

10/26-27

MUCH MARCLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on,

Wednesday, 15th July 2026

6pm in The Rushall Club

Present: Cllrs Mike Barber-Starkey (in the Chair); J Baldwin; T Weston; F Powell; S Cotton.

In attendance: Rachel Freestone – Clerk
Barry Durkin – Ward Member

Public: 4

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllrs Alison Hope; Ed Jefferson and David Griffiths. A letter of resignation had been received and accepted on the 15th July with immediate effect from Cllr Elliott Thomas.

2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items.

There were none.

3. Open Session:

- a. To receive a report from the Ward Councillor: Ward Member Durkin presented the main points from his July Ward Report. The full report can be found on the MMPC website. He added that the Hereford Council drainage expert had recently visited Rushall and he will arrange for an investigation of the water flow from the Ridge; the drain in Rushall will be excavated and rodded. The Chair added that was unable to access the Parish Summit with no online code provided. Ward Member Durkin will report this.

18.05 a member of the public arrived.

- b. To receive representations from the public:
A MofP updated members on developments at The Rushall Club and the Council Tax bill received on the vacant property. They have made an application on behalf of the Rushall Trust for the Hereford Council Hardship Fund and await a response. Additionally, there is no mention of leaving the property to the community in the Trustee's will.

4. Minutes:

- a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on the 6th May 2026. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.
- b. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Extra Meeting held on the 26th May 2026. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. To review the following policies for Much Marcle Parish Council:

- a. Risk Schedule: **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the schedule for the first quarter.

6. Community Shop:

- a. To receive an update from the Community Shop: The Clerk informed members that she had been unable to open the report received and had not received it in an alternative format.

7. Assets:

- a. To consider the three quotes for SIDS (previously circulated). The Chair informed members that research had been completed into the three companies that had quoted and he also contacted Elan City for further information. *Cllr Powell commented some are basic speed information and some collect data, do we need*

11/26-27

the data? The Chair responded that this had been discussed with the Speed Awareness Group and they would be interested in the data. The Elan City offer comes with 2 years data included and can decide after 2 years if still need it. *A member commented that it would be useful to collect data if try for a further speed reduction. Ward Member Durkin informed that there is a grant available through the police.* Our PCSO had informed us of it and we have the form to complete. **It was RESOLVED:** Approval given to progress with Elan City and the Clerk to apply for a grant for the full amount.

A member of the Speedwatch team commented that speeding is worse on the straight from Ross towards Ledbury. The Speedwatch team would like a presence at the Royal Oak Pub but currently unable to stand there. There is an officer from Hereford who is helping them.

- b. To receive an update on the painting of the goal posts: Cllr Thomas has informed that he will still paint them during the summer holidays.
- c. To receive an update on the repair of the tree seat: Cllr Weston is working on them, the metalwork needs bending back.

8. Finance

- a. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Budget versus Actuals report to June 2026.
- b. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Balances for May and June 2026 with total funds of £34209.69. Cllr Baldwin as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the documents.
A member asked which fences the parish council are hoping to repair in the Autumn? Roadside. **Action:** Clerk to inform the Headteacher. The Chair added that they have looked at the other side and it is in poor condition but not got the funds to replace/repair that as yet.
- c. Members NOTED the insurance is due for renewal on the 4th August (yr 2 of LTA) and noted that the cover has been amended to include the 5 picnic benches, goal posts, seat around the tree and 2 x benches in the Bartons at an additional cost of £57.61.
A MofP commented on access at the T junction at Watery Lane. Vehicles have to go around the tree and large vehicles can't get around. There are a number of near misses and the tree seat has been frequently damaged. **Action:** Clerk to inform Ward Member Durkin of these concerns.
- d. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
 - MMMH Hall Hire - May £30.00
 - HALC Internal Audit Fee £275net/£330 gross
 - PATA payroll April-June £40.35
 - Clerk's expenses – mileage Internal Audit £22.00
 - Community First Insurance £307.03 **now £364.64**
- e. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following regular payments made between meetings:
 - Clerk Salary May and June to incl. PAYE As per contract
 - Unity Bank Fee May/June £14.00
- f. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following payment made between meetings:
 - Rob Goddard – Awards For All £85.90 net/£103.08 gross
- g. Members NOTED the income received:
 - VAT refund £2053.23
 - Bank credit Interest £153.26
- h. Members NOTED the virements made between Unity Accounts:
 - Current to Instant Access 22.04.26 £6500
 - Current to Instant Access 13.05.26 £2000
 - Instant Access to Current 26.06.26 £1000

9. Planning

- a. Members NOTED no Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council.
- b. Members NOTED no Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers.
- c. Members NOTED the following planning decisions made by Herefordshire Council:
 - 260743 The Old Post Office Approved with Conditions
 - 261161 Windrush, remove oak. Consent Granted
 - 261002 Bartons Well, oak. Work in conservation area can proceed.
 - 252909 Land at The Croft Paddock self-build dwelling. Approved

12/26-27

10. Much Marcle Memorial Hall

- a. Cllr Baldwin provided a brief report. A new defibrillator still hasn't been purchased. There are no deals currently and they are expensive. As soon as there is a sensible price they will purchase one.

11. Highways/Footpaths:

- a. To receive an update on the Footpath Regeneration project: In his absence the Clerk read the brief report provided. Two more gates installed on the Sheepwash Walk, one to go. Currently working with the farm manager. Started looking at a display board for the circular map walk. Had a report of a broken stile on Awnells farm, needs to be investigated. Cut back all the gates on the Orchard walk ref the Steam Rally this weekend.
- b. To consider any other matters raised by the Footpath Group: The Footpaths Officer had also commented that the PROW assets form recently sent was not clear with the 'assets' not defined. **Action:** Clerk to share with Ward Member Durkin. Delighted to complete it but need to be clearer with what to do.
- c. Cllr Powell reported for the Highways Working Group:
Junction as addressed in item 8c. The new app for registering potholes is very complicated, there are drop down lists everywhere and it is very difficult, he recently gave up trying to register one. FixmyStreet is still being used by Hereford Council. The pot holes through the village have been filled. *A member asked when are we likely to see the village resurfaced?* Not in the short term as not on the list of roads to be actioned. Ward Member Durkin added that they are looking at the worse roads for example at Woolhope. *A member added that the Marcle straight is collapsing on village side.* **Action:** Clerk to email Ward Member Durkin. Neil James continues to be our Locality Steward and has sent the Clerk his new email address. *A member asked if can contact him directly?* Yes.

12. Correspondence:

- FODDC have withdrawn their draft Local Plan (Reg 18) which included 'Glynchbrook.'
- HALC 10 things to know in June.

13. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the Clerks request for holiday from Monday 24th August to Friday 4th September and Monday 18th January 2027 to Friday 22nd January 2027.

14. **To consider items for the next meeting – no discussion:** SIDS, Bartons hedge.

15. **Members NOTED the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 9th September 7.30pm in Much Marcle Memorial Hall.**

Signed.....*M Barber-Starkey*..... Date:....9th September, 2026.....

Chair

Meeting closed at 18.41