



## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

7:00 pm, Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Church of St Mary, Pillerton Hersey, CV35 0QH

### **Present:**

Cllr Hewson

Cllr Hitchman

Cllr Newcombe

### **In attendance:**

Laura Callow, Clerk and RFO

WCC Cllr David Curtis

DC Cllr Malcolm Littlewood

6 Members of Public

The meeting started at 19:00

### 1. Apologies

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Thomas

### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made by Councillors. Chair non-pecuniary declaration to planning application 25/01271/FUL Land Adjoining Coverwell Farm.

### 3. Dispensations

None

### 4. 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.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes of the previous meetings:

- a. Ordinary Parish meeting of the Parish Council 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### 6. Biodiversity

The chair spoke about having a local action plan, all councillors present agreed to investigate getting one set up.

### 7. Village Green

Clerk spoke to the solicitors and should receive an update in the new few days which will be circulated and shared at the next meeting.

### 8. Planning Matters

- i. 26/00372/FUL Broadclose – clerk will submit NO OBJECTION by 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- ii. 25/01271/FUL Land Adjoining Coverwell Farm – Clerk will Submit an OBJECTION with comments by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- iii. 26/00449/FUL Hogwood Farm – moved to delegated response to give councillors extra time to look over the application. Clerk will submit a response by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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iv. 25/01202/VARY Bright Hill – NO OBJECTION will be submitted by the clerk.  
To note the following planning application outcomes:

- i. 26/00031/VARY – Permission GRANTED with conditions.
- ii. 26/00222/TREE Vicarage Farmhouse – Permission 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. Insurance

It was discussed and **RESOLVED** to renew the current insurance with Zurich Town again for the cost of £277 for the year.

## 11. Policies

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to adopt the I.T policy.

## 12. 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).
- d) To approve an Internal Auditor.  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve and appoint Mr Kenneth Dunn for the Internal Audit.

## 13. Chair and councillors report and items for future Agenda

Chair congratulated clerk on achieving CiLCA qualification meaning as of our May meeting the parish council will have the general power of competence.

## 14. Clerks Update

Councillor training- 3 sessions 7<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> June over teams/zoom both Cllr Hitchman and Cllr Newcombe will be booked onto these courses.

## 15. Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to host the annual parish meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm. Councillors will look into getting a speaker for the event.

## 16. Date of next meeting

- a. To note the next Annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6:30pm, Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at Church of St Mary, Pillerton Hersey, CV35 0QH.
- b. To note the dates for the next years meetings.  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 6:30-7:30pm followed by the Annual Parish meeting at 7:30pm  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2026  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2026

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17<sup>th</sup> November 2026  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2027  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2027

## 17. 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 8:45pm

Signed.....

## **Appendix A**

### **Warwickshire County Council Report Councillor David Curtis**

#### **Local Government Reorganisation**

Local Authorities have until March 24 to submit preferences for Foundation Strategic Authorities <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-and-community-empowerment-bill-guidance/english-devolution-and-community-empowerment-bill-guidance>  
In essence this will be the Strategic Authority that will be formed by North/South/Unified Warwickshire with other LA's. The preference among most is for a N/S split Warwickshire with South Warwickshire combine with Gloucs and Worcs. It will be a decision by Sec of State

#### **Have your say on Local Government Reorganisation**

The government has launched a consultation to invite residents, businesses, and key stakeholders, to have their say as part of the consultation on what Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) should look like in Warwickshire.

Find out more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7405/have-your-say-on-local-government-reorganisation-in-warwickshire](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7405/have-your-say-on-local-government-reorganisation-in-warwickshire)

#### **County Budget**

Dues to last minute changes in Central Government funding the Council's finances are

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stronger than anticipated and Council tax will rise by 4.44% after other parties united to block Reform's plans for a 3.89% hike. That'll add about £80 a year to a Band D property's bill. Although the difference between the Reform proposal – 3.89% and the maximum allowable – 4.99%, may seem marginal, over the 5-year MTFS (Medium Term Financial Strategy) this amounts to £26m which must be found by other service cuts or reductions.

## **Councillor Grant Fund**

This has been continued. This first round deadline will likely be in early July. I will prioritise local community projects that have support from the PC. This is the previous link but as yet there is no announcement for 2026-27 <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants>

## **SDC Climate Resilient Stratford-on-Avon**

SDC has launched its Climate Resilient Stratford-on-Avon programme which provides an opportunity for ten organisations to have a personalised Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan produced for them and will receive £10,000 in grant funding to begin to implement the actions identified in the Action Plan. Organisations that can apply are:

- Town and Parish Councils
- Community and charity groups
- Independent businesses

This link provides further information: [Climate Resilient Stratford-on-Avon| Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

## **Potholes**

Due to the continued wet weather Highways is under extreme pressure. Please use this link to <https://services.warwickshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> If you believe the issue is dangerous, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 01926 412515 between 9am - 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am - 4.30pm Friday.

## **Livestock worrying**

A dog doesn't have to make contact with an animal, it includes chasing and racing about. Livestock have been known to have broken their limbs, suffocated, had a cardiac arrest, aborted their unborn, or suffered later when giving birth after being chased by a dog. How can you help?

- Keep your dog on a lead and under close control.
- If you leave your dog outside on its own, on your property, ensure that it is in a secure area and cannot escape.
- Do not go onto private land unless there is a public footpath or you have permission from the landowner.
- Stay on designated footpaths.
- If you're entering an area where there are other animals give them plenty of space.
- Make sure your details are on your dog's collar and it is microchipped, so that you can be reunited quickly if it is lost, plus it is a legal requirement.
- If you have livestock and would like a "Dog on Lead" sign, then please email the team on [RuralCrimeTeam@warwickshire.police.uk](mailto:RuralCrimeTeam@warwickshire.police.uk)



## **Appendix B**

### **DC Cllr Littlewood**

#### **District Councillor Report March 2026**

#### **Five Year Housing Land Supply**

The 5YHLS remains well below the target. How can that be with all the planning applications for outline schemes of 10's, 100's, and 1,000's of new homes? Well, they don't count until there is a confirmed build-out plan that is open to scrutiny. Of course, the build-out rate is controlled by the developer not the Planning Authority. If developers don't see the demand, then they do not start building. It takes roughly six or seven months to bring a new house onto the market from breaking ground. So, they would need to start in March for delivery in August/September. My understanding is that demand is very low for the houses that developers want to build so we could be in a situation where there will be a huge bank of available land, and we will still not have a 5YHLS.

I am also told that the real demand is for one- and two-bedroom houses and starter homes at affordable prices and rents. Unfortunately, SDC is not a Housing Authority and cannot build significant quantities of houses itself. This should change with the establishment of the new Unitary Authority.

#### **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

The SWLP has suffered some delays in its preparation. It is needed to replace the current Local Plan – the Core Strategy which has been determined by an inspector at appeal to be out of date as there is only 2.74 years Housing Land Supply. Not all the Core Strategy policies are deemed to be out of date only specific policies, specifically:

- CS.15 -m Distribution of Development.
- CS.16 – Housing Development.
- CS.21 – Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showman (because the County does not have sufficient sites to meet the calculated need.
- AS.10 – Countryside and Villages.

All the above are very pertinent to this Ward. It should be noted however that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the overarching policy for planning and therefore applications must meet the conditions of the NPPF regardless of the status of the Local Plan.

#### **Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) and Funding**

If a NDP is made and current (up to five years) then in the case where the Local Plan is deemed out-of-date, then the NDP takes precedent assuming that it has been drafted reflecting the NPPF, the parish has land supply to fulfil stated housing need in the NDP and shows site allocations.

NDP's are hard work taking two or three years to be made. Once made, they are legal documents and form part of planning policy. Small parishes can join to build a NDP covering both settlements. This is particularly useful if they are close together and can then protect the countryside between them from unwanted development. An example is the Tysoe Parish NDP which has made the open space between Middle and Lower Tysoe protected and therefore stopping coalescence of the two communities.

SDC has a grant fund of £100k per annum for the next three years available to fund new and out of date NDP's.

#### **Local Government Reform and Devolution**

There are two major policy changes being put through by Central Government: Local Government Reform (LGR) and Devolution.

**Local Government Reform.** The first is Local Government reform which abolishes District and Borough Councils and establishes a Unitary Authority. Two proposals have been jointly submitted by

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Warwickshire County Council and the District and Borough Councils. WCC preferred proposal is to have a single Warwickshire Continuing Authority. Rugby Borough Council preferred option is for a single UA but not continuing authority, and the remaining District and Borough Councils prefer a two UA of North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire. The Government will determine which option is to be established later this year.

There are arguments that 'big is better' and more efficient. Indeed, the single UA option would save around £2.0m per annum, putting this into context, the gross spend of all the councils in Warwickshire is I calculate around £1.5b. This saving calculation is too small for significance in terms of forecasting, so I determine that there will be no financial gain. That means the key arguments must be around delivery of service, and it is clear from the commissioned 'PeopleToo' report that the needs of North Warwickshire are very different from those of South Warwickshire. Moreover, the same report shows that historically that the optimum size for an authority is for a population of between 250,000 and 350,000. The current populations of North and South Warwickshire ( comprising SDC & WDC) sum to 632,000, with the population of South Warwickshire at of 295,082.

**Devolution.** At the same time there is a Whitepaper (Dec. 2024) that requires the whole of England to be formed into Strategic Authorities. The target population for such authorities is around 1.5m although this is not considered to be a hard and fast rule, and there are already examples of the SUA being formed with lower populations. In addition, no single UA can qualify for a Strategic Authority on its own and must join with another UA with the prospect of forming a Mayoral Strategic Authority which will achieve full devolution powers. A Mayoral SA would take responsibility for the role of the Police Commissioner, the Police Authority, a Fire Authority and attract significant additional funding from Central Government. It should be noted that Warwickshire had already achieved significant devolved powers prior to the May 2024 elections.

What does this mean?

A single continuing or reformed UA would have to join with other authorities to qualify as a SUA. The options available to Warwickshire would be joining with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) but this has been clearly ruled out by the sitting Labour Party Mayor of the WMCA and would not be beneficial to Warwickshire residents. The population of the WMCA is 3m in a geography less than the size of that of SDC, roughly 977km<sup>2</sup> with 142k residents.

The alternatives would be to join with Northamptonshire with which, except for Rugby, the County has little in common in terms of main transport communication corridors or industry. Northamptonshire also carries a significant debt. Alternatives would be joining with North Cotswolds, or Hereford and Worcestershire. Both options would achieve the population targets but would leave Shropshire as a 'Devolution Island', and that is not acceptable.

I believe the best option would be for the two North & South Warwickshire Unitary Authorities combining as a SA, or South Warwickshire joining North Cotswolds in a SA.

There is however yet another layer of organisation including Police Authorities, Fire Authorities and National Health Service regions. At the same time as LGR and Devolution is progressing; Central Government is determining how to reduce the current number of Police Authorities significantly. What this means to Warwickshire residents is uncertain.

Residents can have their say by responding to the government consultations.

## **Cost of Living – Iran War effects and vulnerable households fuel costs.**

The huge increases in the price per barrel of oil will have an extraordinary effect on inflation, interest rates, tax increases to businesses, and the cost of living for residents. Please keep out an eye for those vulnerable residents that will find heating their homes and feeding their families more and more difficult. There is help available, so please involve both your County Councillors (copied here) and me, and we will do what we can to assist by action or signposting.

## **Council Tax 2026/27.**

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Warwickshire County Council has approved its budget for 2026/27. The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase of 4.99%. For a Band D property, the overall increase in the Council Tax bill will amount to an additional £1.56 per week.

## Appendix C

<b>PILLERTON HERSEY PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
<b>Bank Reconciliation report</b>			
<b>Financial year ending 31 March 2026</b>			
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1 APRIL 2025			£ 2,373.00
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
23/04/2025	Stratford District Council precept	£ 2,700.00	
11/09/2025	Stratford District Council precept	£ 2,700.00	
		<b>£ 5,400.00</b>	£ 5,400.00
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
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	
28/11/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
01/12/2025	Laura Callow salary	-£ 223.64	
01/12/2025	HMRC	-£ 11.80	
29/12/2025	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
31/12/2025	HMRC	-£ 11.80	
31/12/2025	Laura Callow salary	-£ 223.64	
27/01/2026	HMRC	-£ 223.64	
28/01/2026	Laura Callow salary	-£ 11.80	
30/01/2026	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
27/02/2026	Laura Callow salary	-£ 223.64	
27/02/2026	HMRC	-£ 11.80	
02/03/2026	HSBC	-£ 4.25	
		<b>-£ 3,837.74</b>	<b>-£ 3,837.74</b>