



Present: (Chair) Cllr. F Doyle, Cllr. G Crompton; Cllr. Eberlin; Cllr. Libby Tassell arrived to the meeting at Minute 1008 (E).

In Attendance: Carole Hirst - The Clerk;

Minute Reference	
1002	To Appoint a Chair for the meeting: Cllr. Eberlin Proposed Cllr. Doyle, Seconded by Cllr. Crompton. All in favour. Cllr. Doyle took over as Chair.
1003	To Note Apologies: , Cllr. M. Birchall ; A. Jukes, Cllr. S. Field, Cllr. J. Ballard, Cllr. Justin Bowen WCC County Councillor; Absent: Cllr. Paul Cumming (MHDC Councillor); Cllr. Pam Cumming, (MHDC Councillor)
1004	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. Cllr. Eberlin declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 1006 – Suffolk Lane Flooding as she lives in the area flooding is taking place. Cllr. Eberlin declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute (1008 g) as a trustee of Abberley Village Green Trust. Cllr. Crompton declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 1008 (f) being related to the Clerk. Cllr. Tassell declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Minute 1008 (i) being a trustee of the Village Hall All Councillors listed left the meeting and did not taken part in any discussions or voting. d. Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation- No requests for dispensation requested. There were none
	Democratic Period/ Public Time – No public questions
1005	Approval of the Minutes. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Abberley Parish Council on the 20th May 2026. Cllr. Doyle Proposed and Cllr. Eberlin Seconded that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 20th May 2026 be approved. All in favour.
1006	Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda. - To appoint Councillor as Lengthsman Co-ordinator –1 Councillor It was decided to defer this item to the September meeting to discuss with all Councillors. - To appoint Councillors as Police and Speeding issues Co-ordinator – 2 Councillors



	Cllr. Crompton agreed to take on the Police and Speeding co-ordinator role. It was thought a second councillor would be required as there are so many speeding issues within the parish and therefore Councillors decided that the 2nd Councillor appointment would be deferred to the September PC meeting. • Suffolk Lane, Clows Top Road and the Common, Flooding update. Advice has been requested from Wade Muggleton regarding better management of the flood water from the field adjacent to Suffolk Lane. As stated below WCC highways have fixed the drainage but the grid design does not cope with the leaves coming off the field, bridging the gaps so the water flows down the road and floods in autumn even in rainfall that is not particularly excessive. The drains needed to be unblocked before the 4-year allocated cycle. This has been sucked out recently. If debris can't be managed better coming off the field, then this will continue, we possibly could have one drain with side entry under kerb which might allow water to flow away with leaves? The road leading to Holy Acre and Jacobs Well is a WCC highways road that has not been maintained by them. It is not a private road. The road has eroded to such an extent since the last highways work that there is now a ledge meaning that homeowners will be forced to do their own repairs to be able to drive in/out of their drive. If we can't deal with the leaves blocking the grids effectively then a drain above the road that allows us to get out would also assist cope with flood conditions. The current design means that Suffolk Lane still floods. • Parking issues (around the school) some parking is pavement parking Stockton Road/The Common too- Raised at Public Question Time May Meeting. The Clerk wrote to Parking Enforcement at MHDC re parking and West Mercia Police re speeding. A reply from West Mercia Police read "<i>speeding wise you have the attendance of a speed camera from our road safety team regularly</i>". • Speeding on the Stockton Road – VAS sign has been installed on the new pole. 2nd VAS sign to be installed once the existing sign is removed from the pole. On completion, Cllr. Bowen will request a new speed survey so that we can get the most up to date data to measure the effect (if any) of the new signage. Once this is actioned we can look at next steps, such as requesting again for the 30mph speed limit to be extended further back along the Stockton Road to give motorists more time to slow down coming into the 30mph zone. In terms of fixed speed camera policy, unfortunately that is down to the Police & Crime Commissioner locally and determined by government guidelines nationally. Additional speeding was reported in June relating to the Clows Top Road by a Parishioner. The parishioner requested that VAS signs also be considered for Clows Top Road B4202 which has speeding bikers. Cllr. Bowen has reported that he will request a speed survey to be undertaken at that end of the village, which would then provide some data to back up additional measures. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with the police and Parking Enforcement at MHDC
--	--



	about this issue and copied in Cllr's Paul & Pam Cumming our District Councillors from MHDC.																																																																				
1007	Cllr. Bowen WCC Report: Report attached as Appendix 1. Cllr. Cumming MHDC – no report received.																																																																				
1008	FINANCE a) To consider Receipts, Payments from 21st May to 15th July 2026 <table><tr><td><u>Payments list 15th July 2026</u></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Abberley and District Hort Society Grant</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 148.00</td></tr><tr><td>In2Out Lengthsman May</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 221.00</td></tr><tr><td>Abberley Village Hall - Meeting for AGM</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 21.25</td></tr><tr><td>ELAN CITY - VAS SIGNS (£1000 COMES FROM WCC GRANT</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 5,615.98</td></tr><tr><td>C Hirst June pay</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 757.67</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC - June tax and employer nic</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 268.68</td></tr><tr><td>BWP Creative Ltd - Website Hosting 2026</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 252.00</td></tr><tr><td>C Hirst - Clerk Expenses to 15th July 2 months</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 109.55</td></tr><tr><td>In2Out Lengthsman June</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 225.25</td></tr><tr><td>IN2OUT Parts for vas post</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 30.93</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td><u>£ 7,650.31</u></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td><u>RECEIPTS upto 15th July 26 not previously reported</u></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>WCC Ward Grant for VAS sign</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 1,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>WCC May Lengthsman</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 221.00</td></tr><tr><td><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></td><td></td><td></td><td><u>£ 1,221.00</u></td></tr></table> Cllr. Doyle Proposed and Cllr. Eberlin Seconded that the Payments to 15th July be approved. All in favour. b) note the Bank Reconciliation on 2nd July 2026. Noted. APPENDIX 2. c) To note the Budget update report to 2nd July 2026. Noted and attached as APPENDIX 3 d) Grant request received from Citizens Advice Bureau- (unspecified amount). Cllr. Crompton Proposed that £100 be granted to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Seconded Cllr. Eberlin. 2 Voted For and one voted against. e) To note a journal transfer £700 to the allocated reserve for grants and speed initiatives fund for 2026/27. Noted.	<u>Payments list 15th July 2026</u>				Abberley and District Hort Society Grant			£ 148.00	In2Out Lengthsman May			£ 221.00	Abberley Village Hall - Meeting for AGM			£ 21.25	ELAN CITY - VAS SIGNS (£1000 COMES FROM WCC GRANT			£ 5,615.98	C Hirst June pay			£ 757.67	HMRC - June tax and employer nic			£ 268.68	BWP Creative Ltd - Website Hosting 2026			£ 252.00	C Hirst - Clerk Expenses to 15th July 2 months			£ 109.55	In2Out Lengthsman June			£ 225.25	IN2OUT Parts for vas post			£ 30.93				<u>£ 7,650.31</u>					<u>RECEIPTS upto 15th July 26 not previously reported</u>				WCC Ward Grant for VAS sign			£ 1,000.00	WCC May Lengthsman			£ 221.00	<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>			<u>£ 1,221.00</u>
<u>Payments list 15th July 2026</u>																																																																					
Abberley and District Hort Society Grant			£ 148.00																																																																		
In2Out Lengthsman May			£ 221.00																																																																		
Abberley Village Hall - Meeting for AGM			£ 21.25																																																																		
ELAN CITY - VAS SIGNS (£1000 COMES FROM WCC GRANT			£ 5,615.98																																																																		
C Hirst June pay			£ 757.67																																																																		
HMRC - June tax and employer nic			£ 268.68																																																																		
BWP Creative Ltd - Website Hosting 2026			£ 252.00																																																																		
C Hirst - Clerk Expenses to 15th July 2 months			£ 109.55																																																																		
In2Out Lengthsman June			£ 225.25																																																																		
IN2OUT Parts for vas post			£ 30.93																																																																		
			<u>£ 7,650.31</u>																																																																		
<u>RECEIPTS upto 15th July 26 not previously reported</u>																																																																					
WCC Ward Grant for VAS sign			£ 1,000.00																																																																		
WCC May Lengthsman			£ 221.00																																																																		
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>			<u>£ 1,221.00</u>																																																																		



	f) To approve Clerk extra hours for 2025/26 year end/audit/annual parish and AGM meeting preparations. A table was prepared and discussed with the Finance Sub-Group on Thursday 25th June and agreed to support this at the July Parish Council meeting. Cllr Doyle Proposed and Cllr. Eberlin Seconded that extra hours totalling £599.25 gross pay be approved relating to 30.25 hours. Employer NIC contribution is always excluded from this payment. All in favour. g) To consider grant request from Abberley Village Green Trust of £400. Cllr. Crompton Proposed and Cllr. Tassell Seconded that the grant of £400 be approved. Cllr. Eberlin abstained as she Declared an Other Declarable Interest as a trustee of the charity. h) To consider grant request for Abberley Parochial Church Council for £600 to help pay for the Abberley Parish News. Cllr. Doyle Proposed and Cllr. Eberlin Seconded that the grant of £600 be approved. All in favour. i) To consider grant request for Abberley Village Hall for £450 towards car parking works. The Village Hall requested a grant for this project in 2025/26 for £900 and was granted £450 towards these costs. The village hall held onto these funds whilst they attempt to make a further grant request of £450 in 2026/27. Cllr. Eberlin Proposed that as a previous decision had been made in 2025/26 to only grant 50% towards this project cost that no further grant funding be agreed for this project. Cllr. Doyle Seconded. Cllr. Tassell abstained having declared an Other Disclosable Interest as a trustee of the Management Committee. All other councillors present voted in favour of the Proposal.
1009	Planning – M/26/00527/HP - Cherry Ash, Bank Lane, Abberley- Single storey extension to rear, installation of solar panels and alterations to facing materials and fenestration- APPROVED
1010	Apostles Meadow (Section 106) funding pre meeting with finance group yet to be delivered.
1011	Apostles Meadow Working Group – (Report from Cllr. Eberlin) Update on Apostle's Meadow for July 2026 The meadow has been cut earlier than planned so we will re-sow yellow rattle in the autumn and wildflower seeds again in the spring to start to establish a wildflower meadow. We hope that some of the seeds will be in the soil – the meadow cut will have reduced the spread of thistles though. There was very little ragwort to be seen. The aim is to increase the biodiversity in the meadow and provide paths for people to enjoy the space. We will be reviewing the finances for the maintenance of the meadow at the Finance Committee as we have a commitment to ensure that we spend the Section 106 funding in the designated time. In addition to funding the meadow management and woodland coppicing work, this could include other improvements such as a children's play-space, provided we can improve drainage and have enough funds. You can let us know what you think of this idea with any suggestions via the clerk or directly to email below. We will seek proposals to include some play features that will fit into the natural landscape like balancing logs, low climbing wall etc.



	We will include some picnic benches and/or benches for enjoying the space and also include some signage. In particular, asking that dog owners ensure all waste is removed to allow full access to all children wanting to play in the meadow. We have received a kind donation from a parishioner for a lovely cherry tree which has been planted closer to The Common end of the meadow for all to enjoy. Thank you! If anyone wants to volunteer or just know what's happening please ask to join the Volunteers' group on Whatsapp. We still need help with a few thistles and spreading the woodchip for mulch! We plan to catch up on tidying the hedgerows using contractors to speed up the maintenance. Thanks to everyone – it's great to see the paths and space used so widely.
1012	Neighbourhood Development Plan – Cllr. Birchall As previously reported, we have completed an "expression of interest" form for a grant from MHDC to assist with the funding of the NDP revision. MHDC have advised we need a formal quote for the consultant and other costs to be incurred. Thus far we have identified 2 consultants who could assist, to include David Nicholson who assisted us with the previous NDP. A meeting has been proposed with him in early August following which he will provide a quote. A quote has been provided by the other party. Councillor Doyle plus myself (Cllr Birchall) form the Steering committee, and we are being assisted (at least for the start-up of the process) by Catherine Knight. We would welcome input from our fellow Councillors.
1011	Parking concerns Apostles Oak and next to Abberley Primary School – Response from Parking enforcement MHDC "I can confirm that due to staffing levels, the Council is unable to undertake further patrols at the moment. Additionally, with the summer holidays around the corner, any patrol is unlikely to have any medium to long term benefit. I can look at a potential patrol during the first term of the new school year. However, to manage expectation, I will be unable to schedule regular patrols due to the number of schools who have similar issues, and the other on and off-street parking locations that the three officers have to patrol as priority. Ultimately, this is a societal issue with parents wanting to park as close to the school as possible, regardless of the safety issues that they cause. Schools, through their governors and the parent teacher associations are best placed to tackle the root cause, through messages such as "your careless and inconsiderate parking is putting our children's lives at risk". Parents who call out other parents for their dangerous parking, or children who challenge their parents for putting their friends at risk has a far greater long-term impact. I have attached a leaflet that the school can use to help educate parents on where they should not be park.



	Abbie is correct that as a general rule, parking violations are the Council's responsibly. However, if vehicles are parked in a dangerous or obstructive manner, i.e. obstructing visibility at a junction, then the police do have powers to issue Traffic Offence Reports that can includes fines and penalty points. In direct response to your question. Neither the Council or the police can 'tackle this' issue and provide any form of long-term remedy as neither organisation has the capacity to provide ongoing regular patrols. As I said above, the only people who can resolve the issue is the drivers themselves. Unfortunately, until drivers realise the danger they are causing and show a little more consideration, this national issue is not going to go away."
1012	Councillors reports and items for future agendas. Lisa Walker – Containers appeared on Hill Farm – Planning Enforcement issue to refer to Cllr. Field as Chair of Planning Sub-Group
1013	Date of Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on 16th September 2026, at 7.30pm at Abberley Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 19:33 pm

Appendix 1 Cllr. Justin Bowen WCC Report.

Local Government Reorganisation

The government is expected to make a decision on Worcestershire's Local Government Reorganisation on 16th July. However, this may be affected by a legal challenge from Norfolk County Council and Essex County Council, which are seeking Judicial Reviews of the government's decisions on their reorganisations. The Judicial Reviews centre on an assertion that the government's LGR decisions for were based not on the criteria set out originally, but on political calculations. If the legal challenge succeeds it may impact government decisions on LGR for Worcestershire.

Worcestershire County Council Library Strategy

On 2nd July, the Council Cabinet considered its Library Strategy for 2026-2028. The strategy builds on the previous administration's plan to protect libraries, and outlines an intention to develop the use of libraries after Local Government Reorganisation in 2028. At the meeting, I made a case that Tenbury Wells Library could be developed before then as a pilot scheme for the county. I made the case that providing a range of County Council services at the library would expand its role as a community hub, and could include being able to report potholes, overhanging trees etc, seeking well-being advice and support or accessing other Council services. The Leader of the Council welcomed the suggestion and has asked that I meet with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Communities to explore taking it forward.

Tenbury Division Matters

Flood Defences & PFR



I have spoken to the new Cabinet Member for Environment & Communities who has assured me he will be attending the next Regional Flood & Coastal Committee meeting, where he will be able to make Tenbury's case. I have asked for a meeting with him to set out in full the situation regarding Tenbury's flood protection.

Teme Bridge Cleaning

I have been in conversation with Burford Parish Council and Worcestershire County Council regarding having Teme Bridge cleaned before the summer holidays. The issue is being progressed on all sides and we are hoping to reach agreement for it to be done in the week commencing 13th July. Cleaning will take place overnight as it will require a road closure.

Parking in Tenbury Wells

Worcestershire County Council has now opened the extension to waiting times on Teme Street and Market Street to public consultation. Tenbury Traders group is in agreement with the proposal and I continue to work to achieving this ahead of the summer holidays.

I have still had no response from the Malvern Hills District Council leadership regarding free parking in Teme Street car park. The situation is likely to be exacerbated by the forthcoming loss of some free parking capacity on the swimming pool car park once work begins there. It would be helpful if Tenbury Town Council would support my proposal, which is also requested by the Tenbury Traders group. Tenbury District Councillor Duane Hubbard is also fully supportive of the measure and is exploring options with MHDC officers.

Divisional Community Funding

So far this financial year, funding has been allocated for a Vehicle Activated Sign in Abberley, a new wheelchair for Tenbury Transport Trust, the Regal Theatre, Great Witley Parish Church, Severn Rivers Trust and The Shelsleys Village Hall. If there are community projects or organisations that would benefit from funding please email me at jbowen4@worcestershire.gov.uk.



Appendix 2 Bank Reconciliation 2nd July 2026

Date

02/07/2026

RECONCILIATION

TRANSACTIONS

Balance brought forward

£

86,993.64

Add total receipts to date

£15,195.34

£102,188.98

Less total payments to date

£11,489.00

Balance available

£90,699.98

BANK

Total of bank balance

02-Jul-26

£76,471.38

Community Account (current)

CUMMUNII Y

INSTANT

ACCESS

ACCOUNT

(Deposit

£14,228.60

Account)

United Trust Bank - 3 months fixed 22/6/26

£0.00

Closing balance

£

90,699.98

Statement

Difference £0.00

ALLOCATED FUNDS

Events Budget	Left in budget		
Section 106 land purchase includes the 30% NN Spend Out to Dec £1801.26 is 30% match funding NEW NN	£ 12,862.02		30% of natural network expenditure from this budget as match funding
Parishioner Donation towards Apostles Field	£ 100.00		
King's Coronation Fund £7138	£ 1,232.18		
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 188.00		
GRANT FUNDING for General £137	£8,271.62		
NEW Natural Network Fund SPEND £4984.03	£0.00	£4,984.03	GRANT TO COME IN FROM NN AND GO BACK INTO GENERAL RESERVE
Community Infrastructure Levy x 3 schemes	£47,269.89		
Total Allocated	£ 87,704.39		
TOTAL ALLOCATED FUNDS		(A)	£ 67,704.39
UNALLOCATED FUNDS		(B)	£22,995.59
TOTAL FUNDS AT THE BANK		(A + B)	£ 90,699.98



Abberley Parish Council
MINUTES
Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wed. 15th July 2026 6.30pm

Appendix 3 Budget Update Report 2nd July 2026

2026/27 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT dated 2/7/26						
		Original Budget	BUDGET as revised	RECEIVED	% to date	Explanation of Variances
Carried forward from 2025/26				86,993.64		
INCOME						
Precept		£ 26,886	£ 26,886	13,443.00	50	
Interest (all accounts)		£ 200	£ 200	68.26	34	
HMRC VAT Refund		£ -	£ 788	0.00	0	
Grants and other		£ -	£ 0.01	1,000.00	1000000	
	£12,652.02 carried over from previous financial year to spend					
Section 106		£ -	£ 0.01	0.00	0	
Lengthsmans Scheme		£ 2,900	£ 2,900	442.00	15	Revised Apr 25
CIL RINGFENCED		£ 47,259.69	£ 164.06	164.06	100	see reconciliation for balance CIL
TOTAL INCOME		£ 30,150.06	£ 30,938.08	£ 15,117.32	48.86	
EXPENDITURE, excluding VAT						
		Original Budget	BUDGET as revised	Spend to date	% to date	Explanation of Variances
Staff Costs (Salary)		£ 11,815.00	£ 11,500.00	3,079.05	26.77	Revised with NALC annual award August 25
Office Allowance		£ 192.00	£ 192.00	32.00	16.67	
Office Expenses		£ 700.00	£ 700.00	221.68	31.67	
Insurance	Local Council policy	£ 340.00	£ 340.00	324.12	95.33	
Establishment Charge	Hall hire	£ 160.00	£ 160.00	234.00	146.25	
Grants	Nora Parsons	£ 200.00	£ 200.00			
	PCC Grant	£ 600.00	£ 600.00			
	Village Green Trust	£ 400.00	£ 400.00			
	RBL Wreath	£ 60.00	£ 60.00		0.00	
	TOTAL GRANTS PAID			£ 148.00		
Chair's Budget	BUDGET SET July 2024	£ 300.00	£ -	0.00	0.00	
Subscriptions	NALC/CALC/ICO	£ 550.00	£ -	552.44	100.44	
Lengthsman	no increase for 2026/27	£ 2,900.00	£ -	698.18	24.08	
Training	Councillors/clerk	£ 300.00	£ -	0.00	0.00	
VAT	Outgoing	£ 0.01	£ -	1,130.95	11309500.00	
Audits	Internal	£ 800.00	£ -	178.60	22.33	
Website/L.T.		£ 225.00	£ -	210.00	93.33	
NDP & VAS SIGNS - PROJECTS 2026/27	SOURCED MAINLY FROM GRANTS	£ 13,500.00	£ -	£ 4,679.98	34.67	
Projects		£ 0.01	£ 0.01	0.00	0.00	
Election Costs	Provision	£ 0.01	£ 0.01	0.00	0.00	
	Car Park/speeding/					
Internal Transfers	footpath etc	£ 700.00	£ 700.00	0.00	0.00	
CONTINGENCY		£ 500.00	£ -	0.00	0.00	
						Taken directly from allocated reserves
S106 EXPENDITURE		£ 0.01	£ 0.01			FROM ALLOCATED RESERVES
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£ 34,242.04	£ 14,852.03	£ 11,489.00		
Per Bank Statement						
Business Account	90,699.98					
Allocated Funds	67,704.39					
total unallocated funds 22/12/25	22,995.59					

Chairman.....

Date 16th September 2026

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