Berrow Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting of Berrow Parish Council held at Berrow and Pendock Village Hall on Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Ruth Coates (RC, Chair), Phillip Thomson (PT, Vice-Chair), Caroline Samsonoff (CS), Ian Macleod (IM), Janice Kennedy (JK), Andrew Raistrick (AR), Alison Faulkner (AF).

In attendance: County Cllr Tom Wells and The Parish Council Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** District councillor Jennie Watkins.

2. **Declarations of interest:** All Councillors are reminded of their duty to keep their register of interest updated and were asked to declare any personal interests in items on the agenda. All councillors updated register of interest following the last meeting.

3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on13th May 2026 were approved.

4. **Progress reports:**

    a. Glynchbrook update, Cllr RC had circulated an Update given at the 4th August meeting by the UAG group. County Cllr Tom Wells updated that the local plan has been stopped which means Forest of Dean District Council have to start again but it will happen quicker than before. Glynchbrook doesn't meet the sustainability requirement for a local plan so he can't see it reemerging. If it had gone through it would have doubled traffic in Worcestershire, which is a big reason why Worcestershire sent serious objection letters.
    b. Village hall update. It has been quiet over the summer with bookings, but have had a meeting with community hub ladies. The committee now need to encourage more usage. The Pumpkin festival is on 17th October they are looking for raffle prizes and cake donations. A Christmas quiz will be planned, date to be confirmed. The committee have a meeting tomorrow night.

2. **Action reports:** To review and update the action tracker.

    1. Rye Cross sign has been replaced so can now be removed.
    2. Website old one has been removed, Cllr pictures and bios updated, village info to be updated.
    3. Jack's place ongoing with enforcement
    4. Can be removed.
    5. Banking Cllr CS to be added to online system. Online banking has a lot of glitches currently.
    6. Whiting Ash Farm to continue to monitor.

3. **Finance reports:**
   a. Went through transactions since last meeting and those due see Appendix A. Bank balance currently £1996.06.
   b. Clerk pay scales review, currently on level 18 on the NCALC scale the recommended increase to be retrospectively applied from April. A higher increase of salary had been allowed for in the budget. Cllr JK to do calculations for moving to level 19 on the pay scale from 1st September which was agreed in principle.
   c. Finance regulations review.
      1. Add footer with review date and version.
      2. Ask parish online if documents can save on a cloud system linked to website.
      3. Cllrs to consider a council laptop and costs for relevant programmes.
      4. Point 1.7 remove wording 'in excess'.
      5. Point 5.7 to be removed and use and adapt 5.8.
      6. Point 5.14 and 5.17 to be removed.
      7. Point 5.19 add email.
      8. Send draft around for approval once amendments have been completed.

4. **Correspondence:**

a. Planning applications and response process.
   a. M/ENF/25/0300 - Jacks Place – with enforcement.
   b. M/26/00686/FUL Hawthorn Barn – decision still pending.
   c. M/25/01861/FUL Old Post Office – awaiting appeal decision.
   d. M/26/00850/AGR Astbury – Approved.
   e. M/26/00657/HP Berrow House – Approved.
   f. M/26/00830/HP Willow Barn – Approved.
   g. M/26/01191/FUL The Dutch House – Approved.
   h. M/26/01072/AGR Hayes Farm – Approved.

b. LGR decision- Worcestershire been told by the government to stop the change and the decision will be reviewed. Next year will be district council elections in May. The current theory is Andy Burnham more interested in devolution of mayors which he has 3 years to do. Strategic authorities review is likely to be May 29 at the earliest.

c. Letter from South Worcestershire Leaders – no longer relevant due to LGR pause.

5. **District/County Councillors report:**
   County Cllr Tom Wells- Reform are no longer running council now 20 out of 57. County Cllr T Wells now has responsibility for Worcestershire highways. Malvern road update 2nd road slip was worse than 1st so has had to find money to fund the road repairs. Annual pass for school transport has gone up by 40%. LGR pause means could be able to do some good. Surface dressing

is completed more in Worcestershire than any other council happens more regularly to avoid having to reconstruct roads.

6. **Councillors reports and items for future agenda:**
   There was a recent fire in Chadds lane, it was contained very quickly.
   Police raid in neighbouring parish Pendock.
   Nothing more has been heard about the burglary at The Oaks.
   Recent odour in the parish, complaints have been made to environmental health which should be followed up on by the council.
   Pendock solar farm was approved at a recent planning meeting, this is on the agenda for Pendock parish council meeting this evening.
   Dingle woods track (foot path/bridleway) there are a group of parish residents that want the whole track to be classified as a bridleway. Council have to be impartial but can look at it from a legal point of view. Cllr AF to gather more information.
   Cllrs agreed that the council should comment on bigger applications for neighbouring parish's as they can still have an impact on the parish.

7. **Date of next meeting:**
   Thursday 26th November 2026 6pm.

   Meeting finished at 8.55pm.