

ORCOP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on
Wednesday 16th July 2025
Meeting began @ 7.15PM

Councillors Present ... Peter Garratt, Mick Murphy, Jane Lockhart, Barry Shaw, Bea Morris Also in attendance were Ward Councillor Toni Fagan, Neil Barrington (Clerk), and 5 members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Footpath Officer Tracy Pizzanelli.
Cllr Garratt wished to extend deepest condolences from the Parish Council to Tracy and Family on their very sad news. Chair requested Clerk wrote to the family expressing condolences.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None received
3. **To consider minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual meeting 21st May 2025** – It was **RESOLVED** that these minutes were a true and accurate reflection of the meetings. Prop. Cllr Murphy Sec. Cllr Morris
4. **Footpath report** – Sadly due to family bereavement our footpath officer was unable to attend. However, she did send the following report:

Footpath Officers Report

I applied for and was awarded £11,140.95 in grant funds towards materials and labour costs to make 25 improvements to footpaths in the Parish by 30th June 2025.

Unfortunately, after investigation, the two largest jobs were too complex to proceed, however, I added a few other jobs and successfully completed 25 improvements to the footpath network prior to the June deadline, costing £6,104 as follows:

- 1 kissing gate
- 2 self-closing gates
- 6 composite fingerposts
- 1 wooden stile
- 3 ditch crossings
- 2 height level changes involving steps/handrails
- 4 wooden stile through-steps with hand supports
- 6 short wooden signposts

Regarding the newly opened Hereford PROW Grant Award for 2025/2026 I intend to submit my application shortly as I'm hoping to install 8 further self-closing gates, along with making many more improvements to stiles, as well as steps with handrails where there are steep height changes on footpaths.

If anyone would like to contact me with further ideas for footpath improvements, my email address is orcopfootpaths@gmail.com

5. Public Forum –

- 5.1 To receive verbal report from the Ward Councillor – Report received though Cllr Fagan touched on the following points:
Importance of people being on the priority water service in case of outage and to check the service was fulfilled
That information on class Q planning applications was received.
Request from Garway PC could the current gate at Whitehouse be replaced by a Kissing gate as there are concerns current gate might be wedged open
Pushing for a meeting over continuing issues at Turf Cottage
- 5.2 Members of the public raised the following points.
- Members of the public expressed continued concern over overhanging branches and overgrown foliage. Clerk suggested using “fix my street” as it generates ref no for people to follow up. Clerk will report Newcastle Field Farm once location is received
- 5.3 Police newsletter or report – Clerk shared newsletter received. Clerk sent in 3 priorities

6. **Clerk Correspondence** – All correspondence on the agenda

7. **HALC Membership** – It was **RESOLVED** to renew membership of HALC

8. **Planning-** Comments on the following applications:

- 251145 - Land off Birch View Road, Former Sun Valley Poultry Site, Much Dewchurch, Herefordshire HR2 8SH – It was **RESOLVED** to oppose this application. Chair will draft a comment for Clerk to submit to planning
- 251495 - Orchard Lea, Orcop, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8SD – It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council had no objection to this application

9.Finance-

- 9.1 To note the current bank balance -£10820.51 on Jul 18, 2025.
- 9.2 To consider the invoices received and payments in line with budget¹.
- 9.2.1 Stationery and Expenses – Fuel £9, Broadband £10, (Update from agenda)
- 9.2.2 Clerk salary – in accordance with employment.
- 9.2.3 PAYE – £136.23 Jun
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- 9.2.4 HALC - £626.05 Inc Vat
 - 9.3 Payment made between meetings
 - 9.3.1 Enviroability footpath tasks completed in accordance with grant -£4106
 - 9.3.2 Tracy Pizzanelli - £568.58 Footpath expenses
 - 9.3.3 ICO - £47
 - 9.3.4 Zurich Insurance - £327
 - 9.4 Income received
 - 9.4.1 Vat Return - £1255.16
 - 9.5 Requests for donations – None
- 10 **Lengthsman-** Gratitude was expressed to Cllrs Shaw and Murphy for all their hard work and diligence in drawing up a new schedule and interviewing candidates for the contract, particularly Cllr Shaw who did a huge amount of work. After a very detailed presentation from Cllr Shaw and comprehensive discussion it was **RESOLVED** subject to receipt of references to offer the contract to Terry Griffiths Contracts.
- 11 **Highways** – It was reported there was a significant pothole at the crossroads at Tomlins Lane near war memorial. Will be reported on the pothole app
- 12 **Tomlins Lane**– Clerk will contact Locality Steward to advise on what course might be available
13. **To consider supporting the resolution**

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Orcop Parish Council acknowledges that:

- Neighbourhood planning empowers local communities to shape the development and growth of their areas through the creation of Neighbourhood Plans.
- The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans requires significant time, expertise, and financial resources, often placing a burden on parish and town councils.
- Neighbourhood Plans contribute to more democratic, locally informed planning decisions and support the delivery of sustainable development aligned with community needs and aspirations.

Therefore, it is Resolved to -

1. Call upon His Majesty's Government to provide increased and sustained funding to support the development, review, and implementation of Neighbourhood Plans.
2. Request that the Government ensures funding is accessible to all communities, to promote inclusivity and fairness in the planning process.
3. Write to **Jesse Norman MP** and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local Government to communicate this resolution and advocate for enhanced support for neighbourhood planning

It was **RESOLVED** to support this motion

14. **To consider new Laptop (Parish Asset)** – Clerk will suggest options for decision in

September

- 15. **January meeting** – As Clerk is away for part of the month It was considered whether the meeting should be altered. It was decided this would not be necessary
- 16. **To consider Clerk Salary** – It was **RESOLVED to** increase Clerk salary in accordance with contract
- 17. **Items for next meeting (No discussion)** – Additional bleed kit
- 18. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 17th September 2025 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

SIGNED