

HONEYBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Business Plan

2026 – 2030

1. Introduction

This Business Plan sets out Honeybourne Parish Council's role within the community, its approach to listening and responding to residents over time, and how its current priorities relate to its approved budget. It is intended to give residents, councillors and partner organisations a clear and accessible picture of what the Council does, why its current priorities have been chosen, and how they are funded.

This document draws together decisions already taken by Full Council, including the Forward Plan / Action Plan (adopted February 2026, Minute No. 25/679(f)) and the Three-Year Financial Forecast (considered and noted on 13 January 2026, Minute No. 25/662(e) and (f)). It does not propose any new policy, priority or expenditure, and should be read alongside the Forward Plan / Action Plan, which sets out the detailed actions, timetables and responsibilities for current projects, and the Council's published budget and precept information.

2. What the Council Provides

Honeybourne Parish Council owns, manages or supports a range of facilities and services for the benefit of the community, including:

- Honeybourne Sports & Recreation Field, including the pavilion, pétanque court and outdoor exercise equipment / trim trail
- The Leys playing field, including the play area, wildflower meadow and associated footpath links
- Allotment gardens, in partnership with the Honeybourne Allotment Gardens Association (HAGA)
- The Council is responsible for the maintenance and administration of the Parish cemetery. A survey of the cemetery was carried out by the Clerk and Handyman in June 2026, indicating capacity for at least 250 burial plots and 120 ashes plots, with further areas available for future allocation as required.
- The annual Christmas tree lights switch-on event
- Support for community organisations through the Council's grant awarding policy
- Engagement with the planning system, including the Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Liaison with Worcestershire County Council, Wychavon District Council and Network Rail on matters affecting the parish, including footpaths and station parking

3. Listening and Delivering: Our Track Record

The Council places a high value on understanding what matters to residents and, where possible, translating that into action. Over a number of years, community input — gathered through formal consultations, neighbourhood planning work, and direct approaches to the Council — has shaped a number of completed projects:

Play area at the Leys

Arising from community input gathered through the Council's earlier Neighbourhood Development Plan work, a new play area was delivered at the Leys, with an opening ceremony held in July 2021.

Outdoor exercise equipment, trim trail and boules court

A boules/pétanque court was first identified as a resident aspiration through the Council's first Neighbourhood Development Plan survey, but could not be progressed at that time due to a lack of available budget. The aspiration was held by the Council until suitable funding became available. Following a public consultation held on 22 May 2022 at the Honeybourne Sports & Recreation Field, at which residents viewed brochures of available exercise equipment and completed a questionnaire on their preferences, the Council installed outdoor exercise equipment and a trim trail at the sports field, together

with the previously identified boules/pétanque court, funded through a combination of a Legacy grant, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts and Section 106 monies.

Wildflower meadow

Responding both to resident interest and to the Council's published Biodiversity Policy commitment to supporting habitat creation and pollinators, the Council established a wildflower meadow at the Leys. The project was delivered using Natural Network grant funding together with Section 106 monies.

Cricket / golf practice cage

Following a direct approach from residents at a Parish Council meeting, the Council provided a cricket / golf practice cage at the sports field, demonstrating its responsiveness to requests raised by residents as well as through formal consultation.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Review (2026)

Most recently, a community survey was conducted between 9 and 31 March 2026 as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review, receiving 96 responses from residents. Alongside views on housing, the survey identified strong support for environmental, biodiversity and landscape policies, and highlighted station car parking and sports and recreational facilities as priority areas for improvement. These findings directly inform the Council's current priorities, set out in Section 4 below.

4. Current Priorities, 2026/27 Onwards

The Council's current priorities, agreed through its Forward Plan / Action Plan (adopted February 2026, Minute No. 25/679(f)), respond directly to the engagement set out above. A summary is provided below; full details of actions, responsible parties, and timetables are set out in the Forward Plan / Action Plan itself.

Priority	Responds To	Indicative Funding
Neighbourhood Plan Review	Community survey 2026 (housing, environment)	£10,000 Council earmarked reserves, matched by £10,000 Wychavon District Council grant (claimed in stages by invoice); £18,000 total project
Footpath improvements (Leys)	Long-standing resident use; community survey 2026	Worcestershire County Council led; no direct Council spend
Railway station parking	Community survey 2026 (most-cited concern, 49 respondents)	Wychavon District Council / Network Rail led; no direct Council spend
Sports field drainage	Ongoing facility improvement; resident use	Section 106 monies
Grounds maintenance contract	Ensuring cost-effective upkeep of facilities used by residents	Council annual budget / precept
Annual Christmas event	Established community tradition	Council budget (earmarked reserves)

5. Budget Context

The Council's priorities are underpinned by sound financial planning. The 2026/27 Budget and Precept was approved by Full Council on 13 January 2026 (Minute No. 25/662(e)), and a Three-Year Financial Forecast, prepared in response to a recommendation from the Council's Internal Auditor, was considered and noted at the same meeting (Minute No. 25/662(f)).

As part of the approved 2026/27 budget, the Council agreed to apply £22,780 of earmarked reserves, set aside for defined purposes, to fund specific items of expenditure during the year. This planned use of reserves reduced the amount required to be raised through the precept in 2026/27. In recent years the Council has been able to moderate the level of the precept through the planned use of reserves and one-off funding associated with development activity in the parish; as these funding sources are now largely applied and reserve balances return to more typical levels, a greater proportion of ongoing expenditure is funded through the precept. The Council has taken a cautious and measured approach to ensure that ongoing commitments can be met while maintaining financial sustainability.

The headline figures are summarised below. Figures for 2027/28 and 2028/29 are indicative only and will be reviewed annually as part of the Council's normal budget-setting process.

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Precept requested	£113,472	£119,419	£125,664
Band D annual charge	£138.39	£145.64	£153.25
General Reserves (closing)	£80,607	£80,607	£80,607

The priorities set out in Section 4 that are funded from the Council's own budget — including grounds maintenance, funded from the precept, and the annual Christmas event, funded in part from earmarked reserves — are accommodated within the approved 2026/27 budget. The Council's General Reserves are projected to remain at a healthy and stable level of £80,607 throughout the forecast period, in line with the Council's preferred reserve policy.

Priorities led by other authorities — including the Neighbourhood Plan Review (part-funded by external grant), footpath improvements and railway station parking — do not draw on the Council's precept and therefore present no risk to the Council's financial position.

6. Review

This Business Plan will be reviewed alongside the Forward Plan / Action Plan, which is considered quarterly at Parish Council meetings. It will be updated as priorities are delivered, as new community engagement takes place, and as the Council's financial position is reviewed through its annual budget-setting process.

Date noted by Council: 14th July 2026

Minute Number: 26/759(g)