HONEYBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held at Honeybourne Village Hall, Harvest Close, Honeybourne WR11 7RH
on Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7:15pm

Members present: Cllrs H Jobes (Chair), A Attridge, C Clear, G Clelland, S Sidwell, J Mellor, S Walsh & Cllr A Galeckyj (co-opted at item 26/790)

In attendance: Parish Clerk, Linda Stanton
District Cllr J Ciotti (arrived 7:50 pm – departed 8:30pm)
2 members of public

26/790 Co-option of Parish Councillor

The Chairman opened the co-option meeting. The Council had received one application for the vacancy, from Mr Andrew Galeckyj. Councillors had been circulated with the applicant's details and presentation. A ballot of members was held.

Resolved :

That Mr Andrew Galeckyj be co-opted as a Parish Councillor of Honeybourne Parish Council. (Unanimous)

Mr Galeckyj signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer. He was given a welcome pack containing the Register of Interests form, the Council's essential policies and the agenda pack. He joined the other councillors for the remainder of the meeting, and the Chairman asked everyone to introduce themselves.

26/791 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from the following members:

Councillor	Reason
A Mathias	Personal
B Dubb (Vice- Chair)	Work commitment

26/792 Declarations of Interest

Councillors were reminded that to ensure transparency and retain public confidence in the council's decisions they are required to —

a) Keep their Register of Interests form up to date;

b) Declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and any Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) in agenda items and the nature of those interests.

The following declarations of interest were made:

Cllr	Item	Interest
A Attridge	26/804- Arrow Valley Solar (EN0110033- Public Consultation)	ODI- Cllr A Attridge declared an interest in this item as operator of The Ranch Caravan, advising that this was a public consultation on matters affecting all residents and including members, and remained in the meeting, taking part in the discussion and vote.
H Jobes	26/799 (a) – Schedule of payment Allotment Association fee to HAGA	DPI – Plot holder
J Mellor	26/799 (a) – Schedule of payment Allotment Association fee to HAGA	DPI – Plot holder
G Clelland	26/799(a) – Schedule of payments: payment to Limebridge Rural Services	ODI – Personal friend

26/793 To consider any dispensations

There were no requests for dispensation.

26/794 Open Session

a) Members of the Public.

There was no public participation.

b) Supporting organisations, e.g. South Worcestershire Policing Team.

None present.

c) Worcestershire County Councillor — H Robson
Cllr Robson was not in attendance.

d) District Councillor J Ciotti presented her report which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. **(Appendix 1 page 738)**

26/795 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

i. The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8th September 2026 were presented for adoption.

ii. The minutes of the Confidential Meeting held on 8th September 2026 were presented for adoption.

Resolved:

i. That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8th September 2026 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. (7 for and 1 abstention)

ii. That the minutes of the Full Council Confidential Meeting held on 8th September be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (7 for and 1 abstention)

Cllr A Galeckyj abstained as he was not a member of the Council at the 8th September 2026 meeting.

26/796 Chairman's Report (for information only)

The Chairman updated members on the Honeybourne station car park. He reported that Wychavon District Council's Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer, Jayne Pickering, had advised him that, with the feasibility study funding now in place, the specification for the study had been received from Network Rail. She was reviewing it to ensure that it would consider the options that WDC had requested.

Noted:

That the Chairman's report be noted

26/797 Parish Clerk's Report (for information only)

The Clerk presented her report. Members noted the updates on ongoing matters as follows:

Item	Subject	Update
a)	Cotswold District Council Regulation 19 Local Plan Representation Submitted	Following Council's consideration of the draft representation at the September meeting, and the authority delegated jointly to the Clerk and Chairman to finalise and submit it, the Council's Regulation 19 representation on Cotswold District Council's Local Plan 2026-2043 was submitted on 9th September 2026, ahead of the 5th October deadline. It addressed the cross-boundary infrastructure impact on Honeybourne railway station arising from the Mickleton strategic allocation (1,238 homes), including car parking, footbridge access, and the station's status against the NPPF's "well-connected station" test.
b)	Neighbourhood Development Plan Review – Call for Sites	The Call for Sites consultation closed at 23:59 on 18th September 2026. A website notice advised that late submissions may not be able to be included. Responses received by the deadline are being analysed by the Council's planning consultant. The NDP Review Steering Group will consider the sites in due course, and its recommendations will come to

		Full Council for approval before the plan proceeds to Regulation 14 public consultation.
c)	Christmas Switch-On Event Leaflet	The leaflets have been printed and will be circulated with the November village news.
d)	Sycamore Drive/Co-op – Dangerous and Obstructive Parking	A resident raised concerns about dangerous and obstructive parking around the Co-op and Sycamore Drive, linked to commuter use since GWR introduced parking charges at Honeybourne station. The Clerk replied that Sycamore Drive is an unadopted private road managed by Gateway, over which the Council has no direct powers. Obstruction and dangerous parking are matters for Gateway and West Mercia Police respectively, and the Council has no authority to convene or direct the organisations involved. The Council continues to press Wychavon District Council on additional station car parking. Worcestershire County Council Traffic Engineering has since replied to all parties, confirming that parking management on an unadopted road is a matter for the landowner or management company and that dangerous obstruction should be reported to the police, consistent with the Clerk's position.
e)	Cemetery – Brook Maintenance	The brook alongside the cemetery has been cut back and cleared on the Council's side. The opposite bank, backing onto the rear gardens of properties on Stratford Road, remains the responsibility of those property owners.
f)	Highways – Carriageway Markings, Station Road Railway Bridge and Gate Inn Crossroads	The Clerk reported to WCC Highways that the markings at the railway bridge on Station Road need renewal. Highways will inspect and, subject to that, order the markings to be retraced. They will also inspect the markings at the Gate Inn crossroads while attending.
Noted: That the Clerk's Report be noted.		

During the report, Cllr Mellor asked that the road markings on Weston Road be renewed, and Cllr Walsh asked that the gully between Shinehill and Buckle Street be cleared. The Clerk agreed to report both matters to Worcestershire County Council Highways.

26/798 Correspondence and Circulations Received

a) Worcestershire County Council: High Friction Surface, Station Road Zebra Crossing	To note correspondence from WCC's County Highways Liaison Officer (24th September 2026), sent to County Councillor Hannah Robson and copied to the Clerk, about the failing High Friction Surface at the Station Road zebra crossing. WCC engineers attended site and commissioned a survey by their contractor, Ringway, which found the existing tarmac unsuitable for laying High Friction Surface directly on top. 50mm of carriageway will need to be removed on both sides before the surface can be re-laid. As High Friction Surface is temperature-sensitive, the works cannot be completed this year and will take place in the 2027/28 financial year. WCC will monitor the surface in the meantime.
b) West Mercia Police and Crime Panel: Independent Lay Co-opted Member	To note a vacancy advertised by the Panel for an independent lay co-opted member, for a 4-year term (or the remainder of the Panel's lifespan). The role is unpaid (reasonable expenses only), requires an average of one day a month, and is open to applicants living or working in the West Mercia police force area. This was circulated to members before the closing date of 5pm on 30th September 2026.
c) West Mercia Police Economic Crime Unit	Monthly Bulletin, September 2026, circulated to members for information.
d) Parish and Town Council Event, 24th September 2026	To note the programme and attendance arrangements for the Environmental Opportunities and Local Government Reorganisation event for parish and town councils, held at the Civic Centre, Pershore on Thursday 24th September 2026 at 6.00pm. Details were circulated to members beforehand, who were invited to confirm attendance.

e) Resident Correspondence: Thanks re Planning Applications W/26/01627/RM and W/26/01732/OUT	To note a letter from a resident thanking the Council for listening to residents' concerns and for the careful consideration given to the two applications (Stratford Road/Mickleton Road and Buckle Street), and asking that their thanks be passed on to all councillors involved.
f) Worcestershire County Council: Public Notice, Temporary Road Closure, U45017 School Street	To note notice under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 of a proposed Temporary Closure Order for part of U45017 School Street (from its junction with Corner Farm Drive to its junction with Reades Piece) for remedial utility works by Severn Trent Water. Access is permitted for premises fronting the affected highway with no alternative access. The alternative route is via High Street and School Street (part), and vice versa. The anticipated duration is 1 day, starting 25th October 2026, within a maximum permitted duration of 18 months.
Noted: That the correspondence be noted	

26/799 Finance

a) Schedule of Payments – October 2026 (for approval)

The Clerk presented the schedule of payments for October 2026, including invoices paid as a matter of urgency, for approval.

Invoice no	Payment Method	Supplier	Description	Net £	VAT £	Gross £
813748834	Direct Debit	British Gas	Pavilion power and heating	65.51	3.14	68.65
M017	Standing Order	British Telecom	Regular charge (1st Sept – 30th Sept 2026)	36.95	7.39	44.34
INV13491753	Direct Debit	Water Plus	Pavilion water	11.37	-	11.37
493838179	Direct Debit	Lloyds Bank	Accounts Maintenance Fee for PC – Community Account no: xxxxx608 (10th Jul - 9thAug 2026)	4.25	-	4.25
IVO474989	Direct Debit	SSE Energy Solution	Unmetered footway lighting	113.80	22.76	136.56
INV/22851	BACS	SPE Ltd	Annual service of below ground pumping station at the sports field	395.00	79.00	474.00
September	BACS	J Hyde	Handyman work	105.50	-	105.50
September	BACS	J Hyde	Lengthsman work	156.05	-	156.05
SI- 10907	BACS	Security 4 Systems	Monthly IT Support	77.50	-	77.50
SI-10887	BACS	Security 4 Systems	WBSAL annual exchange Mailboxes 15 email accounts	1008.00	-	1008.00
Tax month 7	BACS	Worcestershire Pension	Pension - includes back pay (see note)	1517.61	-	1517.61
Tax month 7	BACS	Staff salary	Staff salary - includes back pay (see note)	4422.60	-	4422.60
Tax month 7	BACS	HMRC	HMRC - includes back pay (see note)	2075.00	-	2075.00
-	BACS	Staff Mileage Claim	6th July – 28th Sept – 420 miles	231.00	-	231.00
3926	BACS	Limebridge Rural Services	Monthly Grounds maintenance	1450.00	290.00	1740.00
3927	BACS	Limebridge Rural Services	To complete remaining pollarding of willow trees (50%) at cemetery adjacent to parking.	825.00	165.00	990.00

3927	BACS	Limebridge Rural services	Removal of Hawthorn within the ditch line at cemetery.	490.00	98.00	588.00
22891/24072	BACS	GS Adams Ltd	To re-align streetlight column 4- Stratford Road	298.00	59.60	357.60
22892/23559	BACS	GS Adams Ltd	To carry out painting of 16 steel brackets and test function including supply equipment to safely gain access high level works	1050.00	210.00	1260.00
002204	Cheque	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	2 poppy wreath – Annual Remembrance - Donation	70.00	-	70.00
2026-223	BACS	Quick Print UK Ltd	Printing - Raffle tickets	25.00	5.00	30.00
2026-223	BACS	Quick Print UK Ltd	Printing – A 5 leaflets	60.00	-	60.00
2026- 040	BACS	Honeybourne Village News	Delivery of Christmas Leaflet	63.00	-	63.00
352754	BACS	Hartwells & Co (Timber) Ltd	Replacement picket fence pedestrian gate for sports field	74.70	14.94	89.64
SIN161515	BACS	Fairview Trading Co. Ltd	Handyman work – Coach screw and padlock for sports field	9.43	1.89	11.32
26-003	BACS	HAGA	Allotment Subs	22.50	-	22.50
4017582	BACS	Worcestershire CC	Leys Field Rent - 2026- 2027	1095.00	-	1095.00
Cld0441823	BACS	Wychavon District Council	Supply and installation of 1 dog bin including twice weekly emptying. One off administration fee	547.77	109.55	657.32
	BACS	Equals Money	Top up pre-paid debit card	250.00	-	250.00
Pre-paid Debit card						
Invoice/Receipt No	**Date**	**Supplier**	**Description**	**Net £**	**VAT £**	**Gross £**
20260547987691 93	26th Sept 2026	Adobe Systems Software	Monthly subs	16.64	3.33	19.97
3444221982026-10-03	2nd Oct 2026	Lebara	Mobile phone	4.17	0.83	5.00

Resolved:

i. That the schedule of payments for October 2026, excluding the payment to HAGA, be approved. (6 For, 1 Abstention) Cllr G Clelland, having declared an interest in the payments to Limebridge Rural Services (see 26/792), abstained from voting. Cllr A Galeckyj did not vote.

ii. That the payment to HAGA be approved. (5 For, 2 Abstentions) Cllrs H Jobes and J Mellor, having declared an interest in the payments to HAGA (see 26/792), abstained from voting. Cllr A Galeckyj did not vote.

Note: *October payments include back pay for April to September 2026. This is a single payment covering six months, not a monthly amount. It arises from the national NJC pay award for 2026/27 (agreed in August 2026 and backdated to 1 April 2026), contractual pay scale progression, and a review of contracted hours approved by Full Council on 8th September 2026.*

b) Bank Reconciliation — September 2026 – (for approval)

The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation for September 2026, for approval.

Bank Reconciliation at 30/09/2026		
Cash in Hand 01/04/2026		117,618.46
ADD		
Receipts 01/04/2026 – 30/09/2026		182,113.09
		299,731.55
SUBTRACT		
Payments 01/04/2026 – 30/09/2026		124,011.61

Cash in Hand 30/09/2026 (per Cash Book) A		175,719.94
Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
Petty Cash 30/09/2026	0.00	
Lloyds Business Bank Instant 30/09/2026	170,105.56	
Lloyds Treasurers Account 30/09/2026	5,265.69	
Prepaid Debit Card Equals 30/09/2026	348.69	175,719.94
Less unpresented payments		
Plus unpresented receipts		
Adjusted Bank Balance B A = B Checks out OK		175,719.94

Resolved:
That the bank reconciliation for September 2026 be approved.

c) Budget Monitoring – To note the current budget position v actual receipts and payments. (Circulated with agenda pack)
Members **noted** the current budget position against actual receipts and payments

d) Precept and Grant Payment (for noting)

Members **noted** receipt from Wychavon District Council of the second tranche of the 2026/27 precept (£56,736.00) and the council tax support grant (£2,736.00), totalling £59,472.00.

e) Neighbourhood Plan Review Grant (for noting)

Members **noted** receipt of £1,400.00 from Wychavon District Council, reimbursing the Neighbourhood Plan Review consultant costs claimed to date against the £10,000 grant award.

f) Friends of St Ecgwin's Church Grant – Unspent Balance

Members considered the Clerk's report on the unspent balance of the Friends of St Ecgwin's Church's 2026/27 grant award. (Circulated with the agenda pack) Members did not wish the balance to be returned.

Resolved:
That the unspent balance of £67.84 be retained by the Friends of St Ecgwin's Church for items for their Remembrance "Ribbons" project, with receipts to be provided to the Clerk as evidence of spend.

26/800 Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) Silver Application

The Council received the Clerk's report. The Clerk confirmed that all required documents, information and conditions were in place for the Council's application for the Local Council Award Scheme Silver Award.

Resolved:
That all the required documents, information and conditions are in place for the Local Council Award Scheme Silver Award, and that these are published on the Council's website where applicable, and that submission of the application is authorised.

26/801 Committee & Working Groups reports

a) Neighbourhood Development Plan Review – Steering Group Meeting
Members **noted** that the NDP Review Steering Group meeting scheduled for 6th October 2026 had been postponed, to allow the planning consultant time to complete analysis of the Call for Sites responses received. The next Steering Group meeting will be held on 12th November 2026.

b) Christmas Event Working Group
Cllr S Sidwell reported back from the informal meeting of the Christmas Event Working

Group, at which no Council business was conducted. He reported that National Gas had provided a substantial amount of sponsorship for the event.

Resolved:

That the following recommendations of the Working Group be approved:

i. The Risk Assessment for the Honeybourne Christmas Event 2026 **(Appendix 2 – Pages 739 -741)**

ii. That Reverend Barwood give a blessing at the Christmas tree at 6.55pm, prior to the lights switch-on;

iii. That Doug Rushton read out the names of those who have sponsored a Christmas tree light in memory of a loved one;

iv. That, following a countdown led by National Gas, Santa switch on the Christmas tree lights at 7pm.

c) Police and Crime Commissioner – Town and Parish Council Survey 2026
Members completed the annual Town and Parish Council Survey from the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia at the meeting. The Clerk will submit the survey before the deadline of midday on Tuesday 14th October 2026.

26/802 Environment and Community Wellbeing

a) Christmas Raffle Hamper Contributions
Councillors and staff were invited to donate items for the Christmas raffle hamper prize for the switch-on event on 4th December 2026. A list of suggested items was circulated at the meeting, and councillors put their names against the items they will provide. Donations are to be delivered to the Village Hall or collected by the Clerk by 2nd November 2026.

b) GWR Poppy Train – Armistice Day Wreath Presentation
Members noted that Great Western Railway has again invited the Parish Council to take part in the Poppy Train on Armistice Day, Wednesday 11th November 2026, marking the 110th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. The Poppy Train will call at Honeybourne Station (Platform 2) at 07.57, departing 07.58, with wreaths transported to London Paddington and laid at the War Memorial, where the annual remembrance service is held. As in previous years, the Chairman will present a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

c) Christmas Switch-On Event – Marquee Assistance
Councillors were asked to volunteer to help erect the marquee on Friday 4th December at 10am and dismantle it on Saturday 5th December at 10am. No names were taken; it was agreed that whoever is available on the day will attend. Mince pies and hot drinks will be provided for the volunteers.

d) Station Road – Speeding Concerns
Members considered the Clerk's report on speeding concerns on Station Road, raised with Cllr G Clelland by residents (Circulated with the agenda pack). Members noted that the Clerk had already asked Worcestershire County Council Highways to deploy a speed data collection device, and that there may be some delay because of the county-wide demand for data collection. Members noted that the most recent data collection on Station Road by West Mercia Police, in July and August 2024, is now over two years old.

Resolved:

That West Mercia Police be asked to carry out a further speed data collection exercise on Station Road.

e) Wychavon Community Resilience Grant – Pavilion Energy Improvements
Members considered the Clerk's report on a potential application to the Wychavon Community Resilience Grant for solar panel installation at the pavilion, together with a supplementary note on the pavilion's electricity cost and indicative solar payback, tabled at the meeting. Both reports are appended to these minutes. **(Appendix 3 – pages 742 -745)**
Two proposals were put to the vote:

i. That the Clerk apply for grant funding towards an independent energy assessment of the pavilion, to obtain independent information on whether solar panels are appropriate. (5 votes)

ii. That the Council not proceed with an assessment, as solar panels were not wanted given the pavilion's low electricity usage. (3 votes)

Proposal i. received the most votes and was carried.

Resolved:

That the Council:

i. notes the contents of the Clerk's report, including the grant bands available, the assessment criteria, and that match funding of around 50% should be expected in practice;

ii. notes that no independent assessment has established an energy need or usage case for the pavilion, and confirms that no budget provision will be made for 2027/28 in the absence of one;

iii. agrees that, if the matter is to be progressed, an independent energy assessment should be commissioned by the Council, and not supplied by an installer;

iv. defers any application for funding towards solar panel installation until after the May 2027 elections, when officer capacity and Council priorities can be reassessed;

v. notes that this is a deferral for proper preparation and not a decision not to pursue the matter;

vi. agrees that the Clerk apply for grant funding towards an independent energy assessment of the pavilion.

f) Sports Field Car Parking – Honeybourne Cat Protection Centre Autumn Fair

Members **noted** that Honeybourne Cat Protection Centre has hired the Village Hall for an Autumn Fair on Saturday 24th October 2026, 11am–4pm, and has asked to use the sports field car park for stallholder parking. The organisers have been advised that the gates must be manned at all times during use and kept shut.

26/803 Cotswold District Local Plan – Regulation 19 Consultation: Proposed Supplementary Representation

Members considered the Clerk's report on a supplementary representation to Cotswold District Council's Regulation 19 consultation on its Local Plan 2026–2043, in light of the additional transport evidence published by Cotswold District Council. The supplementary representation to be submitted is appended to these minutes. (**Appendix 4 – pages 746 – 747)**

Resolved:

That the Council:

i. notes that Cotswold District Council has extended the Regulation 19 consultation to 11.59pm on 3rd November 2026, and that the Council's representation already submitted remains valid;

ii. confirms that the Council does not accept that Honeybourne's railway station, station car park or local roads should be relied upon to support growth at Mickleton;

iii. approves the wording of Supplementary Entries A, B and C for submission to Cotswold District Council;

iv. notes that Cotswold District Council has confirmed in writing that a supplementary representation will be accepted, that its online portal is the preferred route, and that the representation must state that it is made by Honeybourne Parish Council; the Clerk will submit via the portal and keep the reply and the portal acknowledgement on file;

v. delegates authority to the Clerk and Chairman jointly to submit the approved wording through the portal before the 3rd November 2026 deadline, limited to factual corrections (for example, page references and distances), without changing the substance of the Council's position.

26/804 Arrow Valley Solar (EN0110033)- Public Consultation

Members considered the Clerk's report and draft response to Arrow Valley Solar's public consultation on its proposed solar and battery storage scheme.

Members asked that the following points be added to the draft response:

- Construction traffic: that the developer be asked to confirm that its choice of routes elsewhere, including any restriction affecting other bridges, will not move construction traffic onto roads through Honeybourne without that traffic being assessed, and to identify any weight, width or other restrictions on the roads through Honeybourne and on the railway bridge, and how construction vehicles would comply with them;
- Heritage: that the heritage assessment cover the effect of construction traffic, including vibration, on the Honeybourne Conservation Area and the listed buildings within it;
- Noise: that a section be added on noise from substations and battery storage.

Members raised the possibility of a 7.5 tonne weight limit on High Street.

The response as amended is appended to these minutes **(Appendix 5 – pages 748 – 752)**.

Resolved:

That the Council:

I. notes that this is the developer's public consultation, that the Council's response goes to the developer and not to the Planning Inspectorate, that it cannot require changes to the scheme, and that it is not an objection to the scheme;
II. approves the draft response, with the additional points requested at the meeting;
III. authorises the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to make any minor amendments and to submit the response before 11:59pm on Monday 2nd November 2026;
IV. agrees that a copy of the response be sent, once submitted, to Wychavon District Council, Worcestershire County Council as highway authority, the county and district councillors for Honeybourne, and Bretforton and Weston-sub-Edge Parish Councils.

26/805 Planning

a) Buckle Street – W/26/01732/OUT – Update

Members noted that, following the Council's resolution of 8th September 2026 to object to this application, the Chairman had written to District Councillor Hannah Robson, as Ward Member, asking her to consider calling the application in for a Committee decision. Cllr Robson has confirmed that, having spoken with the relevant planning officers, she will call the application in to Committee should it meet the criteria for doing so.

Members noted that Wychavon District Council had notified the Council, by letter dated 1st October 2026, of additional information received from the applicant, with comments invited by 15th October 2026, and that Wychavon's letter advises that there is no need to repeat comments already made.

Resolved:

That the following response be submitted to Wychavon District Council, and that authority be delegated to the Clerk and Chairman to finalise and submit it by 15th October 2026: Honeybourne Parish Council has considered the additional information and amended plans received on 1 October 2026, with the advice of its planning consultant.

The Parish Council's objection to this application, as resolved at its meeting on 8 September 2026 and submitted to Wychavon District Council, stands. The additional information does not change the Council's position, and the Council asks that its original comments continue to be taken into account in the determination of the application.

b) Bretforton Road – W/26/00521/RM – Amended Plans

Members considered the Clerk's report and draft response to Wychavon District Council on further amended plans for 24 dwellings at Land at Bretforton Road.

Resolved:

That the Council:

I. approves the draft response to Wychavon District Council, which notes that the changes relate mainly to highways, that the Council's response of 9th August 2026 is unchanged, and asks the applicant to deliver the community orchard as shown, to confirm the housing mix and its compliance with Policy H2 of the Honeybourne Neighbourhood Plan, and to notify the Council when the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan is submitted; and

II. delegates authority to the Clerk and Chairman to make minor amendments and submit the response before 15th October 2026.

26/806 Items for Next Meeting

Members were reminded to notify the Clerk of items for discussion at the next council meeting by 27th October 2026.

26/807 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is confirmed as Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7:15pm at Honeybourne Village Hall, Harvest Close, Honeybourne.

Meeting Concluded : 21:30

Signed: …… Date: ……
Chairman, Honeybourne Parish Council

Council Members:
H Jobes (Chairman), B Dubb (Vice-Chair), A Attridge, C Clear, G Clelland, A Galeckyj, A Mathias, J Mellor, S Sidwell and S Walsh

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Appendix 1

October 2026 Report to Parish Councils from Wychavon District Councillors

Quick reminder about Ward Budgets: grant applications open now!

Wychavon Residents' Survey 2026: this has started and does not close until November 1st. Take your opportunity to share views on council services and your local area. As before prizes will be awarded to a lucky few respondents. See **wychavon.gov.uk**

Fly tipping: we have agreed tougher penalties for illegally dumping rubbish- the maximum fixed penalty will rise from £1000 to £5000. Littering fines will also rise.

Renters Rights Acts: Landlord Drop-in event. There will be a free informal meet up at The Civic Centre Pershore on October 13th from 9 to 11 or 5 to 7. No booking needed.

Hidden Homelessness: women are more likely to experience this. Rough Sleeping usually means sleeping on the streets but hidden homelessness can be sofa surfing, sleeping in a vehicle, or somewhere unsafe or moving between temporary places without a secure home. Wychavon is taking part in the census for the first time with the aim of improving general understanding of women's rough sleeping issues and giving help. Find out more from Women's Rough Sleeping Census website.

Meno-fest 2026 to support better understanding takes place on October 7th at Worcester Rugby Club.

Wellbeing Wychavon: an online event will take place on **October 16th 10 - 11am** titled **Who cares for the Carers.**

Hospitality scheme: interesting new scheme by gov.uk. £10million set aside for new ventures but also for **Pub is the Hub** an independent non-profit organisation to help pubs in rural and deprived areas to diversify.

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Appendix 2 – Min 26/801 (b)

Christmas Switch on Risk Assessment – 4th December 2026

Task / Activity or Environment	Hazards are present or maybe generated	Who is affected or exposed to hazards	Degree of injury that can be reasonably expected	What precautions are already in place (Existing controls)	Likelihood / probability of an accident occurring	What is the risk rating
Vehicle movement on site	Vehicles moving on, off and around the site and their interactions with pedestrians. Vehicles parked on nearby roads are outside the Council's control.	All visitors	Fatal / major injury	Car park will be closed to vehicular traffic. Most visitors walk to the event. The Council cannot prevent vehicles parking on nearby roads.	Low (unlikely)	Medium
Visitor control	Visitors having free rein to wander around the car park and village hall	All visitors	Minor	Car park will be closed to vehicular traffic. Parish Council will monitor areas that are open for the event. Children should be supervised by accompanying parents/carers	Medium	Low
Escape in case of emergency	Visitors getting trapped on site	All visitors	Fatal / major injury	Fire alarm tested and working. Fire doors will be unlocked. Main entrance to hall will remain unlocked. Emergency lighting tested and working. Fire assembly point is Village Hall carpark	Low	Mediu m
Terror attack		All visitors	Fatal / major injury	Information sheets on the course of action to be taken will be placed on the noticeboard and circulated to all Parish Councillors.	Low	Medium
Minimising risk of accidents		All visitors	Serious	All areas will have been tidied up before the events begin. Electric wires and connections required for the switch on will have been professionally installed and tested. Any drinks spillages on smooth surfaces will be cleaned up immediately. For any serious injury an ambulance / paramedics will be called.	Low	Low
Allergic reactions in visitors	Unexpected allergies reactions due to food served at the event	All visitors	Serious	Food and drink ingredients will be clearly displayed for customers by the food vendors. For any serious reaction an ambulance will be called.	Low	Low
Roundabout and Entertainer	**Risk assessments and insurance for the roundabout and entertainer will be provided by the operators. The roundabout is a small ride.**					

Missing children	Child becomes separated from parent/carer	Children	Serious	The town crier will announce any missing child. The child will be brought to the tent area where the band is. Children should be supervised by accompanying parents/carers.	Low	Low
First aid	Injury to visitors requiring first aid	All visitors	Serious	A first aid kit will be available on site and will be given to the injured person's family member or carer. For any serious injury an ambulance / paramedics will be called.	Low	Low
Strong wind	Marquee, Christmas tree and other items being blown over or damaged	All visitors	Serious	The marquee and Christmas tree are secured when they are erected.	Low	Low
Darkness	Event takes place after dark; risk of trips and falls	All visitors	Minor	Portable lights will be used.	Medium	Low

Section 2 – Action Plan

What is the hazard you need to control	What additional precautions do you need to eliminate or reduce the risk to an acceptable level	Who is responsible for implementing these controls	When are the controls to be implemented	When were these controls implemented
All the above	In addition to the above, members of staff and Parish Councillors and volunteers, who have been issued a copy of this assessment, will be on site throughout the event in case of need.	Parish Councillors and staff present at the event.	4th December 2026	

Notes

All insurance, risk assessments and food hygiene certificates will be provided by the food vendor. The Village Hall runs the craft fayre and the pop-up bar.

Risk rating matrix - table 1

Potential severity of harm	Meaning	Likelihood of harm	Meaning
Fatal / major injury	Death, major injuries or ill health causing long term disability / absence from work	High (Frequent)	Occurs repeatedly / an event only to be expected
Serious injury	Injuries or ill health causing short term disability / absence from work (over 3 days absence)	Medium (possible)	Moderate chance / could occur sometimes
Minor injury	Injuries or ill health causing no significant long term effects and no significant absence from work	Low (unlikely)	Not likely to occur

Table 2

Risk rating – Degree of injury by likelihood / probability			
	High (likely)	Medium (possible)	Low (improbable)
Fatal / major injury	Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk
Serious injury	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Minor injury	Medium Risk	Low Risk	No significant risk

Table 3

Action required – key to ranking	
High or very high risk	STOP ACTIVITY! Action must be taken as soon as possible to reduce the risk and before activity is allowed to continue
Medium risk	Implement all additional precautions that are not unreasonably costly or troublesome

Honeybourne Parish Council

Report: Wychavon Community Resilience Grant – Pavilion Energy Improvements

Prepared by: Linda Stanton, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

For consideration by: Full Council

1. Purpose

To update Council on the position regarding a potential application to the Wychavon Community Resilience Grant (Community Building Energy Resilience strand) for solar panel installation at the pavilion, and to recommend the appropriate next steps.

2. Background

At a recent meeting, Cllr Colin Clear requested that the Clerk/RFO research the Wychavon Community Resilience Grant with a view to applying for funding towards solar panel installation on the pavilion building.

3. Grant Details

- The scheme is Wychavon's Community Building Energy Resilience Grant, part of the wider £500,000 Wychavon Resilience Grants programme; £50,000 is allocated specifically to this strand, covering energy audits and physical energy efficiency/renewable energy measures in community buildings.
- Two separate grants are available within this strand: (i) up to £500 towards the cost of commissioning an energy audit, with no match funding required for this element; and (ii) £3,000–£20,000 per project towards physical energy efficiency, renewable energy, or low carbon measures (solar PV is explicitly named as an eligible measure), for which match funding from another source is required.
- There is no fixed match-funding percentage published by Wychavon; the level of match funding offered is one factor considered as part of the application's scoring, under "project readiness." Separately, the Clerk/RFO was advised directly by Wychavon that a match-funding contribution of around 50% should be expected in practice. Council should note this is Wychavon's informal guidance rather than a published fixed rule, but should still be treated as the realistic expectation.
- Applications are assessed by Wychavon's Climate and Nature Panel against four weighted criteria (need and impact 20%, greenhouse gas savings 20%, energy saving/generation 40%, project readiness 20%), with a minimum score required to be considered for funding. The Panel makes recommendations to Wychavon's Executive Board, who take the final funding decision.
- A strong application requires a defined scope of works, cost quotes, and evidence of energy/carbon savings (from an energy audit or similar assessment) to score well, particularly under "project readiness" and "energy saving/generation," which together make up 60% of the assessment. None of this evidence currently exists for the pavilion.

4. Independent Assessment

It is recommended, though not a requirement of the grant scheme, that any energy audit or needs assessment for the pavilion be carried out by an independent energy assessor, rather than a supplier or installer with a commercial interest in the outcome. An assessment from an independent source is more defensible if the Council's decision-making is ever questioned or scrutinised — for example by residents, an internal/external auditor, or at election time — and supports a fair procurement process under the Council's Financial Regulations.

Before quotations can be sought, a written scope of works/specification must also be prepared, setting out what is actually required (system size, panel type, any structural or electrical works needed, etc.) so that all quotes received are for a like-for-like comparison. This scope would derive directly from the findings of the

independent assessment; quotations cannot properly be obtained in advance of, or independently from, that assessment.

5. Budgetary Position

No provision has been made for this project, or for match funding towards it, in the current year's budget or in the draft 2027/28 budget. It is recommended that no provision be added for the 2027/28 budget: the Council has not yet established, through an independent assessment, that the pavilion has an energy need or usage case that solar panels would address, and current consumption at the pavilion is low. Committing budget ahead of that evidence would pre-empt a decision the Council has not yet properly taken.

6. Officer Capacity

Preparing a competitive grant application of this kind is not a short task. It requires dedicated time to commission an independent energy audit, obtain and evaluate quotes, prepare a defined scope of works and evidence of energy/carbon savings for the Climate and Nature Panel's scoring criteria, and identify and secure a match-funding source.

The Clerk/RFO's capacity is currently committed to statutory and time-critical work. This includes the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review consultation work, which requires substantial time to prepare submissions to the standard Council needs to properly consider them; the Christmas event on 4 December 2026, which is already underway; and budget/precept setting for 2027/28 and year-end accounts and audit preparation. Undertaking this work properly, rather than as a rushed add-on, is not achievable within current capacity.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

- Notes the contents of this report, including the grant bands available, the assessment criteria, and that match funding of around 50% should be expected in practice, even though no fixed percentage is published;
- Notes that no independent assessment has established an energy need or usage case for the pavilion, and confirms that no budget provision will be made for 2027/28 in the absence of one;
- Agrees that, if this matter is to be progressed, an independent energy audit/assessment should be commissioned by the Council, rather than relying on a supplier-provided assessment;
- Defers further work on this matter until after the May 2027 elections, at which point officer capacity and Council priorities can be properly reassessed;
- Notes that this is a deferral for proper preparation, not a decision not to pursue the matter, and that no further officer time will be committed to this matter before that point — the information gathered to date is recorded here for the incoming Council to consider, alongside identification of a suitable match-funding source, at that time.

Honeybourne Parish Council

Pavilion Electricity Cost and Solar Payback

Prepared for: Full Council, 13 October 2026 – supplementary information
Prepared by: Linda Stanton, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 12 October 2026

1. Purpose

Following publication of the agenda pack, a question was raised as to whether the pavilion's electricity cost can be identified separately from water, so that the present annual cost can be compared with the up-front investment needed to introduce solar (PV) panels. This note sets out the electricity cost for the last 12 months and an indicative payback comparison.

2. Summary

- **Electricity is billed separately from water.** The bills used here are British Gas business electricity bills for the playing field site, Bretforton Road. Water is not included.
- **Electricity used:** 2,292 kWh over 12 months (October 2025 to September 2026), about 190 kWh a month.
- **Annual cost:** approximately £850 excluding VAT (about £894 including VAT). The Council reclaims the VAT, so £850 is the true cost to the Council.
- **Standing charge:** about £188 of the annual cost is the standing charge, which solar panels would not reduce. The most that panels could ever save is therefore about £660 to £685 a year.
- **Payback:** on general installation cost estimates (Section 5), payback is roughly 6 to 15 years in the best case and 12 to 29 years in a more realistic case, and longer without a grant (Section 5).

3. Electricity cost, October 2025 to September 2026

All figures are taken from the monthly bills and exclude VAT.

Month	kWh used	Electricity usage	Standing charge	Total ex VAT
October 2025	165	£47.36	£16.34	£63.70
November 2025	162	£46.49	£15.81	£62.30
December 2025	267	£76.63	£16.34	£92.97
January 2026	239	£68.59	£16.34	£84.93
February 2026	180	£51.66	£14.76	£66.42
March 2026	183	£52.52	£16.34	£68.86
April 2026	177	£50.80	£15.81	£66.61
May 2026	182	£52.23	£16.34	£68.57
June 2026 †	177	£50.80	£15.81	£66.61
July 2026	184	£52.81	£16.34	£69.15
August 2026 *	202	£60.93	£14.64	£75.57
September 2026	174	£52.01	£13.50	£65.51
Total	**2,292**	**£662.83**	**£188.37**	**£851.20**

† The June bill was based on an estimated meter reading. The actual reading was 5 kWh higher and the correction (£1.52 including VAT) was billed on the July account. It has been added to June so that the total agrees with the meter readings.

* The August 2026 bill includes £1.23 of new network charges, and the unit rate and standing charge changed during the month when the new contract began (see Section 4).

4. Observations

- Usage is highest in the winter months (267 kWh in December, against about 170 kWh in June). Solar panels generate least when the pavilion uses most.
- Usage does not fall to a very low level in the summer, which suggests a steady background load. An independent energy audit would help to identify what it is.
- A new fixed contract with British Gas began on 11 August 2026 and runs to August 2029. The unit rate rose from 28.7p to 29.89p per kWh and the standing charge fell from 52.7p to 45p per day. At the same usage the annual cost is about £849 excluding VAT, so the figure above is a fair guide for the coming year.
- The meter serves the whole playing field site. If other equipment, such as the pumping station or outside lighting, is on the same supply, it is included in these figures.

5. Indicative payback

The table compares the cost to the Council with the likely annual saving on electricity usage. The best case assumes the panels replace all of the electricity used, which is not realistic given the winter peak above. The realistic case assumes about half is used when the panels are generating.

Cost to the Council	Best case: panels replace all usage (about £685 a year)	Realistic: about half the electricity (about £340 a year)
£4,000 (smaller system, 50% grant)	About 6 years	About 12 years
£10,000 (larger system, 50% grant)	About 15 years	About 29 years
£8,000 (smaller system, no grant)	About 12 years	About 23 years
£20,000 (larger system, no grant)	About 29 years	About 58 years

Notes: installation costs are general UK estimates for a small commercial system (about £8,000 to £20,000), not a quote. The grant rows assume the Wychavon grant funds about half the cost, as described in the Clerk's report. The figures take no account of export income, a battery or inverter replacement (usually due after 10 to 15 years). Electricity is fixed at 29.89p per kWh until August 2029, so the saving will not rise in the short term. Panels are normally expected to last 25 to 30 years.

How the figures are worked out. Best-case saving: 2,292 kWh a year at the new unit rate of 29.89p = about £685. Realistic saving: half of that, about £340, on the assumption that about half of the electricity is used while the panels are generating. Payback: cost to the Council divided by the annual saving (for example £10,000 ÷ £340 = about 29 years). The standing charge is excluded because panels do not reduce it.

6. Conclusion

The pavilion's electricity cost is modest, at about £850 a year, and about a fifth of that is a standing charge that panels cannot reduce. On these figures the payback period is long, and in the realistic cases at the upper cost range the installation would not pay for itself within the life of the panels. This supports the recommendation in the Clerk's report to defer further work until after the May 2027 elections. A site-specific quote and an energy audit would be needed before any firm figures are relied on.

Honeybourne Parish Council

Cotswold District Local Plan 2026–2043, Regulation 19 Consultation – Supplementary Representation as submitted via the CDC online portal on 15th October 2026

This representation is made by Honeybourne Parish Council.

Approved by Full Council on 13th October 2026 (wording as set out in Section 6 of the report to Council). Consultation closes 11.59pm on 3rd November 2026. Entries A, B and C were submitted separately, as the portal requires. The first line of each Point is the heading line entered in the portal.

Supplementary Entry A – Core Policy 19 (page 116) / Paragraph 7.20 (page 119)

Point (as submitted):

Honeybourne Parish Council – Supplementary Entry A – Core Policy 19 (page 116) / Paragraph 7.20 (page 119)

This is supplementary to HPC's Entry 1 and responds to the transport evidence CDC has published. Paragraph 7.20 relies on public transport connectivity, particularly to Honeybourne Railway Station, to help justify the Mickleton allocation. CDC's own Strategic Transport Assessment (City Science, July 2026) does not support this. It does not mention Honeybourne station at all, and assesses only Kemble and Moreton-in-Marsh stations for additional demand (pages 20 and 61). It describes Mickleton as reliant on infrequent buses and private cars (page 56), and concludes that Mickleton continues to perform below comparable settlements across sustainable modes even with the full package of measures in place (page 81). Every rail option for Mickleton was ruled out (Annex F, options Mic1 and Mic4), and no increase in Cotswold Line frequency is included (option Mo6).

Honeybourne station is in Wychavon District, Worcestershire. It lies between 5.3 and 6.4 miles from Mickleton by road, roughly half the distance to Moreton-in-Marsh station (11.8 to 13.2 miles; AA Route Planner), along narrow rural roads unsuitable for safe walking or cycling. Residents will therefore drive to it, adding to pressure on a car park that is already insufficient. HPC does not accept that Honeybourne's station, car park or roads can be relied upon to support the Mickleton allocation. The reliance placed on Honeybourne station in paragraph 7.20 is not justified by the Plan's own evidence.

Modification sought (as submitted):

That the reliance on Honeybourne Railway Station be removed from paragraph 7.20, or that CDC provide evidence assessing the impact of the Mickleton allocation on Honeybourne station, together with a specific, funded requirement to mitigate it, agreed with Wychavon District Council, Worcestershire County Council and Network Rail.

Supplementary Entry B – Core Policy 20 (page 122)

Point (as submitted):

Honeybourne Parish Council – Supplementary Entry B – Core Policy 20 (page 122)

This is supplementary to HPC's Entry 2. CDC's transport evidence identifies funded station improvements at Moreton-in-Marsh (£3.5 million, Annex F option Mo17) and Kemble (£2.5 million, option K8), but none at Honeybourne, which is Mickleton's nearest station. The Plan therefore makes provision for rail demand at stations within Cotswold District while leaving the demand from Mickleton to fall on a station in Worcestershire with no assessment and no funding. HPC does not accept that demand arising from growth in Cotswold District should be

left unfunded, or that the cost of addressing it should be passed to Wychavon District Council, Worcestershire County Council or the rail industry.

Modification sought (as submitted):

That Core Policy 20 be amended to include a specific, funded item addressing capacity at Honeybourne Railway Station, including car parking and pedestrian access, secured through developer contributions from the Mickleton allocation and an evidenced cross-boundary agreement.

Supplementary Entry C – Appendix B, Site 9 Mickleton Development Framework (page 40)

Point (as submitted):

Honeybourne Parish Council – Supplementary Entry C – Appendix B, Site 9 Mickleton Development Framework (page 40)

This is supplementary to HPC's Entry 3. CDC's Transport Evidence Base Comments Log (City Science, August 2026) records that Gloucestershire County Council, commenting on the draft interventions on 26th May 2026, advised that the focus for Mickleton should be on bus connectivity to and from Moreton and/or Honeybourne. The only bus improvement taken forward (Annex F, option Mic6) improves services to Moreton-in-Marsh and proposes adding connections to Evesham, but not to Honeybourne, and the recorded response does not address Honeybourne. No comments from Worcestershire County Council, Network Rail or GWR are recorded, and there is no evidence that any cross-boundary service to Honeybourne has been discussed, costed or agreed.

The Comments Log also records GCC's view (10th June 2026) that Mickleton's road network is rural, with limited footways and constrained widths, and that the scale of development is disproportionate to its capacity without significant and potentially unachievable upgrades. The same constraints apply to the rural roads between Mickleton and Honeybourne.

Modification sought (as submitted):

That the Site 9 Development Framework include a specific, funded requirement to assess and mitigate the impact of the allocation on Honeybourne, including the station and connecting roads, or that CDC provide evidence of how the matters raised by the highway authority regarding Honeybourne have been addressed.

APPENDIX A – DRAFT RESPONSE – ARROW VALLEY SOLAR – EN0110033

To: info@arrowvalleysolar.co.uk (and through the online feedback form at arrowvalleysolar.co.uk/have-your-say)

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Arrow Valley Solar – Planning Inspectorate Reference EN0110033 – Response to Public Consultation (28th September to 2nd November 2026)

This response is made by Honeybourne Parish Council, Worcestershire, on the grounds set out below. Address for correspondence: Honeybourne Parish Council, Honeybourne Village Hall, Harvest Close, Honeybourne, WR11 7RH. Email: clerk@honeybourne-pc.gov.uk

The Council responded to the scoping consultation on 24th April 2026. This response builds on that one and does not replace it. It is not an objection to the scheme, and the Council does not question the need for renewable energy generation. The Council asks the developer to confirm, assess or amend the matters below before it finalises its application.

1. Construction Traffic Routes Through Honeybourne

Figure 12.5 of the Interim Environmental Report (Indicative Construction Access Routes) appears to show construction traffic for Sites 3 and 4 travelling from Bretforton along the B4035 (Weston Road) to Weston-sub-Edge, then north through Honeybourne along Weston Road and Station Road, over the railway bridge, and then north along Buckle Street, with a branch that appears to run along Sheenhill Road towards Site 4. The map is marked as indicative and does not name the roads. The Council asks the developer to:

(a) confirm in writing the routes proposed for construction traffic, including abnormal loads, for each of Sites 3 and 4;

(b) explain why the routes for Sites 3 and 4 approach from the south, through Bretforton and Honeybourne, and whether an approach from the north, for example from the A46 near Salford Priors, was considered, and confirm that its choice of routes elsewhere, including any restriction affecting other bridges, will not move construction traffic onto roads through Honeybourne without that traffic being assessed here;

(c) confirm whether the direct road between Bretforton and Honeybourne (Bretforton Road, called Honeybourne Road at the Bretforton end) would also be used, as the map does not show it. That road becomes High Street in the centre of Honeybourne, which is narrow; and

(d) if Bretforton Road, High Street, Weston Road or Station Road would be used, assess the effect on the homes, side roads (including School Street, where Honeybourne Primary School is), on-street parking, pedestrians and emergency vehicle access along them, and in particular at school arrival and departure times, when High Street and the School Street junction are busiest, and identify any weight, width or other restrictions on these roads and on the railway bridge and how construction vehicles would comply with them.

The Council's view is that Bretforton Road and High Street are narrow roads through housing, are lined with parked cars, and are not suitable for construction HGV traffic, and asks that they are not used. The Council notes that the Diamond Bus 553 service (Evesham–Honeybourne) also runs along this stretch, stopping near the Thatched Tavern, so it already carries scheduled bus traffic as well as parked cars. The Council also has serious concerns about Weston Road and Station Road, which run through the village, and asks that HGV construction traffic is kept out of the middle of Honeybourne. The Council asks in particular that no construction traffic uses High Street, including at the School Street junction, during school arrival and departure times.

The Council also asks that the heritage assessment covers the effect of construction traffic, including vibration, on the Honeybourne Conservation Area, which is centred on High Street, and on the listed buildings within it.

The Council notes that the National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026), Policy TR6(4), applies its highway safety and network tests to development proposals: *"This applies both during the construction phase and following completion."*

The Council notes that the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion of 7th May 2026 (paragraph 3.12.6) says the Environmental Statement should include a plan showing expected construction traffic routes and the anticipated numbers and types of vehicle movements, including peak hours and daily movements. The Council asks the developer to publish this for each road through Honeybourne. The Council also asks the developer to:

(e) assess the construction impact of the underground cable corridor on local roads, and identify the specific construction routes, the duration and phasing of the works, and the effect on communities along the corridor, as the Council asked in April; and

(f) confirm that a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be submitted with the application, and that the Council and the highway authority will be consulted on it.

2. Station Road Railway Bridge and Honeybourne Station

The railway bridge on Station Road is a single-lane bridge controlled by traffic lights, and Honeybourne station is reached from Stephenson Way, close to the bridge. The report does not mention the bridge or the station approach. Station Road is also where traffic from Weston Road, High Street, Buckle Street, Stephenson Way and Sycamore Drive comes together, and it is already busy with commuters and pedestrians at peak times. It is also served by the Diamond Bus 553 service between Evesham and Honeybourne, which runs roughly hourly through the day in both directions. The Council asks the developer to:

(a) assess whether construction traffic, including abnormal loads, can use the bridge, having regard to its width, any weight restriction and the traffic signal timings;

(b) assess queues and delays at the signals, and the effect on access to the station, on the Diamond Bus 553 service and on emergency vehicles;

(c) assess the combined effect of construction traffic, together with existing and committed development traffic, on Station Road, the junctions along it and the bridge signals;

(d) consult Network Rail, Great Western Railway and Worcestershire County Council Highways about the bridge, and share the outcome with the Council; and

(e) commit to no construction vehicle movements during the morning and evening commuter periods, or at school arrival and departure times.

Station Road is also the access to visitor businesses, including the Ranch Caravan Park and All Things Wild, and to the Co-op and other local businesses. The Council asks the developer to assess the effect of construction traffic on these businesses and on their customers' access, in particular at busy times.

3. Road Safety and Traffic Data

The report classes Buckle Street as a low sensitivity road, although it says there are no dedicated pedestrian facilities along it, and it records 8 collisions on Buckle Street in five years, 2 of them serious. It also records 10 collisions on the B4035 Weston Road, the road between Bretforton and Weston-sub-Edge that the route appears to use. Together these two roads account for 18 of the 64 collisions in the study area, yet the report concludes that there is no notable hotspot. The Council asks the developer to reconsider the sensitivity classification of Buckle Street, to analyse collisions in relation to the traffic on each road, and to assess Station Road, which the report rates as high sensitivity, against the 10% threshold that applies to sensitive roads. The Council also asks that the expected daily HGV movements are published for each road in the study area.

The Council also notes that Table 12-9 is titled as traffic flows but shows collision data, and that paragraph 12.6.31 refers to a Table 5.2 which does not appear in the chapter. These should be corrected.

4. Cumulative Effects

The future traffic baseline for 2031 applies a general growth factor of about 5.8% to traffic counts taken in July 2026. The developer's list of other developments (Appendix 20.1) includes approved housing at Bretforton Road, Honeybourne, at Honeybourne Road, Bretforton, and at Shinehill Lane. The Council asks that:

(a) the final cumulative assessment includes all approved and pending housing applications in and around Honeybourne parish as at the date the application is submitted;

(b) the statuses on the list are brought up to date, as some entries refer to dates in 2025 (for example numbers 7 and 15);

(c) the combined construction traffic of these developments and the scheme is assessed on the B4035, Bretforton Road, High Street, Weston Road, Station Road and Buckle Street; and

(d) the final list is shared with Wychavon District Council and the Parish Council before it is finalised.

This request is made only so that the assessment is complete. It is not a view on any planning application.

The Council asked in April for the assessment to include the cumulative effect of construction traffic alongside the significant development activity at Meon Vale and the Long Marston Airfield Garden Village. The Council asks that these are included in the final list of projects, and that the Council is consulted on the list, as the Scoping Opinion (paragraph 3.18.2) says the developer should agree it with consultation bodies.

5. Agricultural Land and Decommissioning

The predictive mapping in Chapter 7 identifies about 788.8 hectares of best and most versatile (BMV) land within the Order Limits, while the 2026 survey classed about 282 hectares of the 1,074.9 hectares surveyed as Grade 1, Grade 2 or Subgrade 3a. The predictive mapping puts 32.6 hectares of Site 4's 37.2 hectares in Subgrade 3a. The Council asks the developer to:

(a) publish the full survey method and results, and explain the difference between the predicted and surveyed figures;

(b) survey the cable route corridors, which the report says have not been surveyed;

(c) assess the effect on farmland over the full operating life of up to 60 years, rather than treating it as temporary, as the Scoping Opinion (paragraph 3.10.4) also says the 60-year life is a long-term impact;

(d) justify the use of BMV land, having regard to national planning policy that poorer quality land should be used where possible (National Planning Policy Framework, August 2026, Policy N2(1)(b)); and

(e) include in the application a decommissioning and site restoration plan, explaining how it will be carried out, together with financial security to ensure it is delivered, having regard to Policy W3(3) of the National Planning Policy Framework. The Council notes that decommissioning is left out of the cumulative assessment in Chapter 20.

6. Landscape and Visual Impact

Sites 3 and 4 are 4 to 6 km from the Cotswolds National Landscape, and Policy N4(4) of the National Planning Policy Framework says that development within the setting of a Protected Landscape should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts. The Council asks the developer to confirm that the landscape and visual assessment includes viewpoints from Honeybourne, including from Station Road and the public footpaths around the village, and that the assessment of views from the Cotswolds National Landscape covers Sites 3 and 4. The Council asked in April for the proximity of the scheme to the Cotswolds National Landscape to be specifically considered. The Scoping Opinion's own comments on National Landscapes refer only to the Malvern Hills, so the Council asks the developer to confirm how the Cotswolds has been addressed.

7. Glint and Glare

The Cotswold Line runs just over 500 m south of Site 4, and Honeybourne station is nearby. The developer's brochure lists residents, road users, public footpaths and aviation as the receptors for glint and glare, but not the railway. The Council asks that train drivers and the Cotswold Line are included in the glint and glare assessment, and that Network Rail and Great Western Railway are consulted.

8. Public Rights of Way, Cyclists and Horse Riders

The report says that National Cycle Network routes pass through Honeybourne and that one intersects a proposed construction access route (paragraph 12.6.10). The Council asks the developer to identify where this crossing is and how cyclists, walkers and horse riders will be protected. The Council has previously been asked by a resident about warning signs for horse riders on Weston Road and referred the request to Worcestershire County Council Highways. The Council notes the concerns raised by the British Horse Society about construction traffic and horse riders, and asks that they are addressed on the roads through Honeybourne.

9. Tourism and Local Economy

The Council asked in April for the construction-phase effect on tourism and the local economy to be assessed. Honeybourne is a popular destination with a significant amount of visitor accommodation and facilities, including the Ranch Caravan Park and All Things Wild on Station Road. The Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion (paragraph 3.3.4) did not accept the developer's proposal to leave tourism and recreation out of the assessment, and says the Environmental Statement should describe the baseline for tourism and recreation and assess it, including cumulative effects. Paragraph 3.3.5 also says the effect on the availability of local accommodation and services should be assessed. The Council asks the developer to confirm that this assessment covers Honeybourne, including the effect of construction traffic, noise and disruption to access on visitor numbers and local businesses, and to identify mitigation.

10. Noise from Substations and Battery Storage

Chapter 13 of the Interim Environmental Report identifies conversion units, substations and battery energy storage as the main sources of operational noise (paragraph 13.5.4) and uses a study area of 500 m from the Order Limits. It reports night-time background noise of 19 to 22 dB around Site 3 (paragraph 13.6.3), which is very quiet, so equipment noise may be more noticeable at night. It lists 4 Buckle Street, about 250 to 300 m from Site 3, among the receptors, but does not mention Stephenson Way, Station Road, the Ranch Caravan Park or All Things Wild. It does not refer to tonal or low-frequency noise, and does not yet give predicted operational noise levels. The Council asks the developer to:

(a) confirm the location of the Site 3 132kV substation, which the Site 3 parameters plan shows in the north-west of land parcel 3(c), and of any other substations, battery storage and conversion equipment on Sites 3 and 4, which the parameters plans do not show separately, and the distance from each to the nearest homes and other noise-sensitive places in Honeybourne;

(b) confirm whether Stephenson Way, Station Road, the Ranch Caravan Park, which covers a large area and provides holiday accommodation, and All Things Wild, where animals are kept, are within the study area and, if not, explain why they are excluded, noting that sound can carry further in still conditions at night, and that night-time noise could distress the animals at All Things Wild, which in turn could disturb neighbours and visitors;

(c) include all properties along Buckle Street in the assessment, not only those already listed. Buckle Street is the road that runs through Ullington and Site 3 into Honeybourne, and is marked Honeybourne Road on the developer's plans near Site 3;

(d) explain how tonal and low-frequency noise from this equipment will be assessed; and

(e) set out the mitigation proposed, including what embedded mitigation E-NV.1 (management of noise emissions from battery storage and substations) will involve, and share the predicted noise levels with the Council when they are available.

11. Community Benefit Fund

The developer has invited suggestions on its proposed community benefit fund. The Council asks how the area of benefit will be defined, and that parishes affected by construction traffic, including Honeybourne, are consulted on it. This is not an indication of support for the scheme.

12. Next Steps

The Council asks the developer to acknowledge this response, to notify the Council when its consultation report and application are published, and to write to the Council to confirm the construction routes and the outcome of its discussions with the highway authorities when they are known.

The Council reserves the right to make further and more detailed representations, including on ecology, noise, water and heritage (which the Council also raised in April) and other topics not covered here, when the application is submitted. The Council will consider registering as an Interested Party if the application is accepted for examination.

Yours faithfully

Linda Stanton

Clerk to Honeybourne Parish Council