



Present: Cllr. Sarah Field - Chair, Cllr. J. Ballard, Cllr. M. Birchall, Cllr. F Doyle. Cllr. G Crompton, Cllr. Eberlin;
In Attendance: Carole Hirst - The Clerk;

Minute Reference																					
972	<p>Note Apologies:, Cllr. S Oakes, Cllr. Libby Tassell, Cllr. A. Jukes, Cllr. Justin Bowen WCC County Councillor; Absent: Cllr. Paul Cumming (MHDC Councillor); Cllr. Pam Cumming, (MHDC Councillor);</p>																				
973	<p>a. Register of Interest. Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. NOTED</p> <p>b. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None</p> <p>c. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr. Crompton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 977 (d) as his wife is a member of the WI</p> <p>d. Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation- None received.</p>																				
	<p>Democratic Period/ Public Time – No public questions</p>																				
974	<p>Approval of the Minutes.</p> <p>The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Abberley Parish Council on the 21st January 2026. Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. M. Birchall Seconded that the Minutes of 21st January 2026 be approved. All in favour.</p>																				
975	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lengthsman’s Update – To note that the cut off for WCC Lengthsman for work in 2025/26 for invoices to be input to the WCC portal is 12th March If not processed on time WCC will refund us out of the 2026/27 budget meaning we have less money to spend next financial year. The Lengthsman submitted everything on time. 																				
976	<p>Cllr. Bowen WCC Report: Report attached as Appendix 1. Cllr. Cumming MHDC – no report received.</p>																				
977	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) To consider Receipts, Payments from 22nd January to 18th March 2026- Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Birchall Seconded that all payments be approved.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4" style="text-align: left;">Payments list 18th March 2026</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Talbot Transport Ltd</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">£ 648.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BWP Creative Ltd - domain name</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 28.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IN2OUT Lengthsman Jan</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 238.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abberley Village Hall - Jan hire</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 17.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payments list 18th March 2026				Talbot Transport Ltd			£ 648.00	BWP Creative Ltd - domain name			£ 28.80	IN2OUT Lengthsman Jan			£ 238.00	Abberley Village Hall - Jan hire			£ 17.00
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Wel Medical - Defib battery Manor Arms		£ 245.94
HMRC - Tax and employer NIC		£ 268.68
C Hirst Feb pay		£ 757.67
Phil Nott - Natural Networks Project		£ 2,385.40
Meadowmania seed for NN Grant		£ 354.48
David Smith tree works		£ 2,800.00
IN2OUT Lengthsman Feb		£ 221.00
C Hirst Clerk Expenses x 2 months		£ 74.60
C Hirst March Pay		£ 757.67
HMRC March tax and employer NI		£ 268.66
In2Out - March Lengthsman		£ 187.00
		£ 9,252.90

RECEIPTS upto 18th March 26 not previously reported		
WCC Lengthsman Jan 26		£ 238.00
WCC Lengthsman Feb 26		£ 221.00
NN Grant payment		£ 4,964.03
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 5,423.03

- b) **To note the Bank Reconciliation on 1st March 2026.** Noted.
- c) **To note the Budget update report to 1st March 2026.** Noted
- d) **To co-opt Cllr. Crompton onto the Finance Sub-Group.**
Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Birchall Seconded that Cllr. Crompton be co-opted onto the Finance Working Group. All in favour.
- e) **To consider Cllr. Crompton to be added as a full-signatory for the Parish Council's Bank account.** Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Birchall Seconded that Cllr. Crompton be added as a full signatory to the Parish Council Bank account at Lloyds Bank. All in favour.
- f) **To consider the Abberley Parish Council Investment Strategy with Cascade Cash Management for adoption.** Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Crompton Seconded that the Cascade Investment Strategy be approved.
- g) **To consider the Abberley WI grant request for £100 towards hall hire for a fundraising coffee morning in the village Hall.**
Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Ballard Seconded that the Abberley WI request for a £100 grant towards a community coffee morning to raise funds for the St Richards Hospice charity be approved. All in favour.



	<p>h) Donation of £912.50 received from the “Save the Bell” campaign as they redistribute funds they raised for their cause which were no longer needed by them. Cllr. Libby Taseell asked that it be minuted to thank the Save the Bell Campaign for their kind donation. Cllr. Eberlin discussed how this may be used on the Apostles Meadow for something tangible with suggestions of benches.</p>
978	Planning – The only current planning application is M/26/00158/FUL- removal of agricultural tie on bungalow on Reynolds Lane. Consultation has now ended and decision is pending.
979	Apostles Meadow (Section 106) a verbal report was delivered.
980	To consider offering support to the idea of the scheme for Great Witley Cricket. Cllr. Tassell to draft a response following a discussion. It was decided that the PC would support the idea in principle.
981	Parking concerns at Apostles Oak and next to Abberley Primary School – Report by PC Jones. <p>“Martley and Tenbury Safer Neighbourhood Officer PC Jones attended Abberley Primary School today with a Traffic Enforcement Officer from Malvern District Council.</p> <p>After numerous reports of issues with parking dangerously at drop off and pick up, we went to speak with all year groups around road safety and answered lots of questions that they had.</p> <p>Once we had spoken to the children we went out and observed the issues raised ourselves. Most drivers were understanding and parked safely in the village car park. One driver was issued a ticket for parking on double yellow lines”.</p>
982	To respond to hedgerow issue Churchfield Terrace. <p>The hedge has now been cut. The clerk reported that a list of contacts for contractors was supplied and the hedge was cut back soon after.</p>
983	Police drop-in surgeries to be organised. <p>PCSO Lee Durrant has made contact with The Manor at Abberley with a view to holding a monthly surgery at the Manor. Once a date has been set this will be shared with the Parish Council and publicised on the PC website and Facebook.</p>
984	Information shared on Neighbourhood Watch. <p>Tenbury Community officers suggest sharing their details to encourage reporting of suspicious activities.</p> <p>Invite PC Durrant to the May AGM of the Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting to discuss</p>
985	To consider request for Abberley Parish Council’s support in requesting the government to assist in the making of a fund to provide for the purchase and installation of speed cameras by parish and town councils throughout England to improve the safety of communities and the issuing of government guidance to county councils in support of speed cameras as opposed to speeding vans.



	<p>Response from Cllr. J Bowen WCC</p> <p>“I agree that the issue of speeding is one that blights many of our parishes, which is why I’m still looking to get policy in Worcestershire changed. Currently, speed cameras come under the Police & Crime Commissioners and are subject to national guidelines. I think once the PCC roles are abolished (I believe in 2028) and Local Government Reorganisation takes place, then the whole issue of enforcement is something that needs serious attention, and the views expressed in the email you received can form part of that.</p> <p>The parish council agree to support the concept in principle.”</p> <p>Revisit on the agenda the purchase of VAS equipment in the new financial year.</p>
986	<p>To adopt Abberley Parish Council IT Policy and Abberley Parish Council Publication Scheme Policy</p> <p>Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Eberlin Seconded that the Abberley Parish Council IT Policy and Publications Scheme Policy be approved and adopted. and note Privacy Policy and Accessibility Statement. All in favour</p>
987	<p>Councillors reports and items for future agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding, particularly on Suffolk Lane. • To begin discussions for the new Neighbourhood plan • To remove Cllr. Jack Ballard from the Bank Signatories – Lloyds Bank • Revisit on the agenda the purchase of VAS equipment in the new financial year.
988	<p>Date of Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be 20th May 2026, at 7pm at Abberley Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting immediately followed by the AGM of the Parish Council.</p>

The Meeting closed at 20.40 pm

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

Worcestershire County Council finances

On Thursday 26th February, Worcestershire County Council agreed a Council Tax increase of 8.98%. The Council also confirmed it will receive nearly £60 million of Exceptional Financial Support from the government in 26/27. Without the increase, the Council faced a S.114 notice, the local authority equivalent of bankruptcy.

I have set out the reasons for the financial position previously, and the focus now is ensuring that our county never again has to face such an increase. I sincerely believe that this time next year I will be able to report a significantly improved position.

The next significant financial moment for Worcestershire is when the government announces its decision on Local Government Reorganisation. This is expected in the summer.

Rural Funding



I am delighted to say that at the same Council meeting, a vote was passed to ringfence government grant funding for rural roads, drainage and flood alleviation (it should be noted that this is entirely separate from Council Tax, which is local revenue).

I spoke in favour of this during the debate, citing the collapse of the B4204 at Rochford as being an example of the impact when rural roads fail. Needless to say, I will work towards securing as much of this funding as possible for our area.

Tenbury Division Matters

Flood Warden Scheme

I have held further discussions with the Flood Warden Scheme group and have agreed to allocate funds for protective equipment. The coordinators will draw up a list of items needed ahead of funding being requested. This scheme, which will be operationally independent, has my full support and is a key part of the strategic approach to securing further flood funding for the area. Once operational, alongside the PFR scheme it will demonstrate that we have done all we can locally to protect ourselves from flooding.

Local Funding Awards

In February, the following requests for funding were agreed:

- The Regal Theatre £500
- Tenbury Scout & Guides Group £500
- Teme Valley Wildlife £500

Blocked drains and gulleys

As previously reported, we continue to make good progress in having blocked drains and gulleys cleared. 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!