Cllr C Taylor; Cllr N Richards and Cllr D Hadley.

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk); One member of the public.

Chairman welcomed those present to the September meeting.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr M Holmes; Cllr C Draper; Cllr. L Handscomb and Cllr A Russell.

2. To receive declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations. None declared.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2025 (circulated). It was agreed that these were a true record, and it was unanimously voted by the Councillors in attendance that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report

Thank you all for attending this evening's meeting.

At last everything is a lot greener than when we last met and the much-needed rain has arrived. This probably means it will not stop until next April now!

Great efforts have been made to clear some of the Yazor Brook although there is always more that can continue to be done. I have also met with the new potential owner of Mrs White's house on Bishon Lane who is very keen to be proactive in clearing the ditch running behind the house. A meeting can now be set up as all affected residents are on board to try to alleviate the situation. This will go ahead as soon as everyone can make a date.

Now is the time for us all to be vigilant about drains becoming covered with leaves and possibly to help by clearing offending covers to allow the free flow of surface water. Hedges will also soon be cut which can also clog up the covers.

I have contacted a resident in Bishopstone to ask if they could keep an eye on vehicles roaring through the village during the night. If they could let us know we would be most grateful in order that this anti-social behaviour can be addressed.

I am sure as the winter months approach, issues will arise with regards to roads, flooding, trimming etc. Any such problems should be taken note of and consequently can be addressed.

5. Ward Councillor David Hitchiner – No Report available

5.1 Open Session

5.1.1 At the July meeting a resident attended to express his concerns with regard to the increase volume of traffic turning off the A438 to Bridge Sollers - using the C1098 – as a cut through to Madley; Kingstone and access to the A49.

The Clerk arranged a site meeting with Ian Connolly Traffic Management Advisor West Mercia Police Road Safety Team – with a view to discussing possible solutions i.e. introducing a speed limit; weight restrictions and/or changes to the lay out of the road signage to encourage drivers to slow down – maybe even encourage drivers to take the longer but safer route along the A and B roads.

Cllr R Morgan attended the site meeting together with Ian Connolly; Natalie Trumper from the Council's Traffic Management Team and Chris Parnell-Smith.

Ian Connolly reports that collectively it was felt that speeds were not above the posted speed limit so there was no call for enforcement and the ways of improving the situation were along the lines of signs and carriageway/verge amendments. Natalie Trumper agreed to send a report to the Parish Council outlining their findings and this will be circulated when available. Clerk to send a reminder.

5.1.2 The Clerk was asked to liaise with D C Gardening with regard to cutting the entire Kenchester triangle.

5.1.3 The Clerk was asked to liaise with D C Gardening with regard to cutting the Bishon Lane splay to improve visibility.

5.1.4 Further to discussion on whose responsibility it is to cut the hedges along Bishon Lane - Cllr Hadley produced a very interesting document headed - *Landowners Guide: Roadside hedge and tree management* - which the Clerk will circulate.

As requested at the last meeting, the Locality Steward had been approached with regard to verge cutting and hedge cutting along Bishon Lane – a copy of her emailed response had been circulated and was read out at the meeting:

A defect has been raised to have the verge cut and where there is no verge, the flail will swivel and cut a strip along the bottom of the hedge (which I think is most of the lane!) I have asked for this to be done sooner rather than later.

In regards to the whole hedge, this is the landowners responsibility.

I shall do a land registry search check this after the 1st September once the bird nesting season has finished.

This item was discussed at length and it was agreed that Cllr Taylor will make a list of each landowner who owns a section of hedge along Bishon Lane and they will be made aware of their responsibilities.

The Clerk will also resend the email to the Locality Steward to ask for a copy of her findings via the Land Registry.

5.2 Close Open session

6. Finance: Schedule of payment sheet and current accounts sheet circulated.

6.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay the of July/August invoices.

6.2 The Clerk confirmed the HALC subscription had been renewed.

6.3 The Clerk was pleased to report that a Certificate of Exception for the 2024-2025 accounts had been issued by the External Auditor.

6.4 It was agreed to pay Eyelid Productions annual maintenance subscription of £100

6.5 It was agreed to pay Cloud Next (website hosts) annual subscription of £119.98 (inc. VAT).

6.6 It was agreed to adopt the new administration pay increase backdated to April 2025.

7. Highways and Environmental Matters:

7.1 At the July meeting, Cllr Taylor explained that she had received several complaints with regard to vehicles – including go karts and quadbikes – nosily racing through Bishopstone. The Clerk confirmed that she had approached the police but no one was available to attend the meeting. See comment in Chairman's Report.

7.2 Mansell Gamage – Woodside Cottage. The Clerk confirmed that this work had now taken place and funding had been received. There were two areas which urgently needed jetting and the Clerk confirmed she had contacted the Floodrisk team to enquire who would be responsible for jetting this year. To date she had not received a reply. The Clerk will resend the email.

In the meantime, it was agreed to approach D C Gardening to ask if he could quote to oversee this work with Mayglothlings. It may be possible to obtain quotes from other supplies i.e. Metro rod and Williams Water. Cllr N Richards will liaise with D C Gardening.

7.3 Consider drainage works for 2025-2026; lengthsman and PRow funding.

The Clerk explained that allowing for the drainage work at Mansell Gamage; the lengthsman funding and any possible small PRow expense – there would be approximately £15,000.00 available to invest in future drainage work. Councillors were asked to send their suggestions regarding future drainage/maintenance work to the Clerk as the 28th September is the deadline for applications.

The Clerk was asked to request D C Gardening to cut along the Marl's Lane bridleway as it is becoming almost impassable.

7.4 Cllr Taylor again expressed her concerns with regard to the culvert at Bishon Lane. Cllr Taylor explained that the water is already building up and not flowing away due to the ditch running along the side of Parkhill House - where BBLP cleared a small area at the culvert header when jetting - but could not continue due to not having responsibility for the rest of the ditch. This has made a small dam causing pooling.

BBLP cleared as much as they could of the ditch which takes all the flood water away that comes from either the Yazor Brook and all the water from the fields from the village and lane but the rest is the responsibility of one of the local farmers. The local farmer has been approached regarding his ditches, small culvert in one of his fields and the brook being cleared but there has been no confirmation that any work has been carried out. The Chairman agreed to arrange a meeting with the four property owners with a view to discussing the ongoing problems and their co-operation in helping to address the various issues raised. Item to remain on the agenda.

8. Planning:

8.1 Residential Development Bishon Farm HR4 7JE – correspondence regarding boundary hedge (circulated). The Clerk confirmed that Ward Councillor Hitchiner was in touch with the correspondent via email.

8.2 Further discussion took place with regard to land at Bishon Farm for proposed erection of 8 dwellings together with an old planning application for a barn conversions. In particular the discussion centred around the proposed sewage routes and it was eventually agreed that Cllr Taylor and Cllr Hadley would arrange to meet and discuss the implications in more depth before drafting a response.

8.3 Application No: 252277 – 4 Canon Rise Bishopstone (circulated). After discussion – no objection.

9. A Charter for Herefordshire Councils 2025–2026. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to adopt this charter. A copy had previously been circulated.

10. Date of next Herefordshire Council Parish Summit meeting. This will take place on 7th October, at Plough Lane. When available, an agenda and supporting documents will be forwarded.

11. No Police report available

12. Items for the next agenda (no discussion) – non raised.

13. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting : Wednesday 12th November 2025
– there will be tea and cake as the last meeting before Christmas.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

Signed:

Date: