

**Minutes of Inkberrow Annual Parish Council meeting held
in The Bowls Pavillion, Sands Road.
Wednesday May 21st 2025 commencing at 7.30 pm**

Present: Councillor David Hunter (Chair), Chris Burdett, Roger Fookes, Dinah Griffin, Elizabeth Jordan, Robin Lunn, Robert Wilcox (RFO)

Apologies: Paula Gittoes (Clerk), Anthony Hopkins, Richard Jordan, Jane Neal.

4 members of the public

Democratic fifteen minutes public question time: Reference was made to the dead trees on Pepper Street and the Parish Council were to ask the IEG to assist with watering of the new trees.

Terry Bennett also advised that he is setting up Neighbourhood watch schemes. It was suggested he use the What's On magazine to engage members from the village.

Newly elected County Councillor Satvinder Bell was welcomed to her first meeting

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Congratulations to David Hunter on his re-election to Chair and Robin Lunn on his election to Vice-Chair. Thank you to David and Jane Neale, our outgoing Vice-Chair, and all our Parish Councillors for supporting our community in their voluntary capacities. Clerk to review Standing Orders and put the officer's positions on January agenda to review earlier

Officer Appointments

Police	David Hunter
Trees	Richard Jordan
Allotments	Anthony Hopkins
SCI Liaison	Robin Lunn
Parish Charities	Robin Lunn
School Liaison	Elizabeth Jordan
CIO Liaison	Rodger Fookes
Millennium Green Trustee Liaison	Dinah Griffin
Public Rights of Way Liaison	Dinah Griffin

1. **Apologies:** Mrs Paula Gittoes (Clerk) and Mrs Jane Neal, Ben Hurdman, Anthony Hopkins,
2. **Declarations of interest:** Robin Lunn Churchyard maintenance grant, Chris Burdett Solar Farm
3. **Previous Minutes:** April 16th 2025 minutes were agreed and signed
4. **Progress from previous minutes:** discussed during the meeting
5. **Tracker** will be updated post meeting
6. **Highways matters**
 - a. It was noted that the Parish Council were notified on the day of closure of the A422 between Appletree Lane and Dormston Lane for 'emergency surface dressing'. It was also noted that diversion routes have to be the same class of road, hence diversions are often longer than following the shortest route.
 - b. It was noted that the potholes on A422 near Holberrow Green junction were reported twice and repaired
 - c. #73540 Pothole report was noted. The road surface on Appletree Lane outside Little Nobury Farm has been assessed and orders raised for the necessary repairs.
 - d. The Fly Tipping on back of Churchway Piece from the Tuer Way had been reported Environmental / fly tipping NGp102439 and removed.
 - e. #73538 The road subsidence on Church Hill / Priory Piece Lane was noted that an Inspector has visited and reported no safety issues.

- f. #73536 Deterioration of verges Stockwood Lane to Alcester Road (Pinhills) was noted. It has been referred to Highways engineering who are looking into the possibility of applying bollards / verge masters or lining at the location.
- g. A water leak on Earls Common Road between Sands Road and A422 was raised and should be reported to Severn Trent. **Action PG**
- h. It was reported that the 'Inkberrow' village sign (at the Worcester end on the A422) is missing, report to WCC. **Action PG**
- i. It was reported there are raised paving slabs in Malthouse Crescent **Action PG**
- j. Illegal parking on Stockwood Lane at school drop off and collection continues. Reported to enforcement by a local resident.
- k. Speeding in Holberrow Green was noted and the meeting advised that this had been reported to the Police who would consider speed bars and the matter has been raised to the Senior Traffic Management Advisor. The Parish Council were also looking at installing a VAS sign which would also help with data collection of speeds through the village.

7. Lengthsman activities

There is a branch obscuring the VAS sign on the Sands Road end of village. The seat on the A422 just up from the school (on the opposite side) needed weeds strimming from around it).

It was noted that AA Salt hold a spraying licence and AA Salt to add verge on Ramble Close to mowing schedule. **Action DH / CB**

8. BES Solar Farm

It was raised that the planning application W/23/00270/FUL may have been reopened for further comments. It was questioned if the Parish Council had been advised by Wychavon District Council. It was reported that the closing date for comment is 31st May 2025. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Wychavon District Council for verification. If a formal application has been submitted and requires a response then the Parish Council would request an extension to the 30th of June and consider holding an extraordinary meeting. The Clerk was asked to request a summary document from Wychavon to highlight the changes from the first application to this one.

Action PG

Post meeting note: The Parish Council have received no e-mail notification on any planning application regarding the solar farm. The boxes of documents, for the Parish Council, currently with Phil Coathup, were from Wychavon District Council.

9. There were no Police reports

10. County Councillor Report:

Following recent elections our Parish has a new County Councillor. County Councillor Satinder Bell was present and congratulated on her appointment. The Parish Council can submit requests for discretionary funding through her sbell3@worcestershires.gov.uk

11. District Councillor report:

As part of Wychavon District Council's new promise to develop five new community youth projects in rural areas some new detached work is taking place. YMCA Worcestershire will be out and about in rural areas across the district over the next year to check in with young people and find out what is going on for them in their local area. The contact for more information about this exciting community resource is Robin Mace robin.mace@wychavon.gov.uk.

It was acknowledged that there is a backlog in process Planning Applications, due to volume attributed to a pending price increase, Bank Holidays and other unavoidable instances. WDC staff are working hard to clear the backlog.

The final week of public examination of the SWDPR completed, various matters were completed and the hearings closed for now. The Planning Inspectorate raised the prospect of further hearings in September on ecology and transportation. Latest news on www.localplanservices.co.uk/swdpreview

The rural grant application end date has been extended to June 9th 2025

12. **Finance Report:** Our Officer reported that the precept had been received and a donation to the Church for churchyard maintenance was agreed with an increase of 3.4%.

13. **Planning Applications**

- a. W/25/00970/CCO Mearse Croft Mearse Lane B96 6LN. Discharge of conditions 2(1) (desk based Archaeological assessment) of planning appeal APP/H1840/W/24/3356998 in relation to planning permission ref 21/02986/FUL. Noted at the meeting.
- b. W/25/00756/TPOA Ivy House, High St, Inkberrow. Undertake tree works, as detailed on application form and in accompanying information. Noted at the meeting.
- c. W/25/01004/PIP land at Bouts Lane Permission in Principle for the erection of a minimum of 1 no. dwelling and a maximum of 2 no. Dwellings. Closing date May 28th 2025. Proposed refusal as believed to be in open countryside and outside the development **Action PG**
- d. W/25/01005/PIP, The Geldings, Bouts Lane, Holberrow Green, Inkberrow, Redditch, B96 6JX, Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 4 no. dwellings. Proposed refusal as believed to be in open countryside and outside the development **Action PG**

14. **Further items from Clerk or Parish Councillors**

- a. Noted: Octagonal picnic benches donated by the Inkberrow WI and the Parish Council for the enjoyment of villagers and visitors to the Green have been installed and the Parish Council noted that Tim Patrickson, Chair of the Millenium Green Trust was delighted to take delivery of 2 replacement picnic tables on the Millenium Green
- b. Noted: Email re traffic speed through Holberrow Green.
- c. Noted: Application for mobile VAS sign is completed. Resubmission advice from the PCC office is that applications are now open **Action PG**
- d. Noted the VE day coffee / cake afternoon raised £254 for ShelterBox. This was well attended and raised over £250 for Shelterbox. Our thanks to Jane Neal and friends for organising this event. **Action PG**
- e. Noted that job cards from AA Salt are being received
- f. A proposed change of date to the Annual Parish Meeting to combine it with Annual Parish Council Meeting was discussed and the Parish Council Standing Orders would be reviewed prior to a decision being made. **Action PG**
- g. A donation to the Church for churchyard maintenance was agreed with an increase of 3.4%.
- h. A few locations for the 'Penguin little library scheme' were suggested and the Clerk will contact the organiser to progress with this **Action PG**
- i. No Mow May was proposed and it was agreed that this had been done in some areas and the grass left longer in other areas to preserve grass in the dry weather.
- j. Inkberrow Environment Group were given permission to place an additional planter by the bench on Chestnut Close. The Parish Council thanked the Environment Group for their contribution in enhancing our village and making it look so pretty and welcoming. The IEG were asked to maintain the grass around the planters because this wasn't in the current mowing contract. **Action PG**
- k. Traffic congestion on Moreton Hall Lane was discussed and agreed it is a Highways issue
- l. Allotment judging will take place on June 18th 2025 at 18.45. A draft revision of the allotment contract will be sent by email for agreement at next meeting **Action PG**
- m. The annual Governance statement was read and agreed by the RFO

Draft

Next Meeting June 18th 2025 at 19:30hrs in The Bowls Pavillion, Sands Road