

DRAFT

Little Comberton Parish Council

2025/30

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 12th November 2025, 7.30pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: L Schmitz, D Smaylen & N Smithson.
District Cllr Hardman & County Cllr Hardman

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: One parishioner

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Jamieson, Cllr Rabbette & Cllr D Smithson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Parishioner's Comments

A comment had been received regarding a local public right of way, as reported under item 5c.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2025

Proposed Cllr Smaylen, seconded Cllr Schmitz, all in favour to approve the minutes as a true record.

5. Progress reports from Parish Activities:

- a. Lengthsman: drainage checks have been completed in the parish ahead of the inclement weather, in addition to path clearance by the village hall. An approximate charge of £200 is proposed for improvement works to the exterior of the phone box for sanding, rubbing down and painting. Given this expenditure, it was agreed to reconsider at the next meeting & whether this may be a task that volunteers might potentially undertake.
Action: Revisit at January 2026 meeting.
- b. Highways: The white lines along Pershore Road have been reinstated by WCC Highways, however it was noted that this is incomplete outside the village hall and on the bend near the church. It was agreed to query this with WCC Highways.
Action: Clerk to make enquiries and provide further updates.
Following a report to WCC regarding two traffic collisions which have occurred at the junction of the B4084 with Cooks Hill & Wick Road, an inspection has been undertaken and records of the collisions obtained from the police. As both incidents are considered to be the result of driver error, it was confirmed there is little action the highways authority can undertake at this location to improve road safety without a major scheme, which at this point would not be of sufficient priority to be included in a future road safety programme compared with higher priority sites.
Action: Highways authority to continue to monitor.
It was confirmed that speed monitoring equipment is currently in place across Pershore Road near the junction of Orchard Drive.
- c. Footpaths: PRoW #501: WCC's PRoW officer has liaised with the tenant farmer and provided maps outlining the position of the rights of way. It was confirmed that the path has now been reinstated and is navigable.
A parishioner has reported major groundworks to lay a roadway on the bridle path at PRoW #513b, known locally as 'double hedges', just within the parish boundary. This had been reported to WCC and a response received in December 2024, confirming that the PRoW team have no remit over private vehicular rights. As an agricultural track which also carries bridle way rights may be classified as a private way, this is a planning query, therefore WDC are the authority to advise further. District Cllr Hardman confirmed that any member of the public may report permitted development queries online & Cllr Smaylen agreed to inspect on the Council's behalf to provide further updates.
Action: Clerk to update to parishioner, Cllr Smaylen to update Cllrs.
- d. Trees: Following a notice circulated to the parish that four apple trees along Wick Road will require removal due to a significant mistletoe infestation, a donation of a small walnut tree has been offered as a potential replacement. As this species can grow significantly, it was agreed to seek the advice of the parish tree warden to assess and advise on its suitability, as it was also noted that any replacements should be Dutch Elm and mistletoe resistant species. County Cllr Hardman drew attention to planting in Highway verges, as these should be retained as places of safety and a license required. The meeting noted that the area in question was set back from the verge as it was believed the boundary had been historically moved back by the adjacent glandowner, however this would be confirmed for clarification.
Action: Confirm with Cllr Rabbette.
A parishioner had raised a concern regarding a sweet chestnut tree located in the verge on the corner of Orchard Drive, which over time could grow considerably and affect the footway. The tree warden had inspected the tree and its surrounds and advised its removal, as once mature, it could grow considerably and is also adjacent to National Grid apparatus. It was advised that the tree be removed and potentially replanted to replace one of the mistletoe infested trees along Wick Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek to obtain a quote for its removal for consideration at the next meeting, when a potential replacement and suitable relocation would also be considered. *Action: Clerk to obtain a quote & advice for a potential suitable replacement.*

DRAFT

2025/31

- e. Water testing: Cllr Smaylen has agreed to attend a future training session with volunteers in Great Comberton Parish. Cllr B Hardman has requested an additional testing kit to be used in Little Comberton Parish & it was reminded that insurance implications need to be considered in terms of training and conducting testing. It was also recommended that volunteers collaborate with neighbouring Beckford, Bredon & Great Comberton parishes to compare data.

Action: Cllr Smaylen.

- f. Data & Digital compliance: The Clerk had obtained details from further registrars for the council's consideration. Cllrs to review details and consider this expenditure when discussing and approving the 2026/27 budget at the January meeting.

Action: Cllrs.

6. District and County Councillor's reports:

District Cllr B Hardman:

- Local Government reforms: The government has been informed of Worcester City & Kidderminster Town Council's one unitary preference, with all District Councils favouring a two tier model. A decision is expected from government around Easter time.
- SWDP: Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon Councils hope to adopt the revised development plan in late December 2025/January 2026. Although the revised model provides an adequate five-year housing supply with the sites currently identified, ensuring some protection for inappropriate local development, it was noted that work will commence on a new review soon after its approval. Pressure from government therefore presents significant challenges for councils regarding future local development in line with government national housing targets.

County Cllr A Hardman:

- Local Government reforms are resulting in staffing losses at the County Council, including the Senior Public Rights of Way officer. Cllr Hardman confirmed the temporary replacement for any PROW enquiries.
- County Hall: the current site is to be demolished and a debate continues with regards to its subsequent use.
- Adult Social Care: the Care Quality Commission (CQC), independent regulator of health and social care services in England, have just completed their inspection of WCC.
- Drainage: It was noted that the installation in 2024 of a new culvert across Pershore Road into the ditch at the junction with Orchard Drive, has so far proved successful during recent periods of heavy rain.

Action: Report any concerns to Cllr Hardman & WCC have a 24-hour team in operation – further details available online:

[Flooding | Worcestershire County Council](#)

7. Planning

W/25/01549/FUL: Nash's Farm, Pershore Road: this application has been approved.

W/25/00444/FUL: Bredon View Holiday Park Estate at, Great Comberton Golf Club, Pershore Road, Great Comberton: a decision remains pending, with no further updates to share at present.

Morgan Elliot: Following a request for the opportunity to meet with members directly, all available information received has been circulated to villagers online on 23/10/25 regarding a future application for a small scale development in the parish. A formal application remains pending via Wychavon District Council, at which point final plans/documentation will be available online for consideration & comment. An opportunity will be provided to collate views from the village for the parish council to represent to the local planning authority.

Action: Application link to be circulated once received.

8. Finance

a) Current Balances at 1st November 2025

Treasurer's Account:	£15,837.70
TOTAL	£15,837.70

b) Payments to report since the October meeting:

Salary: November 2025	£439.40
Expenses: November 2025	£12.00
LCVHT: Hall hire October 2025	£13.00
Lengthsman: September work-plan	£190.00
WDC: Twice annual bin cleanse& empty: Wick Road	£116.84

TOTAL **£771.24**

DRAFT

2025/32

Payments to authorise following the November meeting:

LCVHT: November hall hire	£13.00
Lengthsman: October work-plan	£190.00
S Blunsom: Wick Road tree removals	£360.00
WDC: 2 x annual empty/cleanse: dog/litter bin Pershore Road	£116.84

Proposed Cllr N Smithson, seconded Cllr Smaylen, all in favour to approve the payments presented.

c) Bank reconciliation (ii) 30 September 2025: Documents have been forwarded to Cllr D Smithson for verification and signing. The third quarterly reconciliation and review of the 2025/26 budget will be prepared in December 2025.
Cllrs were requested to consider suggestions for 2026/27 budget headings ahead of the precept request to WDC by Friday 23rd January 2026.
Action: Clerk to prepare a draft budget for consideration, discussion and approval at the next meeting of the parish council.

9. Correspondence

Severn Trent Water	As part of Severn Trent's commitment to proactively respond to population and property changes across the Midlands that may impact the provision of potable water and wastewater treatment, studies are currently being conducted in the area using population trends to model future demand and guide capital investment planning. A request has been received for information from the parish & district council to complete an assessment to ensure sewage works meet the needs of the area's population to plan effectively for the future. Given the details of the information requested, it was agreed that WDC planning were best placed to provide this information from their records.
WDC	Crowle Community Energy (CCE) have received Government funding to investigate the feasibility of solar panels on up to 50 public/community buildings around Wychavon. This may ultimately lead to CCE being able to offer free installation of solar panels – expressions of interest to sign up via: https://forms.office.com/e/strj1sV5vq# It was agreed that given the direction of the hall and location of trees sited, this was not a viable option.

10. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda:

Review actions: Airband, Trees & Data/Digital compliance.
Consideration of budget headings for the 2026/27 precept request.

11. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.30 pm

Signed

Date.....

Chairman