Pixley & District Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday 16th March 2026
7.30pm at Munsley W.I. Hall

Present: Cllrs Allen Mawby, Andrew Riga, Brendan Sugden (Vice Chairman), Charles Smart, Kelvin Lynch (Chairman) and Steve Swaithes
Clerk: Mrs Ella Wayman
Members of the public: Four including Ward Cllr Lester.

25/100 Apologies for absence

None.

25/101 To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lynch declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was close with an organiser of the event.

25/102 Public Participation

Ward Cllr Lester gave a report which is summarised in appendix 1.

A resident reported that pot holes in Little Marcle Court were extensive and despite reporting them all with photographs to HC only some had been filled. The resident was concerned at the cost of this and other similar scenarios when it was likely that the road would need to be resurfaced before long. Cllr Lester explained that the current contractor was being replaced in June and advised that this should bring improvements. The current contract was terminated when he became Leader but there was a 2-year break clause that was now coming to an end.

A second resident and organiser of the 3-day flower festival explained the proposal to the Parish Council (PC) with details of the event and its costs. The organisers proposed the PC be the lead sponsor of the event with mention in marketing and a stall at the event. The costs were in the region of £1500 and the event was expected to bring hundreds of visitors.

25/103 Pot Holes in the Parish

Councillors discussed concerns regarding pot holes and it was **agreed** to await the actions of the new contractor as advised by Cllr Lester. Cllr Lester had agreed to look into Little Marcle Court being added to the schedule for resurfacing and surface dressing.

25/104 3-Day Flower Festival

After much debate, the proposal by the organisers was considered and it was **resolved** to donate £500 towards the event as the main sponsor under S145. Cllr Riga requested his objection be recorded and he resigned from his position as a Parish Councillor. He left the meeting immediately at 8:28pm.

25/105 Minutes (Chairman)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12th January 2026 were **agreed** as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25/106 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the signs had all been erected around Ashperton Railway Bridge, the date for the next Cider Press article was 1st May and there had been no progress with Munsley WI Hall, although a meeting was scheduled for the end of March. He had attended the Parish Summit online which was covered in Cllr Lester's report.

25/107 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that there would be a 10th assertion on the Annual Governance & Accountability Return that required the Council to have a Council email and an IT policy. A draft IT policy had been reviewed by the Council and approved and would be formally adopted at the next meeting. The Clerk was in the process of organising a date to meet with the internal auditor and was in the process of filing a VAT reclaim with HMRC.

25/108 Financial items (RFO)

25/108.1 The budget comparison report for January & February 2026 was reviewed and **approved**.

25/108.2 The bank reconciliation was reviewed and **approved** against statements for January & February 2026.

25/108.3 The PC's risk management policy, schedule and assessments were reviewed and **approved**.

25/108.4 The asset register for 2025/26 was reviewed and **approved**.

25/108.5 To review The PC's scheme of delegation was reviewed and it was **agreed** to make an alteration to add "in consultation with any Councillor" regarding the Clerk making delegated emergency spends.

25/108.6 The following payments were **approved**:

Staff Salaries & expenses	Jan & Feb 2026	£1227.50
HALC	Subs 2026-27	£742.43
Unity Trust	Bank Fees	£5.60

25/109 Planning

25/109.1 The PC responses to the following applications were **agreed** as follows:

- **260424 - Barn At White House Farm, Ashperton, Ledbury HR8 2SE** - Application for the erection of a self-build dwelling and garage in lieu of an extant Class Q permission for the conversion of an existing barn into a dwelling – **No comment**.

25/109.2 There had been no further decisions by Herefordshire Council in relation to recent planning consultations. It was noted that the application to replace a fence with a wall at The Old Coach House had been withdrawn.

25/109.3 Further correspondence with the planning authority regarding flooding around Glebe Farm had been received and it was agreed to seek advice from HC regarding the lay of the land and flooding of the highway.

25/110 Highways/Footpaths

It was **resolved** to dissolve the footpath working group but continue to work with the volunteer footpath officer and receive reports from them via Cllr Smart. The replacement stile for AL3 was now with the Lengthsman and due to be fitted by the end of March.

25/111 Speed/accidents on A4172 Trumpet to Little Marcle

The Traffic Management Officer had advised that the four proposed locations for white gates by the Parish Council were suitable. It was agreed for the Clerk to obtain the measurements from the TMO and obtain quotes.

25/112 Aylton Green

The TMO had advised that kerb stones would need to be installed before a knee rail could be approved and this would be a very costly exercise. The final advice was box hedging but the Parish Council felt this would be damaged by long and large vehicles needing to navigate the lanes for farming etc. It was **agreed** for Cllr Smart and the Clerk to obtain quotes for three temporary signs to politely request drivers refrain from parking on the Green.

25/113 Smart Water (Clerk)

The Smart Water Scheme was facing potential termination which had led to the request for wording and sign locations to be submitted swiftly. The council considered wording for the two A1 signs in the parish and it was **resolved** to leave them without a parish name. Locations would be considered and put forward to the scheme as soon as possible.

25/114 Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed for the APM to be held on 11th May at 7pm in the Munsley WI Hall and invite ward Cllr Lester to speak on the latest news for Herefordshire.

25/115 Correspondence (Clerk)

The following list of Correspondence was noted:

- Resident 1 – email regarding Quiet Lanes – not in support
- Resident 2 – email regarding Quiet lanes – in support with suggestions of locations
- Three residents – Little Marcle Court Road – significant pot holes
- HALC – Bulletin "Ten Things You Need To Know this Month"
- Talk Communities – Herefordshire Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

25/116 Matters to be raised for next meeting (All)

Quiet Lanes and formal adoption of the IT policy.

25/117 Date of next meeting (All)

The date of the next meeting was **agreed** as 11th May 2026.

25/118 Confidential Session

The council **resolved** under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

The Clerk explained that she had been considering resignation for various reasons and advised the council to agree its actions should her resignation be accepted. It was **resolved** to appoint HALC's services in this instance and spend from reserves to cover the costs.

The meeting was closed at 9:31pm.

Signed……*Kelvin Lynch* Date 11th May 2026
Chairman

<u>Appendix 1</u> - <u>Parish Council Briefing Note by Cllr Lester</u>

I'm pleased to share this short update highlighting some of the key developments across Herefordshire Council. It's been a busy and productive period, and I hope this briefing provides a clear overview of progress that may be of interest to you and your communities.

Budget and Council Tax

Full Council has approved the 2026/27 capital and revenue budgets, addressing the national funding gap while continuing to invest in the county's priorities. A 4.99% Council Tax increase has been agreed to help safeguard essential services and deliver major projects including highways improvements, emergency accommodation and heritage investment. A £20m savings programme is being delivered through service transformation and efficiency measures.

Children's Services

Ofsted has judged Herefordshire's Children's Services to be Good overall, with Outstanding leadership—a significant improvement from the inadequate rating in 2022 and an important milestone for the county. Thanks go to everyone involved in this transformation.

Support for Young People and Adults

More than 300 young people have now benefitted from the Youth Employment Hub's first year, and the first Apprenticeship Awards celebrated local ambition and talent. Adult services continue to be strengthened

through the re-procurement of the Independent Adult Advocacy Service and the continued delivery of a 24/7 safeguarding response through the Emergency Duty Team.

Housing and Growth

A £10m capital programme will support the development of more social housing, homes for large families, accessible homes and temporary accommodation to meet growing demand. Since 2023, 731 new dwellings have been delivered in partnership with Registered Providers. The new Invest in Herefordshire campaign and website also launched recently, aimed at attracting further business investment.

Economy, Parking and Business Support

Hereford BID has secured its third term, bringing more than £1.9m of investment into the city centre. To support local businesses and residents, Cabinet has approved the extension of 30-minute free parking to on-street bays in the city centre from April.

Infrastructure and Environment

Major projects continue to progress well, including construction of the Merton Meadow flood alleviation scheme and the next stage of the Hereford Transport Hub. Work on the Hereford Bypass is moving forward with approval of the necessary land-assembly orders. Environmental work is also accelerating through the new Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation, and phosphate-mitigation initiatives supporting new housing.

Highways and Pothole Repairs

Highways teams have completed more than 3,000 pothole repairs since January, with daily inspections and up to 150 repairs undertaken each day. Significant investment includes resurfacing, surface dressing, drainage upgrades and an additional £13.5m to support road network improvements. Residents are encouraged to report defects using the Report It app.

Parish Engagement

The Parish Summit on 3 March has now taken place and was a great success. Attendance was high both in person and online, and parish representatives engaged positively throughout the event. The sessions covering the Councils' Charter, Child Friendly Herefordshire, Public Realm and Parish Grants generated valuable discussion and constructive feedback. The marketplace element was also well received, giving parish councillors and clerks the opportunity to speak directly with council service teams.