

# Little Comberton Parish Council

2026/5

## Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 7.30pm Village Hall

**Parish Councillors Present:** N Jamieson, C Rabbette, L Schmitz, N Smithson, D Smithson, D Smaylen.  
County Cllr Hardman.

**Clerk/RFO:** Nicola Harding

**In attendance:** One parishioner.

### 1. Apologies

Received from District Cllr B. Hardman who was in attendance at another meeting.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

### 3. Parishioner's Comments

Drainage: A parishioner requested clarification of drainage work recently undertaken by the lengthsman, which was confirmed from the latest January work-plan received and reported under item 5a.

Attention was drawn to localised flooding causing a ditch to block up – Cllr Jamieson agreed to request the lengthsman's intervention.

*Action: Cllr Jamieson.*

Street Cleaning: It was requested that contact be made with WDC Client Services to establish the annual schedule of street cleaning services in the village & when the next visit is planned.

*Action: Clerk to request with WDC & confirm to Cllrs.*

Lay-by: It was reminded that the lay-by along Pershore Road is a service lay-by for use by residents of the bungalows only. It was agreed to send a reminder to this effect via the village website.

*Action: Cllr Jamieson.*

*\*The Chairman proposed an amendment to minute item 3, lay-by, for accuracy, as this action had not been carried out and correspondence had been received as an agenda item for discussion at the March meeting of the Parish Council. This was noted and proposed Cllr N. Smithson, seconded Cllr Schmitz, all in favour to approve the minutes as a true record.*

Cobble stones: These have been detected, buried underneath the grass on the corner of the road by Nash's Farm. It was agreed that Cllr Jamieson would raise with the lengthsman for his attention, as part of his next work-plan.

*Action: Cllr Jamieson/lengthsman.*

### 4. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Proposed Cllr Rabbette, seconded Cllr Smaylen, all in favour to approve the minutes as a true record.

### 5. Progress reports from Parish Activities:

a. Lengthsman: Cllr Jamieson has met with the lengthsman who has cleared gully grates and verge grips around the parish, in addition to completing footpath clearance and cleaning of village signs. It was agreed to revisit the phone box refurbishment item in the Spring/Summer, when the weather has improved.

b. Highways: *Road closure* - Details of the forthcoming Pershore Road closure for Severn Trent sewer works on 9 March for 9 days, have been circulated via the village email.

*Street Market* - The local police team have been notified of the clash with this year's Street Market & Velo cycling event on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. It was confirmed that the police cannot guarantee a police presence to ensure road safety, therefore it was proposed to contact the event's organiser to notify participants and request additional marshals. It was also recommended to inform the Police & Crime Commissioner of the Council's concerns, highlighting that proactive action has been taken, but any potential accident will be publicly highlighted that the Council has requested assistance with this issue.

*Action: Clerk. VAS signs:* The original VAS sign has stopped working - the Clerk has requested technical advice from the manufacturers for Cllr's consideration. Notification has been received that the warranty on the additional sign purchased in 2024 expires in May 2026. As the speed signs are intended as a long term commitment to the village to address road safety, it was noted that expenditure on the warranty extension requires careful consideration and budgeting.

*Action: Revisit at the May meeting.*

*Wick Road verges:* The deteriorating condition of the passing bays along Wick Road was noted and revisited. It was agreed to request further action from WCC's Senior Highways Liaison Officer, in addition to a reminder about the outstanding white line reinstatement required outside the village hall.

*Action: Clerk/Monitor.*

c. Footpaths/PRoW: *'Double Hedges' Public Right of Way* - the Footpaths Warden has visited the parish right of way previously reported by a parishioner and liaised with WCC PRoW team. It has been advised that WCC do not require permissions for the

works undertaken, therefore any further concerns should be reported to WDC Enforcement Team.

*Permissive Footpath proposal:* Cllr D. Smithson has shared the Council’s proposals of a permissive footway with the land agent of the owner of the field, north of Porters Cottages, on the right hand side entrance to the village. Speed data has also been obtained from the new VAS sign to demonstrate the need for a safer access into the village for residents in the cottages, who currently have no footway. The request has been put forward for consideration by the land agent’s client. *Action: Clerk to forward a response.*

d. Trees/Verges: Cllr Jamieson and the tree warden will remove branches overhanging in Wick Road once the weather improves. Following a concern from a parishioner regarding a sweet chestnut tree planted in Orchard Drive in 2023, it was agreed that this is not an appropriate size for the location and over time, could dominate the street scene and grow close to National Grid wires. A tree surgeon had confirmed that this would be a suitable replacement to replant in one of the gaps recently created along Wick Road, where trees infested with mistletoe were removed, in addition to a walnut tree donated by a parishioner. A quote was discussed and approved for the removal/replant of the sweet chestnut and it was agreed to replace it with a more suitable, smaller species such as a pear or liquid amber, which had been confirmed by the tree surgeon as a suitable alternative for the location.

*Action: Clerk to liaise with tree surgeon and update parishioner.*

e. Water testing: Cllr Smaylen has liaised with a water testing Cllr in Great Comberton and has arranged a meeting to discuss the use of the newly acquired testing kit.

*Action: Cllr Smaylen.*

f. Data & Digital compliance: A formal quotation had been forwarded to the Council for verification for a government owned email address for the Clerk and Cllrs. This expenditure has been approved at the January 2026 meeting and following verification of the quote, proposed Cllr D Smithson, seconded Cllr Smaylen, all in favour to action with the selected provider.

*Action: Cllr D Smithson/Clerk.*

g. Airband: MP Harriet Baldwin has pursued Airband further for an update to the Council’s request of 18 September 2025.

*Action: Revisit at the March 2026 meeting for any updates.*

h. Village organisations: A meeting is pending regarding the restructuring of the Sports & Social Committee. Parish Cllr & Village Hall representatives have also agreed to meet to discuss terms of reference and good practice.

*Action: Cllrs Jamieson/N Smithson & Rabbette to provide updates at the March 2026 meeting.*

i. Sewers: Cllr Jamieson has liaised with a Severn Trent manager to relay issues recently experienced in the village and agreed to further discuss future preventative maintenance, such as root maintenance and live network monitoring in order to proactively avoid future blockages.

*Action: Cllr Jamieson.*

## **6. District and County Councillor’s reports: County Cllr A. Hardman:**

*Budget:*

Concerns have been raised regarding WCC’s proposal to increase Council Tax by 10% - Government have agreed to a 9% increase. Overall County Council funding has also been reduced by £9.5 million.

*Bredon View Holiday Park:* Wychavon District Council’s Planning Committee approved the application on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Discharge of the conditions attached are currently under review.

*Highways:* WCC’s Senior Highways Engineer has inspected the incomplete white lines outside the village hall, which are scheduled to be reinstated in the Spring.

## **7. Planning**

### **W/25/00444/FUL: Bredon View Holiday Park Estate at, Great Comberton Golf Club, Pershore Road, Great Comberton:**

The change of use of land for the siting of additional holiday lodges (145 Maximum), decking, associated internal access provision, parking, landscaping including amenity areas, drainage and associated works resulting in a reduction of the existing golf course from 18 holes to 9 holes.

This application was reconsidered by Wychavon District Council’s Planning Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> February. A majority of Cllrs voted in favour of approval, subject to a series of conditions to be finalised & approved.

**Morgan Elliot:** No further updates have been received at present.

**W/25/02773/HP:10 Orchard Drive:** Demolition of existing conservatory & erection of a single storey rear extension and associated works.

## **8. Finance**

### **a) Current Balances at 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Treasurer’s Account:	£13,711.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£13,711.87</b>

### **b) Payments to report since the January 2026 meeting:**

Grass-cut (ii) Memorial Garden	£125.00
Grass-cut (ii) Church	£125.00
November 25 VH hire	£13.00
Salary: February 2026	£439.40

Expenses: February 2026	£13.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£715.40</b>

Payments to approve following the meeting: January 26 VH hire	£13.00
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Following circulation of the agenda, the Clerk drew attention to two further payments for consideration:

January 26 Lengthsman invoice	£190.00
Expenses: Printing – Ink share	£21.21

*Proposed Cllr N. Smithson, seconded Cllr Schmitz, all in favour to approve the payments presented.*

Attention was drawn to the potential purchase of a combination lock to the gate at the rear of the water works, to also enable access by Severn Trent. It was agreed that Cllr Jamieson would discuss further with the landowner and Severn Trent.

*Action: Cllr Jamieson.*

**9. Correspondence**

- MP Harriet Baldwin: Confirmation that no response has been received from Airband, therefore another update has been requested.
- WDC: Invitation to take part in the Government’s consultation on local government reorganisation in Worcestershire:

Cllrs noted the two options for reorganisation in Worcestershire which are currently under review:

**Option 1 – One Worcestershire** which would create a single unitary council running all services across the county and is backed by Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council.

**Option 2 – Transforming Worcestershire** which would create a North Worcestershire Council and a South Worcestershire Council to run services in their respective parts of the county, with collaboration between the two when beneficial. This option is backed by Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Redditch Borough, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils.

Councils & residents are encouraged to respond to the Government’s consultation by completing an online survey to give views and show preference for one of the options under consideration.

[Local government reorganisation in Worcestershire - GOV.UK](#)

[Transforming Worcestershire | Local Government Reorganisation Proposal](#)

**10. Councillor’s reports and items for future agenda:** There were no further items to note.

**11. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30 pm**

Cllrs confirmed their availability.

Signed .....

Date.....

**Chairman**