Little Witley Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Little Witley Parish Council.

Clerk: Carole Hirst –littlewitleyparish@gmail.com

Monday 12th January 2026

Present: Cllr P Cumming (Chair) and Distrct Councillor, Cllr. L Slater. Cllr. Pam Cumming (Parish & District Councillor), Cllr. Bexley, Cllr. R. London
C Hirst: Clerk to the Parish.

1. **To note apologies for absence.** Cllr. P Owen, Cllr. Justin Bowen WCC Councillor
2. **To consider Registers of Interest:**
   a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. **Noted.**
   b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. **None received.**
   c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. **Cllr. R London- M/25/01312/FUL The Stables, Woodbury Farm, Bank Road, Little Witley (Cllr. London did not take part in any discussion regarding this application).**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS – No public in attendance.

3. To Consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) **None Required.**

4. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2025. Cllr. Paul Cumming Proposed and Cllr. Bexley Seconded that the Minutes be approved. All in favour.

5 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda**:** Councillors may use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise future items for future agendas. **None Required.**

6. District and County Councillors' Reports:

Cllr. J Bowen – WCC
Report for Tenbury Division Parish Councils January 2026

Worcestershire County Council Matters

Worcestershire County Council finances

As reported previously, Worcestershire County Council is more than £600 million in debt, with emergency funding (Exceptional Financial Support) being required from the government for this year of £33 million, alongside reserves of £15 million being used to balance the budget. Additionally, the government has now announced its funding formula for local authorities for the next 3 years. Unfortunately, this has resulted in Worcestershire County Council being allocated £7.1 million less per year by the government than anticipated, equating to £21 million over the next 3 years. This has increased the already acute financial pressures on the Council and ensures that 2026 will be even more challenging than previous years.

It is therefore inevitable that Worcestershire County Council will again need to request Exceptional Financial Support from the government in order to balance the budget for 26/27.

Additionally, with no further reserves available to draw on, the Council has applied to the government for permission to increase Council Tax by up to 10%. The government is likely to decide on whether to grant these requests in February, ahead of a full Council meeting on 26th February. Although 10% is the maximum option that is being asked for, it is hoped that through various measures being taken by the Reform administration that any Council Tax increase will be below that. Any increase will only be at the level necessary to balance the budget and prevent a S.114 notice being issued.

With the government also due to make a decision on Local Government Reorganisation, the coming months are perhaps the most important faced by Worcestershire for many years.

Tenbury Division Matters

Flood Defence Funding

The next Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 14th January. I will again be deputising for the Cabinet Member for the Environment and attending as the Worcestershire County Council representative. With funding having been agreed, I'll be asking the RFCC to press for the Environment Agency to act with the urgency needed to progress the Tenbury Property Flood Resilience Scheme. I will also reiterate that the ambition should remain to build a large scale Flood Defence Scheme for Tenbury. Additionally, we need to continue building on the excellent Natural Flood Management work being undertaken in the area.

Blocked drains and gulleys

Before Christmas, good progress was made in our area on having blocked drains and gullies cleared thanks to local residents making efforts to report any that were blocked. I've had confirmation both from Highways and residents themselves that in Tenbury and surrounding villages work has been carried out. However, it is important that we collectively keep the pressure on, so please continue to report any blocked drains directly here:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue/report-drainage-and-flooding-highway

If there is no response, or the response is slow, then please let me know so that I can chase it up by emailing jbowen4@worcestershire.gov.uk

This approach is working, so please keep going!

Traffic

I have been informed that the Highways Department has completed a review of its traffic management policy and has decided to make no changes at this time. I believe that this is the wrong decision and that the policy fails to take into account the needs of our rural community, particularly with the criteria for reducing speed limits failing to take into account the impact on quality of life. I will therefore continue to pursue this in 2026 as it remains one of the main issues in our villages.

District Council Report (Cllr P Cumming, verbal)

Cllr. Paul Cumming reported that he was attending a parish Cluster meeting this week with neighbouring Parish Councils hosted by Holt PC.

7. Planning
    - M/25/01312/FUL The Stables, Woodbury Farm, Bank Road, Little Witley- Proposed conversion of existing garage to for independent dwellinghouse with rear extension, porch and decking to rear- CONSULTATION to 18th December 2025.
    - Appeal Ref: 6000641 Springbank, Well Lane, Little Witley WR6 6LN- The appeal is

allowed and permission in principle is granted for a single dwelling at Springbank, Well Lane, Little Witley WR6 6LN in accordance with the terms of the application, Ref M/25/00976/PIP.

8 Finance

a) Approval of the payment of Accounts up to 12th January 2026 and note receipts received. Cllr. Paul Cumming Proposed and Cllr. Colin Bexley Seconded that all payments be approved. All in favour.

Payment Schedule to 12th January 2026		
IN2OUT	Oct Lengthsman	£ 187.00
C Hirst	Dec Clerk Pay	£ 160.39
HMRC	Dec Tax	£ 106.40
ICO	GDPR	£ 47.00
IN2OUT	Dec Lengthsman	£ 178.50
C Hirst	Clerk Expenses x 3 months	£ 135.27
	TOTAL	**£ 814.56**
RECEIPTS		
Payee	**Description**	**Amount**
WCC	Lengthsman Nov	£ 187.00
	TOTAL	**£ 187.00**

b) Bank Reconciliation at **22nd Dec 2025. Noted.**

c) Budget Monitoring Report to **22nd Dec 2025. Noted.**

d) To consider the Budget and Precept for 2026/27. A budget was prepared by the Clerk and circulated to the Chair and Vice Chair for discussion prior to the meeting. A discussion took place at the meeting. Cllr. Cumming Proposed and Cllr. Bexley Seconded that the budget be approved, a Precept of £5788. 2025/26 Precept was £5513, representing an increase of 5% increase from 2025/26 to 2026/27. All in favour.

e) To note the Parish Precept figure for 2026/27 for band D at £40.07. This has increased from £38.57 in 2025/26 an increase of £1.50 per year

9 To discuss Speeding & Crime including theft. And update to request a review of the speed limit (currently national speed limit) on the section of Well Lane between Well Farm and Ockeridge Lane for appropriateness on a narrow lane with passing places etc. **Deferred.**

10 Discuss Fly-tipping. **Deferred.**

11 Update on Scheme of Delegation
Cllrs Cumming and Bexley were delegated authority to finalise the Scheme of Delegation and make further minor amendments to ensure the document reflects the Council's approach. The specific changes agreed at the last meeting have been made but final review and minor amendments still need to be completed'. **Deferred to May AGM meeting.**

12 Progress on Councillor vacancy. **Deferred.**

13 Parish Litterpick- **Deferred**

14 Correspondence for Information: (Covered on the agenda)

15 Date of next meeting is 11 May 2026 which will be the Annual Parish Meeting immediately followed by the AGM of the Parish Council.

The meeting was declared closed at 19.48 pm

Signed…… Chair of the Parish Council Dated 18th May 2026 (AGM of the Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting)