

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting &  
Annual Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
at Hope Mansell Village Hall

**Annual Parish Meeting**

Present: Councillor Lori Weber (Chairman), Councillor Tim Hardie, Councillor Janet Wall, Councillor Ellen West, Councillor Amber Margrett, Kate Howle (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Sheila Heath; Councillor Geoff Phelps

In Attendance: There was one member of the public in attendance.

**Chairman's annual report**

See separate pdf on our website.

**Matters raised by residents** – No matters were raised

**Annual Parish Council Meeting**

Present: Councillor Lori Weber (Chairman), Councillor Tim Hardie, Councillor Janet Wall, Councillor Ellen West, Councillor Amber Margrett, Councillor Geoff Phelps, Kate Howle (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Sheila Heath

In Attendance: There was one member of the public in attendance.

1. Present – see above
2. Election of Chair for next 12 months. Councillor Lori Weber offered to continue as Chair and this was unanimously agreed.
3. Election of Vice-Chair. The Chair advised that Councillor Janet Wall had agreed to take on the role of Vice-Chair and this was agreed unanimously.
4. Apologies – see above
5. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation. No changes.
6. Open forum
  - 6.1 A resident requested the council write to HCC to enquire where they are with regard to HM14. The Chair asked Councillor Tim Hardie to respond. Councillor

Hardie advised that he had previously contacted Dan Hurcomb regarding this and HCC cannot do anything until after the court case, which is currently scheduled for August 2026.

7. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Agreed and signed.

8. Matters arising from previous minutes

The Action Log was noted and completed actions were removed.

**Risk Register** – LW & JW still to check final scoring

**Grants** – TH confirmed that the drainage grant for clearing the culvert outside Sutton Barn had been applied for and waiting to find out if this has been approved for full or partial funding or no funding. Following discussion it was agreed that depending on the funding granted by HCC there were some funds in the budget for this and could also apply for the Lengthsman grant.

**Highways** - The Chair reported that she had met with HCC Clerk of Works and drove him from Hopes Ash all the way to the Gloucestershire border to show him the state of the road. Although the Clerk of Works has no decision-making powers, he will survey the road and make recommendations for what is required to repair it.

Councillor Janet Wall reported on the Public Realm Service Operational Briefing she recently attended outlining HCC's change of highways contractor from Balfour Beatty to M Group Highways with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026. New contract with accountability, new IT system with just one form for reporting. JW reported that there will be only be 3 types of categories for reported jobs going forward: Emergency - Contractor to be onsite within 2 hours; Cat 1- Contractor to be on site in 24 hours; Cat 2 - Contractor to be on site within 28 days JW also reported that U and C class roads are being included in these categories.

**Response to R Margrett** – complete

**Contact Dan Hurcomb re HM14** – complete

**Remove 1<sup>st</sup> cut** – clerk to follow up. Councillor West reported that WuP have signs on their verges "Do Not Cut Grass" and suggested that we could do the same.

**Planning Application 260572** – complete

**Merge with WuP sub group** – no further action at present

9. Election of officers – all current councillors happy to remain in position. Agreed unanimously

10. Review policies/propose amendments. None to review or amend. The Chair confirmed that the mandatory policies are almost all in place. The Chair also advised that there were some "nice to have" policies that will be looked at to see which are relevant for the Parish. LW & JW to review before the next meeting.

11. Correspondence received. None received

12. Finance including approval and signing of AGAR forms. The Clerk reported on the 2025/26 financial year:

Opening Balance £2,925.95

Income £3,608

Expenditure £4,599.11

Closing Balance £2,083.24

The Clerk reported that the current balance is £5,057.13  
The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26 forms were duly signed for return no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June. Clerk to action.

13. Roads, footpaths, rights of way. Councillor Tim Hardie reported that there was a tree down across the HM12 footpath. Following discussion it was agreed to contact the landowner whose field the tree is in to enquire if they wish to remove the tree themselves as it belongs to them or if they are happy for us to remove. TH to contact landowner in the first instance.
14. Local amenities. Nothing to report
15. Planning. No new applications received
16. Policing and crime prevention. Councillor Ellen West reported that there had been a police presence recently to monitor drugs activity in BLE. EW also reported that speeding is still an issue along Hawthorns Road, with a particular danger for those pulling out of Eunice Saunders Way. Following discussion, it was agreed that EW would put together suggestions for calming measures.
17. Communication and updates
  - 17.1 LGBCE (Local Government Boundary Commission for England) Consultation. The Chair reported on the recommendation from HCC for ward boundary changes which proposes moving Hope Mansell parish from Penyard ward to Kerne Bridge ward in order to provide for good electoral quality. The consultation seeks parishioners' point of view. Following discussion, it was agreed that link should be shared so residents can have their say. LW to ask Chris Chowney to put this on the website and she will post it on the Hope Mansell Valley FB Grapevine. EW had already added it to the BLE WhatsApp residents' group.
18. Matters to be raised at next meeting
  - BLE – speed deterrent.
  - LGBCE consultation
  - Outcome of 5<sup>th</sup> June road meeting
  - Lengthsman – additional contact
19. Date and location of next meetings
  - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026– BLE
  - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – Hope Mansell
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026 – BLE
  - 11<sup>th</sup> January 2027 – Hope Mansell
  - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2027 – BLE
  - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2027 – Hope Mansell
20. Close meeting – Meeting closed at 7:30pm

**Kate Howle, Parish clerk – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**SIGNED:**

**DATE:**

**Lori Weber, Chair**