

HONEYBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 6:30pm

Honeybourne Village Hall, Harvest Close, WR11 7RH

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Heath Jobes, Honeybourne Parish Council Chairman.

In attendance	15 members of the public
District Councillors	Cllr Judith Ciotti, Cllr Hannah Robson
County Councillor	Cllr Hannah Robson
Parish Councillors	Cllr H Jobes (Chairman), Cllr B Dubb (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Attridge, Cllr C Clear, Cllr G Clelland, Cllr J Mellor, Cllr A Mathias, Cllr S Sidwell
Parish Clerk	L Stanton

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Walsh (personal emergency)

3. To Receive and Adopt the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2025

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2025, as circulated in the Annual Parish Meeting booklet, were presented for adoption.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2025 be approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. Reports from Local Council Representatives

The Chairman welcomed representatives from community groups and invited them to present their reports. Full written reports are contained in the Annual Parish Meeting booklet.

a) Chairman's Annual Report 2025/2026 — Cllr Heath Jobes

The Chairman presented his Annual Report for 2025/2026. Key matters reported included: the 80th anniversary VE Day commemoration; the Village Fete; Poppies to Paddington and the Remembrance Service at St Ecgwin's Church; the Christmas Lights Switch-On; recognition of 25 years' service by Royal Mail postwomen Sarah Layton and Andy Clear; the Wychavon Parish Games darts competition win; Community Speed Watch volunteers completing training and vetting; progress on the Honeybourne Station car park and GWR lighting matters; the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review; planning applications including the Bretforton Road reserved matters objection, Arrow Valley Solar Farm scoping consultation and Meon Vale condition removal; the street naming of Texel Close; allotment governance; the grounds maintenance contract awarded to Limebridge Rural Services; Sports Field Phase 2 drainage works; grants awarded to Honeybourne Village Hall, Friends of St Ecgwin's Church, South Worcestershire Citizens Advice Bureau and Honeybourne Hawks U11s; the co-option of Cllr Judith Mellor; the Clerk's CiLCA qualification and adoption of the General Power of Competence; the Council's response to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation; and the 2025/26 budget, precept and clean AGAR opinion from PKF Littlejohn LLP.

b) County Councillor's Report — Cllr Hannah Robson

County Councillor Hannah Robson presented her annual report. Key matters reported included: Local Government Reorganisation and the expectation of a decision in late June on the one or two unitary authority question; the On Demand Bus service rollout including links between Honeybourne and neighbouring villages; the Veterans Bus Pass extension to all Worcestershire bus services; planning workload and the positive impact of the adopted SWDPR; Honeybourne Station car park progress and the feasibility study for a pedestrian bridge now to be commissioned; Divisional Fund grants awarded during 2025/26 to a range of local groups including Honeybourne Village Fete, Honeybourne Village Hall and others across the Littletons Division; Locally Determined Fund works including 30mph roundels at the Honeybourne approaches and VAS signs; and ongoing highways casework across all seven parishes in the division.

c) District Councillors' Report — Cllr Judith Ciotti

District Councillor Judith Ciotti presented her report. Key matters reported included: the Local Government Reorganisation timetable and the September 2025 Special Council Meeting resolution; adoption of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review in March 2026; the Demand Response Travel minibus service; frozen Wychavon Council Tax; £4 million for leisure centre energy upgrades; up to £10,000 available to Parish Councils for Neighbourhood Development Plans; no reduction in PCSO evening hours; the Switch Together solar panel scheme; and £1.74 million growth investment across the district.

d) South Worcestershire Policing Team — Written Report

A written report was submitted by the South Worcestershire Policing Team. As no representative was present to answer questions, the report was not presented at the meeting. The report is available in the Annual Parish Meeting booklet. Parish priorities for Evesham Rural North are Road Safety, Burglary and Anti-Social Behaviour. Matters reported included: two anti-social behaviour incidents in late April 2026 in the village; the introduction of TruCam speed enforcement technology enabling automatic evidence capture and processing; and one residential burglary and one garage break-in recorded in the period.

e) Friends of St Egwin's Church — Mr Chris Gear (on behalf of Mrs Paula Staples)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Chris Gear, who presented the annual report of the Friends of St Egwin's Church on behalf of the group. Mrs Paula Staples, who would normally have presented the report, was unable to remain until this item was reached due to a prior engagement. Key matters reported included: routine maintenance works carried out during the year including chancel roof slate repairs, cleaning and conservation works; three community events — an organ concert, Plant Sale and Avenue of Remembrance; and forthcoming nave roof repair works. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for its grant and for the new directional sign from Stratford Road.

f) Honeybourne Village News — Mr Chris Gear

The Chairman welcomed Mr Chris Gear, who presented the annual report of Honeybourne Village News. Key matters reported included: 920 magazines delivered monthly to all village households by volunteers; articles of local interest including community spotlights, gardening tips, Parish Council news and church news; the balance maintained between editorial content and advertisements, with advertising income essential to financial viability; and free advertising for charities and not-for-profit organisations. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for its annual grant supporting production.

g) Honeybourne Village Hall — Angie Herbert

The Chairman welcomed a representative of Honeybourne Village Hall, who presented the annual report on behalf of the trustees. Key matters reported included: a wide range of regular activities and community events hosted throughout the year; the over-60s lunch for village residents; the well-attended Thursday coffee morning which continues to bring the community together; private hire events; and a small surplus achieved during the year which will contribute to reserves for future capital projects. Members noted that hire charges are kept as affordable

as possible, with any increases kept to a minimum, reflecting the trustees' commitment to ensuring the hall remains a community asset accessible to all residents.

h) Friends of Honeybourne Station — Lucia Cuttle

The Chairman welcomed Ms Lucia Cuttle, who presented the Friends of Honeybourne Station annual report. Key matters reported included: installation of two planters on Platform 1, over 1,000 spring bulbs planted at the station entrance, and a new shed and water butts installed; and the Honeybourne Heritage Rail Tales & Trails project, supported by a £10,000 GWR Community Rail grant, comprising heritage boards, a circular village heritage trail, and supporting leaflet and online content. The project launch is planned for 6th June 2026 at the station. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for its financial support.

i) Community Speed Watch — Mr C Clear

Mr Clear reported that six volunteers are now fully vetted by West Mercia Police and training has been completed. Three advertisements had been placed in the Honeybourne Village News seeking further volunteers but no additional volunteers had come forward. The team is working on arranging speed watch sessions in the village.

j) Public Rights of Way / Honeybourne Allotment Gardens Association — Mr Trevor Askew

The Chairman welcomed Mr Trevor Askew, who presented reports on behalf of the Public Rights of Way Volunteer Group and the Honeybourne Allotment Gardens Association. Key matters reported included: the monthly programme of PROW maintenance during spring and summer by volunteers working on behalf of Worcestershire County Council, balancing vegetation clearance with wildlife and nesting bird considerations; liaison with County Council officers regarding repairs to stiles and gates as required; risk assessments provided to the County Council to ensure volunteer insurance cover; and the establishment of HAGA in March 2026, including the formation of a committee, constitution, bank account, ICO registration and public liability insurance, together with a Service Level Agreement signed with the Parish Clerk. The committee is working to ensure vacant plots are maintained ready for occupation and is keen to work with the Parish Council on the new plot holder licence agreement. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council and the County Council Community Fund for equipment support.

k) Honeybourne Village Fete

No report was received from the Village Fete Committee and no representative was present at the meeting.

l) Honeybourne Parish Council Christmas Event 2025 — Cllr S Sidwell

Cllr Sidwell presented his report on the Christmas Tree Light Switch-On held on 28th November 2025. Key matters reported included: the lights being switched on by Reverend Jon Bowood, the newly appointed Team Vicar; entertainment by a Silver Band and pupils from Honeybourne Primary Academy; Kevin Ward as town crier; children's entertainment including a balloon modeller and Father Christmas; the memorial Christmas tree light sponsorship tribute led by Doug Rushton and organised by Sylvia Matthews; and a craft fayre, pop-up bar and mobile food van. The event was well attended and well received.

Cllr Sidwell noted that Father Christmas made a wonderful appearance on the night.

5. Open Forum

The Chairman invited questions and comments from members of the public. There were no questions or matters raised.

6. Close of Business

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all attendees and presenters and declared the meeting closed at 7:20pm.

The full Annual Parish Meeting booklet, including all reports, is available on the Parish Council website at: <https://honeybourne-pc.gov.uk/annual-parish-meeting>

Signed:

Chairman — Annual Parish Meeting

Date:

DRAFT