

TARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL (TPC)

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2026 AT 7.30 PM IN LADY EMILY COMMUNITY HALL

Present: Cllrs Robert Hodges, Ian Howard, Peter Kennedy, John Tallis (Chair) and Janette Ward.

In attendance: Cllr Graham Biggs (Ward Councillor).
Paul Hayden (Clerk).

Public: One.

20/26 APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Stuart Greenfield, Paul Grey, and Linzy Outtrim.

21/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & WRITTEN DISPENSATION REQUESTS

21.1/26 No declarations of interest made at this meeting.

21.2/26 No written requests for dispensation received.

21.3/26 No grant of request for dispensation required at this meeting.

22/26 MINUTES FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 12th JANUARY 2026

RESOLVED: These minutes were approved as a correct and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

23/26 PUBLIC SESSION

23.1/26 Members considered the verbal report from the Ward Councillor which included the following key points:

- Work has begun on an innovative project (the first of its kind in England) that marks a major step in transforming city centre land at Merton Meadow, creating the foundations for future homes for people of all ages, publicly accessible wetlands, and the wider regeneration of Hereford.
- Contractors are on site of the new Ross Enterprise Park, a crucial 17-acre strategic employment site, which will become one of Herefordshire's largest business hubs. Access roads, utilities, drainage and estate roads will be constructed first. Businesses will be able to build bespoke light industrial or office-based facilities and move in from late 2027. Phase One of the site offers four one-acre development-ready plots, comprising 77,000–100,000 sq ft of space. It tackles a decade-long shortage of employment sites in Ross-on-Wye.
- Herefordshire Council (HC) has agreed to begin the process of acquiring land to pave the way for the Western Bypass.
- The 2026/27 HC budget has been approved. This balanced budget includes £20 million of savings forced onto the Council by the reduction in funding from the Government as part of their Fairer Funding Review. Council tax will increase by 4.99%.

- A housing summit was held in December last year with all registered housing providers and some key developers to discuss how to meet social and affordable housing need in the county. A £10 million provision has been included in the budget for emergency housing. HC are now able to start refurbishment work on the recently acquired John Venn building (previously the John Haider building) to offer 28 self-contained apartments for people needing emergency accommodation from Spring 2027 onwards.
- The first Herefordshire Apprenticeship Awards was held in February. The awards ceremony was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the talent and successes of individuals, employers, mentors, training providers and the impact their work has on local businesses and the county's economy.
- HC has introduced a 30-minute free parking scheme for the city centre. The scheme, known as 'Pop and Shop', is designed to make it easier for people to make quick trips into the city, encouraging local shopping and spending while ensuring a ready availability of parking spaces.

23.2/26 There were no local resident views raised at the meeting, however a complaint has been received about the parish council and parish footpaths officer (PFO) not maintaining the footpaths and hedges within Tarrington itself. Cllr Ward as PFO has responded directly to the resident explaining that the footpaths and hedges mentioned in the complaint are in the main the responsibility of Platform Housing, and the remainder are the responsibility of Herefordshire Council and that Tarrington Parish Council have raised these issues with both parties on numerous occasions and will continue to do so.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to speak to the resident who sent the complaint.

Update on resident issues raised at the previous meeting held on the 12 January 2026:

Minute ref.: 5.2/26 A local resident had tripped and suffered abrasions to her knees caused by overhanging vegetation on the footway beside the A438. Cllr Grey visited the householder shortly after the meeting and they promised to attend to the matter immediately. This has not been done and a formal letter has been sent from the parish council asking them to address the problem. The parish council in this letter offered to provide assistance finding a contractor, but nothing has been heard from the householder. (Householders bordering the A438 have a legal obligation to keep their hedge from overhanging the footway, Highways Act 1980, Section 154).

The highway defect on the Church Lane restricted byway presenting a trip hazard. Herefordshire Council have written stating they are unable to repair the defect as Church Lane is not on the list of footpaths maintainable by Herefordshire Council and advised the parish council to discuss the matter with the properties fronting Church Lane which the parish clerk will do.

24/26 PARISH COUNCIL SUMMIT 3 MARCH 2026

Members considered reports from Cllrs Ward and Tallis who attended the event. Overall, the summit was found to be informative, well presented and positive.

25/26 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 6 MARCH 2026

20 parish residents attended (including 5 parish councillors). 2 non-parish residents also attended. No matters of interest were raised by residents at the meeting. Dr Ellie Chowns MP spoke eloquently and engagingly. Members considered ways to increase resident participation at the next APM.

26/26 HIGHWAY CONDITION CONCERNS

Cllr Tallis updated Members on the parish tour with the Ward Councillor and the HC officer in charge of highway maintenance held on the 30 January 2026. Cllr Tallis stated that it was a productive and helpful meeting resulting in clear guidance on whom TPC needs to engage with to resolve the key issues discussed. The Clerk is progressing this matter with the identified HC officers and the Ward Councillor asked that he and the HC officer who visited are copied in on all correspondence.

27/26 PLANNING

Members considered the following planning consultation:

27.1/26 260333 – Tarrington Rectory, Tarrington, HR1 4EU. Works to trees covered by TPO. **RESOLVED:** To support the application.

28/26 PARISH LENGTHSMAN

The Clerk reported that he has found a replacement Lengthsman and formally appointed him following conversations with the PC Chair.

29/26 ROAD CALMING PROJECT

Members considered the update on road calming from the Clerk.

A reply has just been received from the HC lead cabinet councillor to TPC's letter to him dated 6 October 2025 requesting to be allowed to take on the responsibility for maintaining the verges, hedges and footway along the A438 within the parish. The reply is positive but requires some clarification.

RESOLVED: The Clerk requested to formalise this arrangement.

The supplier of the three sets of 'village gates' has given a provisional installation date of the 14th April 2026.

30/26 FINANCE

30.1/26 Members received the finance reports from the RFO/Clerk, and the Clerk responded to questions raised by Members.

30.2/26 Members considered the following payments:

30.2.1/26 Bank charges covering 10 November to 9 December 2025 £8.25.

30.2.2/26 Bank charges covering 10 December to 9 January 2026 £4.25.

30.2.3/26 Clerk's January & February 2026 salaries.

30.2.4/26 PAYE months 10 & 11 2025/26 £ 276.10.

30.2.5/26 Eyelid Production annual website support INV-4187 £100.00.

30.2.6/26 Greenbarnes Ltd Hopfields parish noticeboard inv. no. 19819 £1,973.89 plus VAT.

30.2.7/26 Greg Mowbray parish noticeboard installation at Hopfields inv. no. 1070 £128.28.

30.2.8/26 LECH hire inv. LECH-2025-140 £7.50.

30.2.9/26 Clerk's expenses 1/11/25 to 9/3/26 total £325.57.

30.2.10/26 RJ & JR Barrell Jubilee Green hedge trimming inv. 0655 £120.

30.2.11/26 Matthew Preece lengthsman scheme work, inv. 001 £640.

RESOLVED: All payments approved.

30.3/26 Members considered the cost quotation supplied by Richard Morgan for Jubilee Green and associated area maintenance.

RESOLVED: To continue employing Richard Morgan as a parish contractor.

31/26 IT POLICY

Members considered the draft IT policy produced by the Clerk. It was noted that TPC are still awaiting the parish council affiliated .gov.uk domain and email addresses requested on the 17 July 2025 and chased several times since.

RESOLVED: To adopt immediately and to confirm the Clerk as TPC's Data Protection Officer.

32/26 HALC ENGLISH DEVOLUTION BILL

Members considered the correspondence received from HALC concerning the omission of parish councils from parts of the planning process involving neighbourhood-level decision making and planning applications of strategic importance e.g. housing development of potentially 200 plus homes. HALC have suggested that parish councils send a provided template letter to nine individual members of the House of Lords and Commons. Members were unconvinced that doing this will have any impact.

RESOLVED: Not to respond.

33/26 PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Members considered the request from Cllr Greenfield for photos and bios for the TPC website.

RESOLVED: To supply both to Cllr Greenfield.

34/26 FOOTPATHS REPORT

Members considered the written report from the PFO. Key points included:

- TR15 from above Aldersend Farm to Durlow Common. The wooden bridge in the copse below Oakeyfield has been repaired.
- TR15 from above Aldersend Farm to Durlow Common. PFO has written to Durlow Park Estate to make the electric fence installed on the PRow crossable by walkers.
- TR9 overgrown hedge beside gate and rubbish dumped by residents. Clerk to investigate and report back to Members.
- Cllr Ward has reported a number of overhanging hedges in Tarrington to Platform Housing for them to address.

RESOLVED: Cllr Ward will produce a footpaths report for the Tarrington Tatler.

35/26 LITTLE TARRINGTON REQUEST BUS STOP

Members considered the update from Cllr Kennedy who shared a proposed resident survey which aims to collect data on how local residents use the bus stops at the Little Tarrington turn.

RESOLVED: Cllr Kennedy to email the survey to Members for their comments.

36/26 COMMUNITY FIRST RURAL HOUSING ENABLER PROJECT

RESOLVED: Deferred to the next meeting.

37/26 TARRINGTON ARMS GRANT SUPPORT

Cllr Ward updated Members on her work as a local resident setting up a Friends of Tarrington Arms fundraising group to support replacing the front porch of the building which is viewed by many as an eyesore needing to be rebuilt. It was clarified that Cllr Ward was supporting the Friends as an individual resident, and not as a parish councillor. Should the Friends submit a grant application to TPC, Members will make a decision in accordance with the TPC Donations & Grants policy.

38/26 POUND CLOSE PLAY AREA

The Clerk updated Members on the response received from HC which states that HC currently have no plans to sell this facility and they ask if TPC might be interested in taking responsibility for the play area.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to HC expressing an interest in an asset transfer.

39/26 VEGETATION AND DITCH SURVEY

RESOLVED: Deferred to the next meeting.

40/25 MATTERS RAISED FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING ON MON 11th MAY 2026

Election of Chair and vice-chair.

Election of other officers.

Adoption of TPC policies.

Highway condition concerns.

Road calming project.

Rural affordable housing.

Pound Close play area.

Little Tarrington bus stop.

Vegetation, ditch and other problem survey.

Footpaths report.

Local community engagement.

Parish Lengthsman.

Jubilee Green.

Litter picking.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

These minutes were approved as an accurate and correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair at the annual meeting of the parish council held on MON 18 MAY 26.