

Little Comberton Parish Council

2026/12

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 8th April 2026, 7.30pm Village Hall

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

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: One parishioner

1. Apologies

Received from County Cllr A. Hardman.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Smaylen declared an other disclosable interest in Item 6, Pool Close as a resident and therefore close connection to the item.

3. Parishioner's Comments

Pershore Road pull-in area: Information had been received from WCC regarding ownership of the pull-in area on Pershore Road. This had been forwarded by the Council and redacted in line with GDPR guidelines, however further information was requested in order to pursue this matter further and gain legal advice. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek advice from Worcs. CALC ahead of sharing any further information.

Action: Clerk.

Street cleansing: A request was made for attendance in the village by the WDC Street Cleansing vehicle. The Clerk confirmed this had been completed in January 2026 & that the Council are not notified in advance annually, as this is due to resource availability and local demand. It was agreed that an additional sweep of Pershore Road & Orchard Drive could prevent future leaf/grass blockages in drains, therefore Cllr Hardman agreed to liaise with the relevant colleague at WDC.

Action: Cllr B. Hardman.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2026

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

5. Progress reports from Parish Activities:

a. Lengthsman: Basal growth from trees along Orchard Drive had been removed, fallen branches collected & drains checked for blockages. Confirmation had been received from WCC regarding the 2026/27 lengthsman agreement, which has been frozen this year in line with the 2025/26 budget. Cllrs had agreed that the existing hours & rate were sufficient in the parish at this time.

b. Highways: Updates were provided from Cllr Jamieson from a site meeting with a WCC Highways representative:

Pull-in on Pershore Road: WCC Highways confirmed there is nothing advantageous in considering parking markings/signage as these would be restrictive. Advice was reiterated that the parking issues at the pull-in are a matter between the local residents and WCC Highways.

Cobbles: Concerns were raised regarding the depth of the cobbles on the roadside by the village hall, which have been displaced due to heavy vehicles driving over them. 'Bull nose kerbs' were recommended as a solution less likely to be dislodged and could form part of a future footway scheme in the vicinity. It was agreed however that the cobbles are an important village feature and this would need to be raised with nearby residents in terms of visual impact. A suggestion was also raised about an alternative solution to set the cobbles more securely.

Action: Cllr Jamieson to liaise further with WCC for advice & nearby residents.

Line marking: The incomplete white lines outside the village hall have now been reinstated, following a road closure in the area when the lines were originally painted.

Wick Road pull-ins: It was agreed that the condition of the pull-ins require greater attention – further compacting and additional hard core is required, to include the gateway to the adjacent field to make the pull in areas safer for vehicles. Works should hopefully be completed by the Summer.

c. Footpaths/PRoW: It was agreed that the recently reinstated PRoW across the field behind Pool Close is well marked and navigable.

Livestock & dogs: Following a reminder circulated in The Link and village email regarding awareness of the dangers presented to livestock by unleashed dogs, Cllr Jamieson agreed to explore costs & signage, ahead of an approach to local landowners for their consideration.

Action: Cllr Jamieson.

Permissive footway: A response had been received from a land agent regarding the Council's proposals for the creation of a potential permissive footway on land adjacent to Pershore Road, in order to create a safer walking access into the main part of the village. The response was shared with the meeting, detailing the agent's hourly rate or fixed fee if preferable, for time in liaising with the Council, negotiating and drafting an agreement and the Council's consideration of a payment to the landowner for use of such a permissive footpath. It was agreed in the first instance to arrange a meeting with the residents at the entrance to the village, to establish if they would use such a footway ahead of committing to costs.

Action: Cllr D. Smithson to draft a letter to residents.

It was also agreed to establish the process followed in a similar scheme in Eckington Parish to gain an appreciation of potential costs involved for future consideration.

Action: Clerk.

d. Trees/Verges: Updates were shared from the tree surgeon who completed the recent removal and replant of the horse chestnut tree in Orchard Drive. The surgeon recommended a liquid amber or small flowering cherry as a suitable replacement for the street scene. It was agreed to request a quote from the surgeon for the purchase of a tree and planting.

Action: Clerk.

The parish tree warden had advised that the offer of a donated walnut tree to fill one of the gaps created along Wick Road would be a suitable species, as although they can reach 30m in height, this is over a considerable number of years and they can be pruned to restrict growth. It was agreed to establish with the parishioner if the tree is still available and for the tree warden to liaise with the resident to action. Cllr Jamieson agreed to offer his assistance.

Action: Clerk/Tree warden/Cllr Jamieson.

e. Water testing: Updates were provided by Cllr Smaylen & Cllr Hardman who had recently undertaken further water testing in the Parish. It was noted that nitrate and phosphate levels had recently dropped at the three testing sites, however electrical conductivity levels remain high compared with the controlled water butt levels. Great Comberton are detecting similar results & further testing will be completed once/twice per month to detect any changes after rainfall. Results will be submitted onto an App to assess the data collected.

Action: Cllr Smaylen.

f. Data & Digital compliance: The Clerk's gov.uk email is now in use as the Council point of contact. Cllrs require further time to set up their individual emails and it was agreed to arrange a training session to set up the accounts and agree Council communications in moving forward. The Clerk reminded the meeting of the new Assertion 10 – Digital & data Compliance which will appear in the 2025/26 AGAR for approval at the May meeting. To warrant a positive response to this assertion, the Council will need to take specific actions which the Clerk agreed to circulate separately for information. It was also reminded that all smaller authorities must have an IT policy – Cllr D. Smithson has drafted this for Cllr's agreement and approval ahead of completion of the AGAR at the May 2026 meeting.

Action: Cllrs to meet & discuss next steps – Cllr Jamieson to circulate dates for agreement.

g. Airband: Airband have not responded to MP Harriet Baldwin, despite two letters sent on the Council's behalf. It was agreed that a reminder be sent to Ms Baldwin requesting further intervention of the Parish's request for removal of the redundant telegraph poles at Endon Hill.

Action: Clerk.

6. Pool Close

Correspondence received by a parishioner was noted and discussed. A background was shared regarding a previous application made in 2006 & subsequently in 2017 by the Parish Council concerning a claimed public rights of way. It was agreed to establish the status of the application and confirm documents in WCC's possession.

Action: Clerk.

7. District and County Councillor's reports

Cllr B. Hardman:

Cllr Hardman has liaised with the planning officer associated with application W/26/00423/FUL: Land At Os 9643 4319 Little Comberton. It is unclear at present whether the officer will be minded to approve or refuse the application, given the recent adoption of the new Local Plan for South Worcestershire, however more direction will be received in due course. If approval is recommended, the application will be taken to full planning committee at WDC. A discussion ensued, as reported under item 8, Planning.

Potential funding for Wi-Fi provision at the village hall was discussed – it was noted that this could be a positive enhancement to the community building for the committee to consider and liaise further with Cllr Hardman.

Action: VHC/Cllr Hardman.

8. Planning

W/26/00423/FUL: Land At Os 9643 4319 Little Comberton Erection of four dwellings (Use Class 3) with associated access arrangements from Pershore Road, landscaping, drainage and associated infrastructure:

Following the recent village meeting to establish views about this application, thanks were extended to Cllr Rabbette for drafting an initial Council response, Cllr Schmitz's support in editing and to villagers for their helpful research provided. It was suggested that these carefully considered points may also formulate part of the Council's final response. It was agreed to complete the draft with outstanding final pieces of information required and the Council confirmed that should this go to planning committee, they would complete the registration to speak application.

Action: Cllrs to complete and agree final edit, ahead of close of consultation on 25 April. Cllr Hardman to provide further updates as received from the planning officer.

9. Finance

a) Current Balances as at 31st March 2026:

Treasurer's Account:	£12,791.62
TOTAL	£12,791.62

b) Payments to report since the March meeting:

Lengthsman: February & March 2026	£323.00
Salary: April 2026	£439.40
Expenses: April 2026	£12.00
S Blunsom: Tree removal & replant	£50.00
BWP Creative Ltd: Council domain name & emails	£350.64
Lloyds Bank: Monthly maintenance charge	£4.25

TOTAL	£1,179.29
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Income received:

WCC Lengthsman Scheme: February & March 2026 £323.00

Payments to approve following the meeting:

LCVHT: Hall hire - March 11 th & 25 th	£26.00
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Proposed Cllr Schmitz, seconded Cllr Smaylen, all in favour to approve the payments presented.

c) Proposal to consider & approve expenditure @ up to £400 excluding VAT for VAS sign repair: A quote was presented to the meeting @ £392.68 excluding VAT for a replacement sign controller – Proposed Cllr N. Smithson, seconded Cllr Rabbette, all in favour to approve, to be financed via the general maintenance reserve. A general query was raised regarding the earmarking of Council reserves – the Clerk agreed to confirm legal guidance advised to Councils.

Action: Clerk to confirm and complete purchase order to Swarco & forward Calc guidance regarding Council reserve figures.

d) Bank reconciliation (iv) & review of 2025/26 budget: The Clerk presented the final quarterly bank reconciliation for the end of financial year at 31 March 2026, details of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. A final review of the 2025/26 budget was also shared and noted.

10. Correspondence

<i>Cotswold National Landscape (CNL)</i>	Survey received from planning officer for the Cotswolds National Landscape Board, on how changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and the Standard Method for assessing housing need may impact the Cotswolds National Landscape. (emailed 20/3/26.)
<i>SWDP</i>	Notification received to advise that the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review was adopted by the three South Worcestershire Councils, comprising Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon, and is now the Local Plan for South Worcestershire. This can be viewed via the webpage South Worcestershire Development Plan Review 2021 – 2041 - South Worcestershire Development Plan or at the council offices of Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon during office hours, or at any of the libraries across South Worcestershire during normal opening hours.
<i>Number 8 Arts Centre, Pershore West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner</i>	Pershore Dementia Awareness Festival raising support and understanding: 12/5/26 10am-3:30 pm. Public consultation regarding Government proposals to merge police forces across England and Wales, which could see the existing structure of 43 police forces reduce to 12. Links to the consultation and further information are available via: Consultation – Public consultation – police force mergers Website – Public consultation - police force mergers West Mercia PCC <i>Action: Clerk to forward links to Cllrs.</i>

11. Councillor’s reports and items for future agenda:

Annual Parish Meeting: Reports to be invited from village organisations to share alongside the Parish Council’s annual report.
Action: Cllr Jamieson.

Villagers without email access: Insert to be included in a future Link edition to allow for residents without internet access to provide a postal address, enabling receipt of important future Council correspondence.

Household recycling: Update received from WDC - from March 31 2026 the Government is introducing a set of standard rules every council should follow in order to simplify the system and boost recycling rates. Details via:

[Simpler Recycling: The facts - Wychavon District Council](#)

12. Date of Next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council:

Wednesday 13 May 2026 – time to be confirmed.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman