

# H C P C

For And On Behalf Of  
**Hill Croome Parish Council**  
**Clerk - Michael Brooks**  
**Vine Cottage Baughton Earls Croome WR8 9DQ**

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Earls Croome Village Hall

1. **Apologies** – Cllr. Owenson (MHDC)
2. **Declaration of Interests** – no new declarations made.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 – approved as a true record
4. **Policies and Procedures**
  - a. Financial Regulations 2024 update – copies of the new regulations had been pre-circulated to enable Councillors to formulate a view prior to the meeting. The Clerk explained the rationale behind a number of updates and all were approved.
  - b. Civility and Respect Pledge – it was noted by Council that the elements within the existing Code of Conduct and other documents already seek to address this issue and the need for a further endorsement was questioned. After a discussion it was decided that whilst not fully understood as to need, compliance with the proposal would not cause any difficulty.
5. **Finance**
  - a. Full list of expenses since last meeting – agreed and signed off
  - b. Full list of receipts since last meeting – agreed and signed off
  - c. Annual Precept request – the Clerk confirmed receipt from MHDC of confirmation of the Precept request in the sum of £4280.00 for 2025/26
  - d. Half-yearly Independent Finance check – the Clerk confirmed that the check had been carried out on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 by Cllr. Eaton and the records were found to be in order.
  - e. New Website / Email addresses – the Clerk reported that WCC has still not confirmed the closure of their Website provision so the matter is still unresolved.
  - f. Defibrillator battery – should have a life expectancy of three to five years. The Clerk to maintain a regular check on its condition and to report back when battery life is seen to be reducing.
  - g. Noticeboard – refurbishment is in hand pending better weather.
6. **Planning**
  - a. Solar farm – an update is expected from the developer within the next six months

# H C P C

For And On Behalf Of  
**Hill Croome Parish Council**  
**Clerk - Michael Brooks**

**Vine Cottage Baughton Earls Croome WR8 9DQ**

- b. 4 Meadow Close – the Planning Committee meeting has been postponed until February.
7. **Memorial Path** – the dropped kerb has now been installed and the invoice is pending.
8. **Lengthsman** – the Clerk has spoken with the lengthsman and he is keen to take on another year. Council agreed with the proposal and the Clerk is to create a new contract for 2025/2026.
9. **April Meeting** – the Clerk reminded Councillors as to the importance of the next meeting, being the opportunity to agree in principal the Annual Return prior to its submission to the Internal Auditor. The Return is then to be signed off at the Annual Meeting in May, whereby any observations or recommendations from the Auditor can be noted and signed off.
10. **Other Traffic Matters**
  - a. new signage agreed for the access to Meadow Close
  - b. potholes 'repaired' near Elmfield
  - c. new bollards sited along the ditch at Elmfield
11. **Correspondence** – items noted by the Clerk
12. **District and County Reports**

A verbal report from Cllr Allen included reference to the proposed Unitary Authority and particular concerns as to the financial status of the County Council. Other matters included the issue regarding the repair/sale of County Hall, the South Worcestershire Development Plan and the apparent overspend on the Keepax Bridge.

A written report provided by Cllr Owenson was read to the meeting. In particular this focussed on the current political status of the District Council and the move towards the Unitary Authority.
13. Meeting dates for 2025/26 - 7 April, 12 May, 21 July, 15 September and 17 November.
14. Other matter – Clerk to request invoice from the Village Hall for meetings held

Next Meeting – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

.....  
P. SMITH

Chairman

Date .....

**Chairman - Phillippe Smith    Clerk - Michael Brooks**  
**Contact Details: email - [hillcroomepc@btinternet.com](mailto:hillcroomepc@btinternet.com) Telephone: 07764431249**