WARNDON VILLAGES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Warndon Villages Parish Council, commenced 7.00 p.m. on Monday 9 February 2026 at the Lyppard Hub

Present: Cllrs K Collier, S Forrest (Chair), L Hodgson, S Hodgson, D Merriman, J Rudge, A Taylor

In attendance: the Clerk, Cllr A Cross (City and County), two members of the public

To receive and consider **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs V Bayliss, S Murray (City)

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Open Session

Rob Collier raised the findings of the recent Traffic Safety survey. Data released from the report in Warndon Villages highlighted excessive speeding on all the Drives with the exception of Hastings Drive. However, the report focusses primarily on vehicle traffic and not on the experience of all road users – including cyclists and pedestrians. The safety campaign needs to focus on all road users – a community campaign would aim to raise public awareness and also consider driver behaviour. Council suggested that Mr Collier might wish to present the Community campaign at the Annual Meeting in May.

1109. **To approve the Minutes of**

(i) the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 January 2026

Cllr Merriman proposed, seconded by Cllr L Hodgson that the Minutes be approved. Council resolved to approve the Minutes.

(ii) the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 26 January 2026

Cllr L Hodgson proposed, seconded by Cllr Forrest that the Minutes be approved with a minor edit. Council resolved to approve the Minutes.

1110. **Police Report**

(i) To receive reports and recent communications and consider if follow up action is required

The report was received and taken as read. Incidences of violence and sexual offences showed a notably high increase in December. It was agreed that a monthly breakdown of crime incidences would be useful for analysis on a monthly basis.

(ii) To consider measures to reduce speeding on Warndon Villages roads: working group

Cllr Collier noted that the recent speed survey data could benefit from engagement with the 31-40 year-old sector of the public. Driving rates appear to indicate the public is not meeting the government shift towards 50% walking and cycling and re-education and knowledge of the Highway Code including cycling behaviour should be looked at. The WG to meet discuss what actions the Council might take. An article for the forthcoming Newsletter will be produced.

1111. To receive a report from the **County Councillor**

The report was received and taken as read. A 9% increase in Council Tax for 2026-27 is the maximum allowed by Government. The County public health team is encouraging local organisations to apply for funding under the Love Volunteering scheme.

1112. To receive a report from the **City Councillors**

The report was received and taken as read. If City Council applies for Parish Council status under the unitary reorganisation Warndon Villages Parish Council may be absorbed into the new body. Tree canopy cover support may act as a trigger for progress on unadopted land in the Villages.

1113. **Environmental Matters**

(i) To receive reports from Councillors

The report was received and taken as read. Work on the play area at the Lyppard Hub is now complete. Ther meeting with the Tree Officer was cancelled. Parking on the grass verges on Wainwright Road continues to be a problem. The Chair has contacted the rugby club for comment on this issue.

(ii) To receive the VAS/SID report

The report was received and taken as read. The Westcotec VAS unit on Hastings Drive is now back up and running. The lack of daylight continues to cause power outages on other speed units.

(iii) Apex Ponds

The Clerk advised that the solicitor was unfortunately delayed due to illness from progressing the contracting agreement but has now re-established contact and will report shortly to Council.

(iv) Location of dog waste bins in the parish

Members of the public continue to dispose of dog waste bags away from current bin sites – this might be addressed by temporary bin siting adjacent to favours dog walk spots. Council to consider the current City Council bin map and analysis of QR code usage on waste disposal in bins.

1114. **Communications**

(i) Communications Working Group

Cllr Merriman to put forward dates for the next WG meeting.

(ii) Facebook, Website, Newsletter

The report was received and taken as read. All Newsletters were delivered by the first week of January. The profile of the WVPC Facebook might be raised by sharing of WCC postings.

(iii) Social media

There was nothing to report. This item to be removed from the Agenda.

1115. **Planning and Rights of Way Matters**

(i) To receive reports from Councillors, including updates on current applications, decisions, and recent responses and notes from recent Planning & Rights of Way Working Group meetings
(ii) To consider the Parish Council's response to pending applications

Application no: 25/01139/FUL
Address: 298 Tolladine Road Worcester WR4 9BJ
Description: Change of use of Garage (use class C3) to a Barbers (use class E).
Objection Y/N?: Yes
Council comment: Entrance off the Fairway. Parked vehicles could cause an issue at the junction although accompanying "Parking Plan" states impact is minimal. The location however is far from ideal and in a residential street, with other developments creating a cumulative impact.

Worcester City Council Planning determined the following decisions:

Application no: 25/00957/ADV
Address: Gtech, Brindley Road, Worcester, WR4 9FB
Description: Advertisement consent for illuminated signage installed on the building fronts
Decision: Approved

Application no: 25/01034/HP
Address: 12 Bramble Gardens, Worcester, WR5 1SQ
Description: Rear single storey extension

Decision: Approved

Application no: 25/01022/NMA
Address: 12 Fowler Avenue, Worcester, WR4 0LU
Description: Non-Material Amendment to planning approval 24/00917/HP - Garage Roof Ridge shifted to the centre of the room for structural integrity, 2 No Velux roof lights, Double shutter window in first-floor bathroom
Decision: Approved

Application no: 25/00722/HP
Address: 4 Hoskyns Avenue, Worcester, WR4 0LL
Description: Conversion of existing garage and erection of a single-storey front extension linking the garage to the host dwelling.
Decision: Approved

Application no: 25/00967/TPOA
Address: 26 Water Croft, Worcester, WR4 0HR
Description: G1 - Prune 2no Oak (outside house no 26 Water Croft) - Raise the crown to approx. 4 metres (Property side). T2 - Prune Oak (outside house no 23) - Raise the crown to approx. 2 meters. T3 - Prune Oak (outside house no 25) Clear the property by reducing the branches that encroach on the building by approx. 2-2.5 metres / Raise the crown to approx. 4 metres. T4 - Prune Oak (nr car park) - Raise the crown to approx. 4 metres
Decision: Approved

(iii) To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Taylor's report was received and taken as read. See Minute 1115 (v).

(iv) To receive an update on the Town Deal Board

There was nothing to report.

(v) To receive an update on the South Worcestershire Development Plan

The report was received and taken as read. The deadline for WVPC's submission to the Public Consultation on modifications to the SWDP is 17 February. Cllr Taylor met the planning consultants in preparation for the submission, looking particularly at how recent NPPF developments may affect the WVPC Neighbourhood Plan and whether WVPC should issue a call for sites regarding future housing development in the Villages.

(vi) Unadopted land adoption schedule

See Minute 1112 City Councillors Report.

(vii) Divorced footpaths

There was nothing to report. The state of current paths needs to be reviewed together with consideration of who will fund future maintenance.

(viii) ACV application

There was nothing to report.

The Meeting was suspended at 8.30pm briefly for a comfort break. Meeting recommenced at 8.35pm

1116. **Leisure and Community Affairs**

(i\) To receive reports from Councillors, including updates on the following matters:

(a) Allotments

There was nothing to report.

(b) Defibrillators

(i) replacement of defibrillator units

Cllr L Hodgson proposed, seconded by Cllr Taylor that the Clerk's purchase of new defibrillator units be approved.. Council resolved to approve the expenditure. The new units have been delivered and will shortly be installed.

(ii) Benches project

Cllr Merriman proposed, seconded by Cllr Taylor that the purchase of additional bench repair kits costing £1,253 (exc VAT) be approved. Council resolved to approve the expenditure.

(iii) Bikeability cycle training

There are regular training sessions organized by County Council. WVPC to raise awareness of these on social media, and if necessary can arrange its own training sessions dependent on public uptake. Funding is available to support the sessions.

(iv) Beryl bikes

There was nothing to report.

1117. **Financial Matters**

(i) To receive the Clerk's Financial reports 2025-26 YTD

(a) Annual budget by centre

(b) Cashbook report showing receipts and payments

(c) Trial Balance

Council noted the reports.

(ii) To approve accounts for payment and receive details of cash receipts for information

Payments	**£**
WaterPlus – water supply Mabbs Allotments	55.44
UTB - service charges December 2025	7.50
Susan Carr – Clerk salary January 2026	1170.05
HMRC – Clerk PAYE December 2025	167.41
DandD Services - 365 licence + ICT support January 2026	353.77
Sue Carr - clerk expenses – Mobile, zoom subs, gift card, stationery	93.57
Pace Print - newsletter extra copies	121.00
RCA Generation – NP ongoing support	378.00
Imperative Training – defibrillators	2628.00

Receipts	**£**
Redwood Bank - Interest January 2026	202.76
Mabbs allotments deposit	10.00

Council noted and approved the expenditure.

(iii) To consider WVPC investment proposal

Cllr Forrest proposed, seconded by Cllr L Hodgson that WVPC transfer £45K to the deposit account in line with the recently raised FCA assured limit of £125K of safeguarded funds. Council resolved to approve the transfer.

(iv) To set and approve the Parish Council Precept for 2026-27

Council considered City Council's proposed Precept level for 2026-27. The Finance Committee recommended to Council that the Precept be increased by 5% in order to accommodate future increased costs over several budget areas in 2026-27. The proposed Precept increase would equal £127,518K. Cllr Forrest proposed, seconded by Cllr Merriman that Council approve the request to increase the precept. Council resolved to approve the request.

(v) To review and approve the budget for 2026-27

Council reviewed the budget proposal for 2026-27 put forward by the Finance Committee. Cllr Forrest proposed, seconded by Cllr Merriman that the budget for 2025-26 be approved. Council resolved to approve the budget.

1118. To receive **reports from outside bodies**

(i) Lyppard Hub Management Board

There was nothing to report.

(ii) Worcester City Standards Committee

The Board has not met.

(iii) CALC updates which affect the Parish Council

There were none.

1119. **Parish Name Change**

The Clerk has completed the process of switching over to a new WVPC email address and will shortly commence the final phase of the administrative process. Councillors will be notified as to the process for registering for their new email accounts.

1120. **Local government changes: devolution**

Council considered the question as to whether the Worcester City Council should divide into two unitary authorities – north and south Worcestershire. The preference was for two unitary authorities as outlined. Cllr Rudge and Cllr L Hodgson to seek individual councillor comments and views and submit a collective online response to the Local Government reorganisation consultation. The public consultation runs until 26 March 2026.

Worcester City Council has invited WVPC to present a view on the draft Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review. This review may have an impact on the potential establishment of Worcester City Council as a town council, and its subsequent impact on the situation of the existing two parish councils in Worcester. Council to consider carefully and submit comments by 23 February.

At 9.10pm the Clerk had to leave the meeting, which was overseen for the remaining items of business by the Chair.

1121. To consider: **subjects/themes for the Annual Parish Meeting**

See Minute of Open Session.

1122. **Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas**

There were none.

The Meeting went into closed session at 9.15pm to receive an update from Cllr Taylor on the SWDPR final comments process.

The meeting re-opened at 9.31pm.

1123. **Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 9 March 2026, 7.00 pm, Lyppard Hub**

The Meeting closed at 9.31pm

Signed…….. Date…….

(Chair)