

PYONS GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Pyons Group Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 7pm at Canon Pyon Parish Hall, Canon Pyon, Herefordshire.

PRESENT: Councillor Jon Lee (Chairman) and Councillors Ian Barber, Nick Boffin, Gill Dickson, Anna Forster, Jack Langrishe, Jenny Pudge and Jude Samaranayake.

In attendance: David Thame (Clerk)
Councillor Nick Mason (Herefordshire, Weobley Ward)
Three members of the public.

2026/22. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Nugent.

2026/23. Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations

The Chairman reminded the Council of his membership of the Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM).

Councillor Pudge declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the subject matter of item 2026/29.

Councillor Samaranayake declared an interest in item 2026/32 as a member of the Committee of Friends of Westhope.

2026/24. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2026 (copies previously circulated) and that they be signed accordingly by the Chairman.

2026/25. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that having looked into car and ride sharing schemes he was not satisfied that they met requirements on liability and privacy, and would not be pursuing the idea.

The proposal to restrict motor vehicles (subject to access) on CP32 was now deferred, pending further information. Herefordshire Council took the decision 15th May but this was not communicated to parishes.

Information about the proposed U93400 road closure which had come to his (and residents) attention via a newspaper article. It now appeared the closure would be limited to the top of Westhope Hill to Kinford Cross. Given previous disruption caused by poorly-planned road closures, the Chairman was dismayed that the Parish had been neither informed nor consulted.

The Chairman was pleased to see enforcement action being taken following unauthorised works at Wellington Brook.

2026/26. Co-Option, Parish of Kings Pyon (Minutes 2024/102 and 169)

The Council further considered the co-option of a councillor. The Chairman reported advertisements had been placed in the Pyonear, and on noticeboards and had been appearing on the community Facebook page.

2026/27. Co-Option, Parish of Canon Pyon

The Council further considered the co-option of a councillor to replace Trevor Charles Marshall (resigned 26 August 2025). The Chairman reported as at item 2026/26.

2026/28. Public Session (15 minutes)

Councillor Mason reported that, following the Planning Consultation - 260438 - Land at Former Yeomans Coach Depot, A4110 Canyon Pyon (Minute 2026/15), he was seeking to ensure the application was considered by committee on the grounds of drainage.

Councillor Mason spoke about the U93400 Road Closure and reported his conversations with Herefordshire Council officers. He understood the closure at Westhope would be as little as day. He referred to the importance of ditch clearing between Lawton's Hope and Cinders, and the blockages caused by flail cutting, and indicated enforcement may be necessary to ensure those responsible for the blockages subsequently clear them.

Councillor Mason referred to his report to the May meeting (Minute 2026/6), doubting the words attributed to him were verbatim, but clarifying that his intention was to welcome a chief executive who, living in or near Herefordshire, shared the experience of residents. The departing chief executive had transformed many council services.

2026/29. Planning Consultation - 260401 - Black Hall Farm, Blackhall, Kings Pyon, Hereford, Herefordshire HR4 8PS

Councillor Pudge left the room.

The Council considered the planning consultation and after discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council support the application, that it was satisfied that ecological and environmental considerations had been taken into account, and that the result would be less soil deposited on the highways with positive consequences for sediment run-off.

Councillor Pudge rejoined the meeting.

2026/30. Planning Consultation - 261059 - Land adjacent to 7 Brookside, Canon Pyon, Herefordshire, HR4 8NY

The Council considered a response to the planning consultation 261059 - Land adjacent to 7 Brookside, Canon Pyon, Herefordshire, HR4 8NY. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that, as shown by the Herefordshire Water Cycle Study, April 2024, Canon Pyon waste water treatment works is currently exceeding its dry weather flow permit, and that no mitigations works are planned within Dwr Cymru's current Capital Investment Programme (Asset Management Plan 8 2025-2030); the increased demand may lead to further detriment to the environment in an area draining into the River Wye Special Area of Conservation; and therefore the Council objects to the application.

2026/31. Westhope Lands

The Chairman reported informal management work carried out by residents at a 0.5ha site south of

Full View, Westhope, which is common land owned by the Council. This is based on an informal arrangement which is either unclear or undocumented, and would in any case demand reconsideration. It is a steep, largely inaccessible, site. He had visited the site with Councillors Boffin, Dickson and Samaranayake, to establish the circumstances and local biodiversity considerations.

The Clerk reported that the law prohibited restricted works on common land. The Commons Act 2006, sections 38-39, prohibits, without consent of the appropriate authority, fencing, the erection of structures, digging or trenches or creation of embankments, or resurfacing, among other works. The public interest, including nature conservation, must be taken into account in deciding whether or not to grant consent. Unconsented works may be subject to a court order requiring removal and restoration.

It was **RESOLVED** that a working group consisting of Councillors Boffin, Dickson and Samaranayake further consider an appropriate management solution, including respect for commoners' rights and nature conservation, and report to the July meeting.

2026/32. Friends of Westhope (Minute 2025/211)

Councillor Samaranayake left the room.

The Council considered a request to make a payment to Friends of Westhope to help meet their insurance cost of £277.30. The Clerk reminded the Council of their resolution in April that the Council remains grateful to the Friends of Westhope for their long-term care of the hillside, and that £360.00 be paid to Friends of Westhope in respect of grass cutting, but that the sum allocated by the budget at line C24A be reduced to £240.00 in order to maintain the same overall level of support. The Council considered whether it had other powers to act in this behalf, and the extent of the likely benefits as required by section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £240.00 be made to the Friends of Westhope under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Councillor Samaranayake rejoined the meeting.

2026/33. Community Housing

Councillor Dickson reported on a recent meeting with a rural housing enabler. Development would require a partnership with a housing association: relatively few are operating in this area. The Community Right to Build provisions of the Localism Act, 2011, might provide a way forward and mesh with the review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. It was **RESOLVED** to review this matter in September, in parallel with the review of the NDP.

2026/34. Statutory Consultation: Mandatory School Keep Clear Markings

The Council considered a response to the statutory consultation for a potential Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) scheme to introduce No Stopping on Entrance Markings restrictions (Monday-Friday 8am-9:30am & 2:30pm-4:30pm) at several locations including outside Canon Pyon School. These restrictions would replace the informal zig-zag markings that are currently in place. Currently it is not possible to carry out enforcement on the informal zig-zag markings as they are not backed by a Traffic Regulation Order, nor are there signs indicating this.

After discussion there voted For 6, Against 2, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council support the draft order, on the basis that it is likely to avoid danger to persons or other traffic using the road or to prevent the likelihood of any such danger arising.

2026/35. Flood and Water Management Act 2010: Section 19 Report

Councillor Mason reported that he had received a copy of the section 19 report for Canon Pyon that afternoon and understood it was to be published imminently. No report would be published on Ledgemoor because flooding did not meet the criteria, but that did not indicate that flood protection and drainage works would be neglected.

2026/36. Section 106 Funding

The Council further considered the outcome of section 106 allocations to Canon Pyon, and making further allocations.

The Clerk reported that a new case officer had been appointed, and that he had been in correspondence with him. A letter, in response to one from the Clerk, stated: "It is clear that communication has been limited and that progress has not been as visible or well reported as it should have been. I appreciate the frustration this has caused, particularly given the missed programme milestones and the uncertainty around remaining S106 funding and delivery timescales." A site visit is planned.

Councillor Mason reported the recruitment of new staff, and the consideration of alternative delivery mechanism. He assured the Council that there was no risk of the unspent section 106 allocations being returned to developers.

It was **RESOLVED** to note with approval the new appointment and commitment to improve progress on the Canon Pyon section 106 programme, and that a site visit with the new officer, Councillor Mason and the Chairman be arranged.

2026/37. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26

The Council received the cash book and bank reconciliation for 2025/26 (copies circulated in advance).

The Council received the Annual Internal Audit report and the detailed internal review prepared by the internal auditor, HALC Audit Services (copies circulated in advance). After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to note the internal auditor's report and to thank them for their diligent work.

The Council considered its responses to the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) and in the light of the internal audit reports, it was **RESOLVED** to answer all questions in the affirmative and to approve the Annual Governance Statement accordingly.

The Chairman and Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.

Having received the cash book and bank reconciliation, the Council considered The Accounting Statement (Section 2) (Previously signed by the RFO). After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statement.

The Chairman signed the Accounting statement accordingly.

The Clerk recommended to the Council that the date for the commencement date for the exercise of public rights would be Friday 5th June 2026, ending on Thursday 16th July 2026, and that the notice would be published on 3rd June 2026. It was **RESOLVED** that the dates be agreed, and that the appropriate notices be published on the website and on parish noticeboards.

2026/38. Financial Report

The Council considered the report of the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, including the cash book with budget monitoring (previously circulated, now attached). As at the date of this report the Council's T1 current account totals £7,095.35 and the deposit account £46,059.23.

The Council considered early evidence of budget discipline. The Clerk reported that it was too early in the year to draw substantive conclusions, but C17 is a predictable monthly sum, and makes a good test of budgetary prudence. On the basis of two months' experience it is likely to be £13,850, against a budget of £13,500. This outcome would be within tolerance given that the budget was set in November 2025 but that the annual review did not take place until February 2026. National Insurance rates and pension contributions have inflated accordingly.

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm that travel expenses will be payable at 55p per mile from 1st April 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the following invoices for payment:

PV222	Canon Pyon Parish Hall (hire fees)	£500.00
PV221	Marches Grounds Maintenance (grass, drainage)	£380.00
PV227	Travel expenses to date	£46.20
PV228	Admin expenses to date	£9.60

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the following invoices paid since the last meeting:

PV226	Salary tax month 2	£785.03
PV225	HMRC tax month 2	£298.99

It was **RESOLVED** to note the following invoices collected by direct debit:

PV224	NEST tax month 2	£72.31
PV223	Airband (village hall wifi)	£38.00

The Chairman reported the disposal, for a sum of £200, of the strimmer, as previously agreed. It was **RESOLVED** to note the sale, and that it falls below the threshold for capital receipts, and to amend the asset register to delete the following items:

Item	Date Added (if previously acquired)	Date Acquired	Price at Acquisition
Stihl strimmer/hedge trimmer			583.93
attachments to strimmer			331.99
additional cutting attachment			146.55
motorised strimmer			674.17

2026/39. July Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to hold 7th July 2026 meeting at the Ledgemoor Ladies clubroom, and that a hire fee of £50.00 be paid.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Confirmed as a correct record:

Signed _____ Date _____

DRAFT