

MINUTES OF HOPE MANSELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On Monday 14 July 2025 at 7 pm at Bailey Lane End Chapel

1. **Present** Councillors Ellen West, Janet Wall, Geoff Phelps, Tim Hardie, Diana Tobin (Chair) and Susan Mountcastle (Clerk)
1 member of the Parish Nigel Mummery

2. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Heath and Councillor Weber

3. **Open forum**

A resident reported there was no notice of meeting on the Dancing Green notice board and that he was unable to locate the agenda on the website despite it being posted on Monday 7 July. Clerk to investigate. The resident also asked why items he raised at the May meeting were not on this agenda and mentioned especially the planning policy. There is a plan to review all policies through the Council.

The resident expressed a different view to that in the policy about site visits and urged the parish council (PC) to look at Herefordshire County Council's (HCC) policy. The Parish Council **AGREED** to review both planning and financial policies before September.

Gritting bins by Tump Cottage – as it is an unadopted road and the PC cannot intervene.
Weight Restriction on Eunice Saunders Way – the resident believes the Forestry Commission should not use it. Clerk will contact Highways

ACTION

Clerk to investigate website for agenda

Clerk to contact Highways about Eunice Saunders Way weight restriction

4. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 May 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

5. **Matters arising** – there were no matters arising.

6. **Standing items**

6.1 Correspondence none received

6.2 **Finance**

The bank balance as at 2 June 2025 is £3830.52

Payments made

Cheque 361 DEFIBRILLATOR	£	100.00
Hope Mansell PCC donation - grass cutting	£	60.00
HMVH donation - meeting room	£	50.00
Clerk salary standing order	£	64.22
HMRC tax on clerk salary standing order	£	16.00
Chq 363 Wayne Reed Drainage	£	400.00
Chq 364 Martyn Thomas defib hosting	£	108.00
Chq 365 Ray Margrett defib hosting	£	18.00

6.2.1 Online banking The clerk gave a verbal update about changing mandates for the bank account and the security of online banking.

Finance Group - it was agreed to form a sub-group of the PC to look at financial issues and make recommendations to the PC - to include Councillors Wall, Tobin and the Clerk

APPROVED

6.3 Roads, footpaths and rights of way

HM14 Councillor Hardie reported that an inspector has been to see if it is feasible to effect a repair. A report has been produced by HCC but the PC has not had sight of that. Councillor Hardie stated it would be expensive to effect a repair due to a stone foundation which has been destroyed in parts, and where waste material could be put, as well as the drainage from the hill. There were residents in attendance who questioned why the TRO process has been stopped, and Councillor Hardie has received conflicting information about whether or not the TRO application is still active. The status of this is, therefore, unknown at the current time. Councillor Tobin said that if the skim off could be transported it could be used for raised beds. Councillor Hardie gave some historical context about how the larger vehicles came to use the lanes more.

Red Markers for Jubilee Walk – a resident enquired if they are illegal but an FPO meeting has confirmed it is not illegal so they will not be removed. We anticipate that as the repair will be expensive, nothing will happen quickly.

HM2 – Councillor Hardie confirmed that it is now open where a fence had been.

Stile on HM9 – Councillor Hardie will apply for a grant to repair or replace with a gate. The landowner has given permission for a replacement stile, but if a gate is to be installed, permission needs to be confirmed. A quotation has been received. Permission for a gate is being sought. A fingerpost needs to be relocated by Parkfields and a costing has been confirmed of £60.

Councillor Tobin said Rob Davies has mowed the footpath from Cherry Tree Cottage to Green Farm. Thanks were expressed to Mr Davies from the PC.

6.4 Local amenities – no items to discuss

6.5 Planning

6.5.1 P25187 Wythways House, Drybrook GL17 9BJ – no objection

7. **Policing**

There have been no more issues about cannisters.

8. **Communication**

Communications received about registration to vote should be put in the WestonNEWS
It was suggested that a notification about a road closure on Dancing Green Road on 14 August should also be put in WestonNEWS

ACTION

Councillor Weber to make arrangements for 2 notifications to be put in WestonNEWS

9. HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils) – add to the agenda for the finance group

ACTION

Finance Group to consider membership of HALC

10. Lengthsman's agreement – a suggestion to investigate if there is a list of Lengthsman and whether a parish council can engage one or more. It was AGREED to obtain comparative quotes for any future jobs. The Lengthsman's insurance should be checked annually and a suggestion the finance group and FPO are responsible for that. Clerk contact Wayne for a copy of his PL insurance

ACTION

Finance Group and RFO to check Lengthsman insurance

Clerk to contact the Lengthsman and ask for a copy of his PL insurance

11. Next steps for HM14 - an item for the next agenda

12. Matters for next meeting's Agenda

Finance and planning policies – circulate electronically and in hard copy to councillors
HM14 further update

Finance sub group report as part of Finance item

Roads Sub group Councillors Hardie and Wall

Eunice Saunders way weight rating

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Clerk remuneration - it was agreed to discuss further in finance committee to look at correct rate of pay for the clerk, the effect of that on the cash flow and forecast in 2026 with the likely requirement of having to increase the precept. Budget planning will begin September 2025 for approval in November 2025.

13. Date and Venue for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8 September 2025 at 7 pm at Hope Mansell Village Hall the meeting closed at 19.54