

BISHOPSTONE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.00p.m.
in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall

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

PRESENT: Cllr S. Crump (Chairman) Cllr H Birch; Cllr C Taylor; Cllr N Richards; Cllr M Holmes; Cllr. L Handscomb; Cllr A Russell and Cllr D Hadley.

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk); Ward Councillor David Hitchiner.

Chairman welcomed those present to the January meeting.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr. R Morgan; Cllr. S Keefe and Cllr. C Draper

2. To receive declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations. Cllr C Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.

2.1 Attendance Ruling. Parish Councillors are legally required to attend meetings and self-disqualification occurs if they fail to attend for six consecutive months (not six meetings) - unless the reason for absence is approved by the council beforehand.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December 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

Welcome to you all this evening and Happy New Year.

We have been relatively lucky so far this winter with rainfall much lower than this time last year. However, there is time yet so it is imperative for us all to try and be vigilant of drain covers, debris etc that may cause any interference of the flow of flood water. Thank goodness we didn't get the snow that the uplands experienced last week. Hedges and verges seem to be clear but if there are any that need attention, we have until 1st March to attend to them.

Several items brought to my attention will come up within our agenda so there is little else to report on at this stage.

5. Ward Councillor David Hitchiner –

Parish Matters:

Bishon Farm Planning

On hold while developer considers options for drainage. No work can be started on either project.

Flooding around Bishon Lane.

Council officers have intervened to stop action being taken by a resident without the appropriate permit.

Bus using Bishopstone Lane

A resident raised issues over Yeomans school bus using the C1097 to collect a couple of pupils when an alternative route is available. This has been raised in the past when Yeoman's were cooperative.

Yeomans were asked to use a smaller vehicle and undertake a three point turn on the minor road junction a little closer to the A438. There was some success but Yeomans have now said that they have had to use a larger coach rather than a small service style bus and the driver then prefers to use the C1097 as it is a road without any vehicle size restrictions on it.

As is known publicly, both Mr Ian Davies and Mr Nigel Yeomans (Director of Yeomans) have recently come under investigation by The West Midlands Traffic Commissioner. This raises issues that may make agreeing a solution harder. I have asked Council officers to see what can be done.

Possible defect bridge on A438

Following a meeting I had with a local resident I have raised issues about a Bridge under the A438. Some capstone bricks have been dislodged from the North side of this bridge. On the Landranger OS map 148 the site is marked with a number 73.

No response from the Council as yet.

County Council matters.

2026/27 Budget

Budget papers have been published. They will be discussed in public at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 20 th January. A proposed increase of 4.99% in Council tax.

Substantial saving amount identified but not detailed. Services will inevitably be affected. An additional £5m allocated for the Southern Relief Road project. Benefits still being stated as improving traffic in Hereford which I repeatedly ask to be substantiated with evidence.

Cllr David Hitchiner

5.1 Open Session – no matters raised.

5.2 The Chairman closed the Open Session

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

6.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay the of December invoices.

6.2. The Clerk confirmed she had received a half-yearly audit certificate as required within the adopted financial regulations.

6.3. The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the Precept application for 2026 and 2027 receipt has been acknowledged.

7. Highways and Environmental Matters:

7.1 Manell Gamage – Marl's Lane/bridleway

At the September PC meeting the Clerk was asked to request a quote for D C Gardening to clear long the Marl's Lane bridleway as it is becoming impassable. D C Gardening visited

the area and reported that the work would not be straightforward and quoted £850 + VAT to complete the work.

After discussion – it was acknowledged that the route is impassable for horse riders and it was agreed that the Chairman; Cllr D Hadley and Cllr Richards would approach the landowner with regard to discussing whether he would be prepared to undertake the work or – as a last resort – obtaining his permission of D C Gardening to undertake this work.

Again, the Clerk stressed the urgency in getting this work completed under the present lengthsman grant funding scheme – in that the work has to be carried out and invoiced by the end of this final year.

7.2 Mansell Gamage drainage

Cllr N Richards reported that he had approached Mayglothlings and had now been able to obtain quotes for the jetting work :

Our prices are as follows (G=gallons)

Emptying:

1000G and up to an hour on site = £285

1000-2000G and up to an hour on site = £379.50

2000G+ (per 1000G on top of 2000G) = £130

Jetting:

Up to an hour on site = £126.50 + VAT

Jetting with an empty = £88 + VAT

sewage (1000G) + jetting = £390.60

Engineer:

Up to an hour on site = £190 + VAT

Cllr Richards explained that to date no one from Mayglothlings had visited the site so there was not firm quote in place,

It was discussed that maybe D C Gardening could liaise with Mayglothlings – but the Clerk did explained that Dave Campbell will be away for most of January so any work would be delayed until February at the earliest. The Clerk also explained that there are time restrictions in that any work associated with the lengthsman/drainage funding grants has to be completed by the 31st March 2025.

It was then discussed and agreed that Cllr Richards would liaise with T & T Plant Hire from Brinsop to see if they would be prepared to do a site visit and give a more detail accurate quote.

Cllr Richards will report back on his findings hopefully before the next meeting in March.

Byford

Cllr Holmes asked if the Clerk would again liaise with the Locality Steward to arrange an onsite meeting at Clee Head with a view to discussing a way to resolve on going flooding issues.

The water does not get into Clee Head, but every time it collects, the resident and her family have difficulty getting down their path to get to the road and their cars.

Cllr Holmes will provide recent photos to be included with the on site request.

8. Planning:

P253681/PA4

Type	(Part 3) Class Q - Prior Approval
Location	Bishopstone House Bishopstone Herefordshire HR4 7JG
Proposal	Application to determine if prior approval is required for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling and building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

After discussion it was agreed to make the following comment:

Further to the Bishopstone Group Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday last - whilst the Parish Council appreciate they are not, at this time, in a position to support or objection to the proposal - they would like to make the following two comments:

- (1) The drainage/sewage will be directed to an already overloaded system.
- (2) There is no mention in the application regarding the foundations of the building proposed for development.

9. Police The Chairman welcome PCSO Adam Westlake who is stationed with the Hereford Rural North Team, South Wye Police Station - West Mercia Police.

PCSO Westlake gave a short presentation explaining that police visits to Parish Councils had been reduced to one per year but they would respond, as always, to an emergency.

PCSO Westlake reported that locally that had only been one recent incident of a neighbour dispute.

PSCO Westlake confirmed that the three monthly Police Community Charter is kept up to date and that Neighbourhood Matters – which keeps residents up to date with local issues and advice - is regularly circulated via email and can be received individually by applying on line.

The Chairman asked about poaching and PSCO Westgate confirmed that this is acknowledged as an increasing/ongoing problem and that it is planned to have a specially designated team to deal with poaching throughout the County. Residents are asked to ring 999 if the incident is happening at that time or 101 to report an incident. The general advice is to keep safe -not to approach – but, if possible, get a photo of the registration number of the vehicle involved.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Westgate for attending the meeting.

10. Items for the next agenda (no discussion) - Cllr Keefe added Litter pick.

11. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting : Wednesday 11th March 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

Signed:

Date: