



Present: Cllr. L Tassell - Chair, Cllr. J. Ballard, Cllr. M. Birchall, Cllr. F Doyle, Cllr. Field and Cllr. S Oakes.
Cllr. G Crompton from Minute 967.
In Attendance: Carole Hirst - The Clerk; 1 member of the Public.

Minute Reference																	
958	<p>Note Apologies:, Cllr. A. Jukes; Cllr. Eberlin; Cllr. Justin Bowen WCC County Councillor (clashing meeting), Absent: Cllr. Paul Cumming (MHDC Councillor); Cllr. Pam Cumming,</p>																
959	<p>a. Register of Interest. 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 c. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None. d. Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation- None received.</p>																
	<p>Democratic Period/ Public Time – No public questions</p>																
960	<p>Approval of the Minutes. The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Abberley Parish Council on the 19th November 2025. Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. M. Birchall Seconded that the Minutes of 19th November 2025 be approved. All in favour.</p>																
961	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lengthsman’s Update – nothing to report. 																
962	<p>Cllr. Bowen WCC Report: Report attached as Appendix 1. Cllr. Cumming MHDC – no report received.</p>																
963	<p>To report the resignation of Cllr. Anthony Eden as Parish Councillor on Monday 29th December 2025. Cllr. Eden has moved outside the parish boundaries and no longer qualifies to be a Parish Councillor. Cllr. Tassell asked that a record of thanks be recorded for Cllr. Eden’s long and dedicated service.</p>																
964	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) To consider Receipts, Payments from 20th November 2025 to 21st January 2026- Cllr. Ballard Proposed and Cllr. Field Seconded that all payments be approved.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4" style="text-align: left;">Payments list 21st January 2026</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">IN2OUT LENGTHSMAN Nov</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">£ 233.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abberley Village Hall - Nov Invoice</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 17.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P J Nott Nov invoice sowing and harrowing in wildflower mix</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 360.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payments list 21st January 2026				IN2OUT LENGTHSMAN Nov			£ 233.75	Abberley Village Hall - Nov Invoice			£ 17.00	P J Nott Nov invoice sowing and harrowing in wildflower mix			£ 360.00
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	P J Nott Oct invoice sowing and harrowing in the spring for clover mix across whole field			£ 480.00
	C Hirst Dec clerk pay			£ 757.67
	HMRC December Tax and Employer NI cont.			£ 268.68
	IN2OUT Lengthsman Dec			£ 221.00
	C Hirst - Clerk expenses to Jan 26			£ 86.08
	C Hirst Jan pay			£ 757.67
	HMRC Clerk Tax & employer ni cont. Jan			£ 268.68
	ICO			£ 47.00
	Farlows Nurseries NN Grant plants			£ 379.02
	Trees by post - NN Plants			£ 46.90
				£ 3,923.45
	<u>RECEIPTS upto 21st Jan 26 not previously reported</u>			
	WCC Lengthsman Nov			£ 233.75
	WCC Lengthsman Dec			£ 221.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS			£ 454.75
	<p>b) To note the Bank Reconciliation on 22nd December 2025. Noted.</p> <p>c) To confirm the impact of the Precept on Council Tax Band D for 2026/27. The Parish Council tax for 2026/27 for Council Tax Band D is £67.76. 2025/26 was £67.15. An increase on previous year of 0.92%. Noted</p>			
965	<p>Planning M/25/01414/HP- The Orchards, The Village, Abberley, WR6 6BN- External insulation to walls, rendering and larch cladding, and addition of a porch -APPROVED</p>			
966	<p>Apostles Meadow (Section 106) Felling completed for phase 1 of our 3 year plan, with tidying up forest floor to allow re growth still to be done. Some wildlife features have been added, sculpting holes for bats and birds and stumps for woodpeckers. Contractor is returning to chip some wood for our ecotone planting zones. Wildlife officer advises that we can sell some wood as there is plenty. WWT officer has visited the site to review. Selling potential firewood to be discussed next time. Logistics tricky due to hill and slippiness of site. Contractor starting on laying aggregate on access path with gate/]fence to follow. All monies to be invoiced and paid by end of February to allow WCC time to process.</p>			



	<p>Community day on Sat 24th with good turn out of around ten people- thank you to all who came to help- 140 trees planted on a cold day! I have retained some for the school if they want to do some. These trees/shrubs will form an Ecotone zone to provide a shrubby habitat for wildlife between the wood and field.</p> <p>Residents can request through Cathie Eberlin to join the Apostle's Meadow Volunteers Group on Whatsapp.</p>
967	<p>To consider co-option of Godfrey Crompton to Abberley Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr. Tassell Proposed and Cllr. Birchall Seconded that Godfrey Crompton be co-opted onto Abberley Parish Council. All in favour.</p>
968	<p>Update on Climate Workshop attended by Cllr. Eberlin.</p> <p>The WCC have issued guidance to parish councils which we can review at future meeting.</p>
969	<p>Parking concerns at Apostles Oak and next to Abberley Primary School</p> <p>Email from MHDC regarding parking enforcement: Questions asked by MHDC: what engagement has there been with the school?</p> <p>MHDC are happy for a civil enforcement officer to come out and undertake a patrol with West Mercia Police to try and educate parents (They state - if we can issue a PCN then we will, but parents often move when they see an officer).</p> <p>Date for a patrol to be arranged.</p>
970	<p>Councillors reports and items for future agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To respond to hedgerow issue Churchfield Terrace.• Pedestrian Access Stockton Road and Clows Top Road• Police drop-in surgeries to be organised• Information shared on Neighbourhood Watch. Tenbury Community officers suggest sharing their details to encourage reporting of suspicious activities.
971	<p>Date of Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be 18th March 2026 at Abberley Village Hall at 7.30pm</p>

The Meeting closed at 20.14 pm

Chairman.....

Date 18th March 2026 Page 3 of 5

Parish Website. <http://www.abberleyparish.org.uk>

Parish Clerk. Parish Office, 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL
email clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk



Appendix 1 Cllr. Justin Bowen WCC Report.
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 gulleys 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.