



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

7:00 pm, Tuesday, 16th September 2025

Church of St Mary, Pillerton Hersey, CV35 0QH

Present:

Cllr Hewson
Cllr Hitchman
Cllr Newcombe
Cllr Thomas

In attendance:

Laura Callow, Clerk and RFO
0 Members of Public

The meeting started at 19:10

1. Apologies

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Curtis and Cllr Littlewood

2. Co-Option

Chair introduced the new councillor and declaration of acceptance of office was signed by both new councillor and clerk.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made by Councillors.

4. Dispensations

None

5. Public Forum

Members of the Public used this time to express their concerns and opinions on items of the agenda and any other community matters.

6. Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes of the previous meetings:

- a. Ordinary Parish meeting of the Parish Council 16th September 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 16th September 2025

7. Village Green

There were no updates on the status of the village green.

8. Planning Matters

- i. 25/02740/TREE - T1 apple – Fell -T2 purple beech - prune lower branches to reduce shading for other trees/hedging. Reduce height by approx. 5m At : Staddle Stones, Watery Lane, Pillerton Hersey, Warwick CV35 0QP – Council **RESOLVED** to Object this application with the following planning reasons: 1. There is no arborist report confirming that the apple tree is dangerous or that felling the tree is the best course of action. 2. There is no indication that the applicant would replace the felled apple tree with another pollinator friendly tree, which would contribute to maintaining biodiversity in the conservation area. 3. Apple trees have high pollinator value for insects and established trees support a wide ecosystem, including being a source of food,



habitat and shelter for insects, birds and mammals. Mature trees with deadwood offer habitats for hole nesting birds and wood boring insects. 4. Beech trees provide excellent, dense shelter and nesting habitats for garden birds. Like the apple tree, the bark provides a home for a variety of fungi, mosses and lichens. Reducing the canopy would be detrimental to garden birds.

To note the following planning application outcomes:

- i. **25/01986/FUL** - Extension to the house, a new swimming pool and replacement of the existing stables and storage building. **PERMISSION has been GRANTED.**
- ii. **25/01987/LBC** - Extension to the house, a new swimming pool and replacement of the existing stables and storage building. **PERMISSION has been GRANTED.**
- iii. **25/02051/FUL** - Installation of 19 solar panels on the garage roof - seven panels to be installed on the north east facing side of the garage roof and 12 panels on the south west facing side of the garage roof. **PERMISSION has been GRANTED.**

9. County, District and Parish Liaison

County Council update

WCC David Curtis report is attached under **Appendix A**

District Council update

Cllr Littlewoods report is attached under **Appendix B**

10. Finance

- a) To review finance report
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the finance report (Proposed: Cllr Hewson, seconded: Cllr Hitchman, all in favour).
- b) To receive bank reconciliation report
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the bank reconciliation report (Proposed: Cllr Hewson, seconded: Cllr Hitchman, all in favour). **Appendix C**
- c) To approve accounts for payment
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the accounts for payment (Proposed: Cllr Hewson, seconded: Cllr Hitchman all in favour).
To approve the budget for financial year 2026/27
It was **RESOLVED** to set a budget of £6,950 for the next financial year 2026/27

11. Chairs report and items for future Agenda

Cllr Hewson spoke about some information she received at a recent meeting.

At the meeting they presented results from the survey they sent out to PC and TC about local reorganization and devolution. Considering options for local devolution, when councils want to take on responsibilities aligned to their capacity, appetite and local priorities. Potential list of services included play areas, sports grounds, parks and open spaces, allotments, memorials, neighbourhood watch, community transport, community grants for example. Questions around how devolution would be financed, ie at PC or TC level and, if that was the case, would the unitary authority reduce their budget so residents are penalized twice financially. How would quality of services be maintained across parishes? Who provides training? Have since voted for the 2 unitary authority proposal – North & South Warwickshire (Warwick & Stratford)

At the WALC AGM it was voted to increase subs by 5%

Public rights of way - Landowner asked us to remind people to use designated rights on way only when on private land.

Grit bins - Both village bins have been checked and are full of road salt.

Items for future agenda are biodiversity, precept.

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12. Clerks Update

No updates

13. Date of next meeting

- a. To note the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, 20th January 2026 at Church of St Mary, Pillerton Hersey, CV35 0QH.

14. Exclusion of Public & Press

Confidential matters, including those identified during the meeting, to be discussed here following a resolution to exclude the public under Sec 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Meeting closed 20.05pm

Signed.....

Appendix A

Warwickshire County Council Report
Councillor David Curtis

Highways delegated budget

I still have some funding available. Some problems such as replacing white lines are relatively inexpensive and can make a considerable difference to road safety.

Councillor Grant Fund

The second round of this has now closed but I will ensure all parishes are notified well in advance of the 2 rounds next year. This year the Round 1 deadline for applications was Sunday 20 July 2025 so I expect a similar date for 2026. I'd like to see more applications from small, local organisations that have the support of their Parish Councils so please note this date

Ettington / Fosse Way Crossroads

Vegetation obscuring traffic activated signs. I was assured this would be dealt with nearly 2 months ago and have chased again this morning

The petition launched by James Keitley has over 1100 signatories and will be heard in the 16 December Full Council. Mr Keitley will be able to speak to the petition for 3 minutes, I will speak in support and I expect a number of my colleagues will do so.

The petition also has the support of Manuela Perteghella MP and Cllr Harvey, there is a photo shoot at the crossroads on 21 Nov at 1100 with Manuela and Cllr Harvey so please join us if you can.

I have thanked County Highways for the mitigation works planned i.e. improved signage, rumble strips on the Fosse Way etc, but have suggested that this doesn't solve the fundamental problem which is the road layout. Unfortunately costs are a consideration, a roundabout would cost in the region of £2.5m

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and the annual Road Safety Improvement budget is less than £150,000. I am pressing for this to be more realistic in next year's budget.

Council Tax

It seems unlikely ReformUK will adhere to their promise of reducing Council Tax. Even only raising CT by 4.5% instead of 5% would leave County £500,000 poorer p.a. £2.5m over the 5 year MTF5. Government has made it clear that it expects all LA's to max potential income and would not make up any shortfall.

Home to School Transport

The Administration is suggesting that to reduce Home to School transport costs children should walk up to 5 miles to school and back, notwithstanding the lack of street lighting and footpaths in many rural areas.

County Council has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to its Home to School Transport Policy. The consultation opened on Tuesday 4 November 2025 and will close Sunday 4 January 2026.

Proposed changes include

- Updating the policy to align with latest statutory guidance – to reflect recent changes in 2024 from the Department for Education to ensure compliance and best practice.
- Amend non-statutory duties – to ensure that non-statutory transport support is clarified and made more consistent across the county.
- Introduce a countywide approach for consistency – by streamlining the assessment process, ensuring our assessment methods align with other processes and services within Warwickshire County Council.
- Update walking route assessments – to follow national safety standards and be consistent with our approach to walking routes.

You can read the full announcement here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7156/have-your-say-warwickshire-county-council-launches-consultation-on-home-to-school-transport-policy-changes->

How take part

As part of the consultation, a series of information sessions are being held across the county, both in person and online. We have a virtual session on 11th December at 10am (invitations will be sent out shortly) and we will be attending Full Council on 16th of December at Shire Hall, where people can ask us questions and learn more about the consultation.

To view the consultation documents, book a session, or share your views, please visit:

<https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

For more information on current home to school transport arrangements visit

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schooltransport>

Local Government Reorganisation

72% of consultees who responded to the consultation on a single or N/S split for the new Unitary Authorities expressed a preference for a 2 unitary solution. 5 out of 7 County MPs support a split Unitary. The Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority, SDC, WDC, North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth Boroughs all support a N/S split.

The Deloitte and PeopleToo reports commissioned by WDC and SDC make a compelling case for a N/S split which would be better able to meet the very different needs and demography of the north and south



of the county. A split unitary would also give more options when looking at the next stages of devolution i.e. the Strategic Authorities

However the ReformUK Administration has chosen to ignore these views and evidence and will press for a single Unitary Authority.

Appendix B

DC Cllr Littlewood

District Councillor Report June 2025

Planning

As I reported last month, following the Borden Hill Appeal determination, the current situation is that the District Council is now deemed to have only a 2.74 Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS). The consequence of the decision is that the Core Strategy is now considered “out of Date” because it relied on the assumption that there was a 5YHLS and policies were made with this in mind; that is clearly no longer the case. This means that valid planning documents made a er the date of the introduction of the Core Strategy will carry weight in the ‘Tilted Planning Balance’. (see NPPF paragraph 11)

The standing of current Neighbourhood Plans remains if “made” NDP’s are no older than five years from any application. Planning arguments now must be related to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024 as amended February 2025.

Following the decision by Central Government to cease the funding of NDP’s, I introduced a motion at the last Full Council mee ng on the 13th of October to fund NDP update and renewal. NDP’s need to reflect the NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK .

As I understand it, NDP’s may be up-dated and policies revised in-line with the current NPPF by reverting to Regulation 17 which should mean minimal work. It would be wise to draw any redraft of policies in line with the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) which is currently at Regula on 18 and expected to move to Regula on 19 in the Spring of 2026. Regrettably this represents a slippage of some months.

The emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) objectives reflect the current NPPF. Alongside the SWLP is the South Warwickshire Economic Growth Plan. Inappropriate planning applications that would not meet the:

- Economic Objectives,
 - Social Objectives,
 - Environmental Objectives,
- will be resisted.

The implication of this is that housing applications will be more likely to be granted planning permission unless there are significant and demonstrable factors that outweigh the benefits of the development. This will be the situation un l the 5 Year Land Supply is re-established. The ‘bar’ however has been raised and reason to refuse permission must be able to show “Substantial Harm” including in the Greenbelt.

It has been announced that a new definition of “Greybelt” has been introduced to open development within the Greenbelt of poor-quality agricultural land. We do not have any Greenbelt in this Ward and Areas of National Landscape such as the Cotswold are exempt from this classification.



Local Government Reform and Devolution

In December 2024 the Government announced the abolition of two-tier local Government; that is, County, Borough, and District Councils in favour of Unitary Authorities. Please note that Town and Parish Councils are not part of this reform although there may be some consequences. The overall object for Government is that all Local Authorities in England will be formed into Mayoral Strategic Authorities (MSA). MSA's will have devolved powers and funding. It should be noted that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has already been given some devolved powers under the previous government's legislation in 2024.

An MSA, must be comprised of more than one Unitary Authority (UA). A UA combines the responsibilities of both tiers of local government. In Warwickshire's case the County Council and three Borough and two District Councils. Only District Councils have Town and Parish Councils. The options open to Warwickshire are to:

- Create a single Unitary Authority which would require Joining with the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- Create a two Unitary Authority, North Warwickshire combining North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby Borough Councils, and South Warwickshire consisting of both Stratford on Avon District and Warwick District Councils. As two UA's these could come under the umbrella of a Majoral Warwickshire Strategic Authority maintaining the boundaries of what we recognise as 'Warwickshire' today.

All the existing Councils have worked together and commissioned studies from various consultants to determine the most effective solution for residents against the Government criteria. The overall report from Deloitte combined the results of the following other consultants:

- Opinion Research Services - engagement survey,
- Peopletoo – Adult Social Care and Children Services Analysis,
- DCN (District Council Network)- analysis of existing unitary councils: bigger isn't be er,

Additional comments were sort from:

- NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care board,
- WCC fire and Rescue Service, and
- Warwickshire P&CC.

The overall conclusion by Deloitte is shown in the table below.

Criterion	Option 1 Single- UA	Option 2 Two-UA
Establishment of a single tier of local government	2	1
Right size to achieve efficiencies and withstand financial shocks	1	2
Public Service delivery	2	1
Councils Working together and local place identity	2	1
Support devolution arrangements	2	1
Stronger community engagement	2	1
Overall Ranking (low indicate preference)	2 nd Place Score:11	1 st Place Score:11

The net Savings of the two options is:

Net Savings (£'000)	27/28	28/29	29/30
Single UA	-	32,717	56,737
Two UA	-	29,102	54,769

For context the Combined Authorities gross expenditure is ~ £1.6 B. The full report and options for Cabinet can be viewed at: (Public Pack) Agenda Document for The Cabinet, 10/11/2025 10:00.

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Appendix C

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PILLERTON HERSEY PARISH COUNCIL			
Bank Reconciliation report			
Financial year ending 31 March 2026			
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1 APRIL 2025			£ 2,373.00
RECEIPTS			
23/04/2025	Stratford District Council precept	£ 2,700.00	
11/09/2025	Stratford District Council precept	£ 2,700.00	
		£ 5,400.00	£ 5,400.00
PAYMENTS			
07/04/2025	Zirich town & parish council insurance	-£ 277.00	
07/04/2024	Pillerton Priors Village Hall Management Committee	-£ 12.00	
25/04/2025	HMRC	-£ 10.20	
28/04/2025	Laura Callow salary	-£ 217.90	
29/05/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
19/05/2025	WALC	-£ 36.00	
19/05/2025	WALC	-£ 84.00	
23/05/2025	Kenneth Dunn (Internal Audit)	-£ 150.00	
30/05/2025	HMRC	-£ 10.40	
30/05/2025	Laura Callow salary	-£ 217.70	
30/05/2025	Laura Callow (office supplies-Ink cartridge)	-£ 19.00	
30/05/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
03/06/2025	St Marys Church (hall hire)	-£ 96.00	
30/06/2025	Laura Callow (salary)	-£ 217.90	
30/06/2025	HMRC	-£ 10.20	
30/06/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
01/07/2025	Laura Callow (Office Supplies Microsift365)	-£ 84.99	
08/07/2025	WALC (annual subscription)	-£ 130.60	
28/07/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
30/07/2025	Laura Callow salary	-£ 217.70	
30/07/2025	HMRC	-£ 10.40	
29/08/2025	Laura Callow salary	-£ 247.20	
29/08/2025	HMRC	-£ 17.60	
29/08/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
12/09/2025	Easyspace Ltd	-£ 16.56	
17/09/2025	Laura callow (stationary)	-£ 19.00	
18/09/2025	Laura callow (transfer of domain)	-£ 18.00	
29/09/2025	HMRC	-£ 11.80	
29/09/2025	Laura callow salary	-£ 223.64	
29/09/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
07/10/2025	Parish Online (website/email)	-£ 258.00	
28/10/2025	Laura callow salary	-£ 223.84	
28/10/2025	HMRC	-£ 11.60	
28/10/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
		-£ 2,878.98	-£ 2,878.98
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 18/11/2025			£ 4,894.02
BANK STATEMENT 18/11/2025			£ 4,894.02
Signed			
Chair		Date:	
Clerk & RFO		Date:	