



Present: Cllr. Field Chair Cllr. Mike Birchall; Cllr. Sarah Field, Cllr. Alan Juckes, Cllr. J. Ballard; Cllr. F Doyle; Cllr. S Oakes.

In Attendance: 2 members of the Public. Cllr. Paul Cumming (MHDC Councillor); Cllr. Pam Cumming, (MHDC Councillor). WCC Cllr. Justin Bowen

Minute Reference									
917	Note Apologies: Cllr. Eberlin; Cllr. Eden; Cllr. S Oakes. Cllr. Tassell. Absent: None								
918	Declarations of Interest: none								
	Democratic Period/ Public Time – None present								
919	Approval of the Minutes. Cllr. Field Proposed and Seconded by Cllr. Ballard that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Abberley Parish Council on the 21 st May 2025 are a true record. All in favour.								
920	Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lengthsman’s Update – no issues to report• Speeding in the Parish - There was an historical administration issue with the wording - What does this mean for Abberley? We have reported this issue to the police. It remains one of the top priorities in our quarterly report.• Pavement on A443 near to the shop. – Cllr Tassell has met with Cllr Justin Bowen County Councillor to pursue the refurbishment of the footpath between Long Meadow and the village shop adjacent to the A443. Cllr Bowen is following up on the matter and this will be reported back in due course. Cllr. Bowen has raised this as a hazard to improve and make good with Cllr. Bowen using his Discretionary Fund for highways.• Request for litterbin outside the Post Office. The Clerk wrote to MHDC Street Amenity Service to request consideration for a new litterbin to be sited outside the post office. An email has now been received to say that MHDC will service the bin but the PC will have to purchase it and install it. The recommended supplier is Glasdon.• Residents should be aware that the heat pump grant of £7,500 and zero VAT on PV panels still applies.								
921	Cllr. Cumming MHDC – No Report received. Cllr. Bowen WCC Report: Report attached as Appendix 1.								
922	Finance <p>a) To approve payments from May 21st to July 16th 2025. Cllr.Field proposed and Cllr. Birchall seconded that the payments be approved. All in favour.</p> <table><tr><td>Payments list 16th July 2025</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>J & A Tree Services</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 600.00</td></tr></table>	Payments list 16th July 2025				J & A Tree Services			£ 600.00
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	Zurich Insurance - Annual Premium		£ 333.00
	IN2OUT Lengthsman May 25		£ 229.50
	Abberley Village Hall May Meeting		£ 17.00
	C Hirst June pay		£ 732.20
	HMRC Tax and NIC employer cont.		£ 257.73
	IN2OUT June lengthsman		£ 225.25
	C Hirst Clerk expenses to 16th July 25		£ 49.50
			<u>£ 2,444.18</u>
	<u>RECEIPTS upto 16th July 2025 not previously reported</u>		
	WWC Lengthsman		£ 222.75
	WWC Lengthsman		£ 225.25
	<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>		<u>£ 448.00</u>
	<p>b) To note the Bank Reconciliation on 1st July 2025. Noted.</p> <p>c) To Note the Budget report on 1st July 2025. Noted.</p> <p>d) To Consider grant from Abberley and District Gardening Club (£140). Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Birchall Seconded that this be approved. All in favour.</p> <p>e) Urgent financial decisions taken since the last Parish Council meeting. A request for a grant to pay for white- lining the village hall car park was received this week. Request for grant is £900. Three quotes received. Last grant awarded January 2023. Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Birchall Seconded that the grant request be deferred to September meeting.</p>		
923	<p>Planning – M/25/00646/LB - Stockingfield Barn, Abberley- Replacement of oil-fired boiler and heating system with Air Source Heat Pump and the installation of underfloor heating throughout the ground floor to replace ground floor radiators (Listed Building Consent).- APPROVED.</p>		
924	<p>Consultation on the re-organisation of local Councils in Worcestershire, Cllrs Eden and Tassell attended a webinar on the re-organisation of Worcestershire Councils. Five Councils are in favour of the County being split in two a North and South Worcestershire. The County Council and Wyre Forest DC are in favour of one unitary authority Worcestershire Council. A public consultation carried out by the 5 districts currently suggests people are in favour of a North and South Worcestershire. Reports will be submitted by all councils to the Government for the final decision. Further updates on this were given by Cllr. Justin Bowen and Cllr. Paul Cumming.</p>		



925	To discuss flooding issues on Suffolk Lane and Clows Top Road – There are a number of local schemes being developed by WCC and local farmers, this includes the Clows top road and Suffolk Lane junction. With regards to the flooding issues further along Suffolk Lane. The Council is still awaiting details including historical photos and evidence from the local residents to pursue the matter further.
926	To discuss dangerous dogs Suffolk Lane- Dogs have been returned by Police back to a property in Suffolk Lane. This is against rules of Platform housing who currently rent out the property. The matter is currently in the hands of Platform Housing and the Police.
927	To discuss NDP to look at putting together a Working Group to take this forward. - Cllr Tassell is picking this up with MHDC. Unfortunately, the funding to support the creation / review of Neighbourhood Plans has been withdrawn. We are seeking to clarify the position to move this forward.
928	Apostles Meadow (Section 106) Update report: Cllr. Eberlin We have now submitted another application under the Nature Networks scheme for a grant of value £5k if successful to cover more selective felling and woodland management, some more whips/ shrubby zone trees for the top field edge and a gate and driveway improvements to help with the mud problem. I have included some money for seeds to provide further clover mix assuming we continue to cut at intervals. John planned to take a hay cut as no ragwort evident and is watering oaks due to heatwave. I think there is still more woodchip to be spread but think I'll have to lead another working party to finish this off.
929	Village Green Trust representative required to attend their meetings. Cllr. Eberlin has agreed to help but is away for their July meeting. All in favour.
929	Public Footpath Closure- footpaths AY-520 and AY-521 and Apostles Oak Road B4204 The PC received a Notice of Closure of the Footpaths listed above as an Emergency Measure due to the installation of an electrical supply. No Person will be allowed to proceed along footpaths AY-520 and AY-521 for the entirety of its length (New Apostle Meadow field). For up to 21 days there is not an alternative route. A map of the footpaths has been updated on to the PC website. APC have been given permission for the hay in the field to be cut and baled.
930	The ongoing concerns about excessive light spillage on the village square causing problems for wildlife and neighbouring houses etc infringing the Dark Skies Policy of the Parish Council Report by Cllr. Eberlin. Cllr Tassell followed up the amendments to the speeds through Abberley with Worcestershire County Council. Due to an historical administrative issue with the wording it needed to be altered. What does this mean for Abberley on the ground ? – There will be no physical changes to where the signage and speeds currently are, the updated wording however provides the Police with better enforcement powers.
931	Various Roads, Abberley - 30/ & 40– Cllr Tassell followed up the amendments to the speeds through Abberley with Worcestershire County Council. Due to an historical



	administrative issue with the wording it needed to be altered. What does this mean for Abberley on the ground? – There will be no physical changes to where the signage and speeds currently are, the updated wording however provides the Police with better enforcement powers.
932	Councillors reports and items for future agendas. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update - Long Meadow- 2000 whips have been planted and 60 trees planted.
933	Extra hours of work undertaken by the clerk for preparation for year/end 2024/5, audit 2024/25, annual general meeting and annual parish meeting 2025. A table of additional hours undertaken by the clerk was submitted to the Finance Working Group and the Parish Council to consider payment for hours extra undertaken. Cllr. Jukes Proposed and Cllr. Field Seconded that the extra hours of 16.5 hours, total payment £316.80 be approved. All in favour.
933	Date of Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be 17th September 2025 at Abberley Village Hall at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 20:23pm

Appendix 1 Cllr. Justin Bowen WCC Report. **Worcestershire County Council Matters**

The first Cabinet Meeting of the new administration was held on 26th June. As the first Cabinet Meeting, the only matter before it was to sign off on the County Council accounts for year ending April 24/25, which was the final year of the previous Council.

The accounts confirm that the overall debt amounts to £604 million, which is due to a combination of insufficient national government funding and spending choices made by the previous County Council administration. This means that Worcestershire will continue to experience significant financial pressures for the foreseeable future.

Work is continuing on developing a Local Government Reorganisation proposal to be presented to national government in November. A seminar is being held later this month for all County Councillors, which will set out in more detail the options being considered. As previously circulated, these are the options of a unitary council (One Worcestershire), or a “two council” option of North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire. Financially, the analysis by the consultants PWC has indicated that the greater benefits come from the One Worcestershire option, although work is continuing on this. In respect of the North / South option, I understand that the Tenbury Division would come under South Worcestershire along with the rest of the Malvern Hills District Council area.

Tenbury Division Matters

There are two main issues affecting Tenbury and the villages in our area.

The first is flooding. The Environment Agency has acknowledged that the settlement defence project for Tenbury will not be going ahead due to lack of funding. This is obviously disappointing, although not unexpected. It does give however give clarity.

My new Council Cabinet colleague, Ian Cresswell, is the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment and Infrastructure and also the divisional councillor for Stourport Mitton, so knows



Tenbury Division well. I am therefore working alongside him, the Environment Agency, and experts in the field to explore other options that might be available to provide a package of flood prevention, protection and resilience, including drainage, attenuation and diversion. The Environment Agency's Individual Flood Resilience Scheme for flood affected properties in Tenbury is also on-going.

The other significant issue in the area, particularly for the villages, is speeding traffic. As you'll be aware, there are usually criteria that have to be met for roads to get traffic calming measures, and work has previously done to increase Mobile Speed Camera activity, as well some provision of Vehicle Activated Signs. What hasn't necessarily been given the prominence that it should have in the past is the impact of speeding traffic on the quality of life in our villages. I am therefore working with West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Council Highways to change this. Another new Council Cabinet colleague, Karl Perks, is the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport and the divisional councillor for Stourport Areley Kings and Riverside. So, he also knows our area well and understands the issues faced, and I am hopeful of positive support in trying to improve road safety in the division.

Having Cabinet Members with key responsibilities who understand the needs of our area is, I hope, going to benefit the division as a whole. I look forward to reporting in the months to come some of the improvements that this new approach to Tenbury and the villages will bring.

Cllr. Bowen informed the PC that he would be able to give a contribution of £1000 towards the costs of a VAS sign for the A443. The Parish Council will need to make a request to Cllr. Bowen who will consult with WCC Highways on where it is best located on that stretch. Cllr. Bowen stated that his contribution would come from his 2026/27 budget and so not be available until after April 2026.

Appendix 2 Cllr's Paul Cumming and Cllr. Pam Cumming MHDC

Malvern Hills District Council re Worcestershire re-organisation MHDC are looking for a two-council authority with Wychavon.

Increase in development in Stourport likely to increase traffic across the Stourport Bridge by around 20%. Cllr. Cumming is pushing that as an issue to Malvern Hills District Council.

Cllr. Pam Cumming reported that she is now MHDC Vice Chair. She commented that it is a very interesting role and she has led one Full Council meeting to date.