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# Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

## Draft Minutes

of the ordinary Meeting of the Group Parish Council on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in Risbury Village Hall

### Present:

Cllr. Ken Bemand  
Cllr. Sarah Sneyd  
Cllr. Anne Grace  
Cllr. Tim Yair,

Cllr. Hugh Fowler-Wright (Chairman)  
Cllr. Rob Pugh  
Cllr. Chris Marston  
Cllr. Janette Fullwood  
Cllr. James Hinton

Ward Councillor Bruce Baker, Clerk & RFO: Allan Drew

Two members of the public attended.

### 1/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Derek Silk, and Cllr. Richard Thomas.

### 2/25 Declaration of interests and dispensations

None declared

### 3/25 Minutes of previous meetings

The draft minutes of the meetings held on 20 November 2024 and 11 December 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman

### 4/25 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman had no announcements

### 5/25 Public participation

*Under Standing Order 8, any member of the public may make a statement or give evidence to the meeting on any business to be transacted or any other business, and ask or answer questions. At the discretion of the Chairman such participation may be permitted under the relevant agenda item.*

No members of the public raised any matters

### 6/25 District Councillor's report

Ward Councillor Bruce Baker reported-  
Cllr. Baker reported that-

- The Government is proposing that 2 tier Local Authorities join with adjacent authorities to form larger units based around the unitary model. In effect this abolishes the District/County Council model in use in many areas. Importantly small unitary councils, including Herefordshire have also been invited to participate in these plans. These new authorities are expected to have resident populations of about 0.5m people (current Herefordshire population is 188k residents). Government hopes these arrangements will be in place by 2028. Currently it is unlikely that Parish Councils will be affected directly by the proposals
- The Code of Conduct for Councillors in local authorities is being updated and the new arrangements will include more sanctions if Councillors break the rules. Standards Committees will return and Councillors can be suspended for a variety of new "offences". This revised Code will apply to Parish Councils.
- The by-pass is progressing. Current activity is around assembling the necessary funding. The first part will be the Southern Link road. Clearly a new Wye bridge will be required, likely to be West of the City.

Cllr. Grace asked if the new Code would apply to the decision to cancel the by-pass which had cost the taxpayer £22m. Given the cancellation was a major topic at the 2019 election it would be unlikely that the Code could be applied.

### 7/25 Planning Committee and planning applications update

**(a) To consider for comment new applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council.**

**Ford & Stoke Prior**

No new applications

**Humber**

No new applications

**To note: updates on current planning applications**

**Ford & Stoke Prior**

**233037 Ashwood House Stoke Prior HR6 OLG** Application for the discharge of details reserved by condition 3 attached to planning permission 232181 **Approved**

**241366 - Land at Lamb Inn, Stoke Prior, HR6 ONB:** Proposed change of use of the Lamb Inn Public House to use as a single dwelling house and retention of external staircase, first floor terrace and railings. **Undecided**

**233094 Priory Farm Stoke Prior HR6 OND.** The construction and retention of a rural worker's dwelling, seminar room and a range of eight stables with ancillary tack and hay store. **Undecided**

**223610 Land north of Bowley Court farm** Change of use from a water storage lagoon to a water and anaerobic digestate storage lagoon (retrospective). **Undecided.**

This application is due to be determined by Herefordshire Planning and Regulatory Committee. However, at the Committee meetings of 23 October 2024 and 11 December 2024 this application was not on the agenda. The next meeting on 22 January 2025 has not yet been posted.

**200705 Land adjoining Croft Gate Farm Stoke Prior.** Proposed new dwelling and garage adjacent to Croft Gate farm. Pending S106 agreement **Undecided**

**204437 Plot 1 Land at Old Hall Stoke Prior HR6 0LH** Proposed construction of a new self-build custom home and garage **Undecided - on hold due to phosphates**

**Humber.**

**242083 Land at Gob's Castle Risbury Leominster Herefordshire**

Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4, 5 & 6 attached to planning permission 213908. Approval of details reserved by condition **Undecided**

**241806 Oak Tree View Risbury HR6 0NQ** Proposed Conversion of Building to a self-build dwelling House **Undecided**

**212600 - Land adjacent to Risbury Cross Cottage, Risbury HR6 0NG**

Approval of reserved matters following outline approval 181648 (residential development of 6 houses).

**Undecided - on hold due to phosphates**

**212473 Dev 1 Land adjacent to Risbury Cross Cottage Risbury HR6 0NG**

Proposed permission for the siting of a caravan to provide accommodation on site during the construction of a dwelling on Plot 5 approved under application ref 181648. **Undecided- on hold due to phosphates.**

**211802 - Land at Gob's Castle Risbury Leominster Herefordshire**

Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 7 9 10 11 12 13 15 18 19 & 21 attached to planning permission 173687. **Undecided**

**193259 New House Farm Risbury HR6 0NQ** Outline planning for proposed housing development on land at New House Farm. **Undecided**

**Undecided**

**Undecided**

**8/25 General Financial Matters  
Report from the RFO.**

Bank balance on 13 January 2025 is £15,604.08

### Q3 Bank reconciliation

<b>HFSP CASHBOOK 2024-25</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Receipt</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Running Balance</b>
01/10/2021	Balance brought fwd	17563.68			17563.68
16/10/2024	CM Mercer TP72	150.00		Adverts	17713.68
17/10/2024	West Mercia Police	2465.63		Grants	20179.31
21/10/2024	EM Davis WM engraving L/Cpl Preece-Price		60.00	War Memorial	20119.31
21/10/2024	Certainly Wood	150.00		Adverts	20269.31
24/10/2024	Stoke Prior Village Hall	400.00		Other Income	20669.31
29/10/2024	T Dines electrical TP69	200.00		Adverts	20869.31
31/10/2024	Unity Trust Bank		5.40	Bank Charges	20863.91
06/11/2024	Michael Potter	1479.00		Other Income	22342.91
13/11/2024	MGL Communitions	100.00		Adverts	22442.91
21/11/2024	Rock Awnings QU 4874		1772.99	Other Expenditure	20669.92
21/11/2024	A M Drew Clerk's October salary		1045.46	Clerk	19624.46
21/11/2024	A M Drew Clerk's November salary		414.21	Clerk	19210.25
21/11/2024	Autela payroll		81.66	Administration	19128.59
21/11/2024	Gwent web design		223.20	Website & IT	18905.39
21/11/2024	DC Gardening Services		426.00	Lengthsman	18479.39
21/11/2024	SPVH18 Sept meeting		25.00	Hire of Halls	18454.39
21/11/2024	RVH 14 August meeting		16.00	Hire of Halls	18438.39
21/11/2024	RVH 20 November meeting		24.00	Hire of Halls	18414.39
21/11/2024	Barrington Print November Pump		489.00	Parish Pump	17925.39
21/11/2024	Barrington Print October Pump		489.00	Parish Pump	17436.39
21/11/2024	Tangled Web		330.00	Website & IT	17106.39
21/11/2024	PKF Littlejohn		252.00	Insurance, audit, professional	16854.39
21/11/2024	HMRC PAYE October		833.08	HMRC	16021.31
21/11/2024	HMRC PAYE November		276.00	HMRC	15745.31
21/11/2024	Hugh Fowler-Wright refund Remembrance Day wreaths		129.23	Other Expenditure	15616.08
30/11/2024	Service charge		6.00	Bank Charges	15610.08
31/12/2024	Service charge		6.00	Bank Charges	15604.08
<b>Oct-Dec</b>	<b>Sub-totals for period (Horiz.)</b>	<b>4944.63</b>	<b>6904.23</b>		
	Sub -totals for period (Vert)	4944.63	6904.23		
	Balance check	15604.08	OK		
	Reconciliation	OK	OK		
	<b>Totals for financial year to date</b>	<b>28693.16</b>	<b>14709.93</b>		

# Your Account Statement



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Unity Trust Bank plc  
PO Box 7193  
Planetary Road  
Willenhall  
WV1 9DG

1018684212 | 00468

Mr Allan Drew  
Humber Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council  
The Coach House  
Pencombe  
Bromyard  
HR7 4RL



**Date:** 31/12/2024

**Account Name:** Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

**Swift Code (BIC):** NWBKGB2L  
**IBAN Number:** GB93NWBK60023571418024

**Sort Code:** 608301  
**Account Number:** 20430401

Your arranged overdraft limit is £0.00

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## Contact Us

- Call us: **0345 140 1000**
- Email us: [us@unity.co.uk](mailto:us@unity.co.uk)
- Visit us: [unity.co.uk](https://www.unity.co.uk)

## Your Current T1 account transactions:

Date	Type	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance
30/11/2024		Balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£16,300.29
03/12/2024	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: HMRC PAYE	£276.00	£0.00	£16,024.29
03/12/2024	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: A M Drew	£414.21	£0.00	£15,610.08
31/12/2024	Fee	Service Charge	£6.00	£0.00	£15,604.08

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Statement number 067



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Signed *Allan Drew* ..... Chairman. ....

RFO *Allan Drew* ..... Date... 15 January 2025.....

## Budget Monitoring Report Period 10 (January )2025

BUDGET MONITOR					2024-25			
			OUTTURN 2022-23	OUTTURN 2023-24	BUDGET 2024-25	YEAR TO DATE	FORECAST OUTTURN	VARIANCE FROM BUDGET
1	Precept		12289.00	15000.00	15344.00	15322.00	15344.00	0.00
2	Pump Advertising		575.00	2391.00	2500.00	2362.00	2500.00	0.00
3	Pump Postage		40.00	40.00	40.00	20.00	40.00	0.00
4	INCOME	Grants	0.00	7729.00	2400.00	6317.63	12981.00	10581.00
5		Other Income	115.12	108.06	500.00	1879.00	1900.00	1400.00
6		VAT Reclaim	0.00	2751.62	2073.00	2097.15	2097.00	24.00
7		CW Fundraising	2070.18	300.45	300.00	695.38	695.00	395.00
8		Other Projects	2080.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
9		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>17169.30</b>	<b>28320.13</b>	<b>23157.00</b>	<b>28693.16</b>	<b>35807.00</b>	<b>12650.00</b>
		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
10	DAY TO DAY EXPENDITURE	Clerk	4403.50	4343.36	4919.00	4140.87	5000.00	-81.00
11		Administration	445.88	411.66	500.00	337.78	500.00	0.00
12		Insurance, audit, professional	887.38	1235.32	1200.00	657.44	1200.00	0.00
13		Website & IT	155.00	451.99	500.00	516.00	520.00	-20.00
14		Hire of Halls	200.00	167.00	200.00	137.00	200.00	0.00
15		Training and development	0.00	229.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16		Equipment	1065.22	890.50	100.00	785.92	800.00	-700.00
17		Maintenance	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
18		HMRC	733.60	1105.24	1300.00	3006.13	3560.00	-2260.00
19		Other	86.00	579.13	100.00	1738.87	1750.00	-1650.00
20		<b>DAY TO DAY EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>7976.57</b>	<b>9413.56</b>	<b>8869.00</b>	<b>11320.01</b>	<b>13580.00</b>	<b>-4711.00</b>
		<b>PROJECTS</b>						
21	PROJECT EXPENDITURE	War Memorial	5678.00	403.00	60.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
22		Parish Pump	4260.00	5338.88	4000.00	4442.00	5100.00	-1100.00
23		Lengthsman	6271.00	9095.00	5400.00	355.00	7600.00	-2200.00
24		Community Week	1933.00	435.00	450.00	330.00	450.00	0.00
25		Environment Project		0.00		0.00		0.00
26		Road Safety		500.00	2750.00	2848.52	2750.00	0.00
27		Welcome pack		516.40	0.00		0.00	0.00
28		Trails Booklet			1000.00	821.00	821.00	179.00
29		Project B			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30		Project C			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31								
32		<b>PROJECTS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>18142.00</b>	<b>16288.28</b>	<b>13660.00</b>	<b>8856.52</b>	<b>16721.00</b>	<b>-3061.00</b>
33		Reclaimable VAT on the above	2110	2072	1800	1111.74	2300.00	500.00
		VAT from 2023-24				0.00		
34		<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>26118.57</b>	<b>25701.84</b>	<b>22529.00</b>	<b>21288.27</b>	<b>32601.00</b>	<b>-7272.00</b>
35		<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>-8949.27</b>	<b>2618.29</b>	<b>628.00</b>	<b>7404.89</b>	<b>3206.00</b>	<b>2578.00</b>

NOTES FOR 2024-25 BUDGET	
1	As agreed at meeting 7 February 2024
2	Budget should be easily achieved given current progress
3	Nominal amount
4	Lengthsman scheme updated to include £2376 base grant & £1188 match funded Nominated Task. Drainage grant of £3100 also included. Other drainage grant monies of £3600 has also been allocated but will be paid directly by HFC so has not been included here. £2465 from WM Police now received. (Note: also includes £3852 from 2023-24)
5	Donation of £1479 for purchase of gazebos included.
6	As 2023-24 outturn
7	Now updated with CW results
8	Trails project expects £250 for advertising in the booklet.
9	
10	Increased due to move to SP26 but no real increase in net salary
11	
12	Increased payment to internal auditor (£50 up to £200).
13	Increased cost for .GOV website (But also includes some billed arrears from Gwent web design)
14	
15	
16	Salt boxes and sandbags
17	
18	Increased due to salary award to SP26 and move to higher tax band
19	Now includes gazebos from donation line 5, wreaths
20	
21	Engraving for S. Preece (Price)
22	Prices have risen by about £30/issue. Reducing pages trend not maintained.
23	£5600 grants + £2000 Parish spend
24	Estimate similar to 2023-24
25	No spend last year. Council to agree way forward on this project.
26	Budget raised to £2750 following Police grant. Traffic Data invoice now included.
27	Project closed
28	Project completed, invoices now included.
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	
34	
35	

### **Notes on Budget Monitor Period 10 (January 2025)**

A full analysis of the income and expenditure was presented at the November meeting. These numbers include all the expenditure up to and including January 2025.

The income forecast has increased by £250 since November 2024 due to selling advertising in the Trails booklet. The predicted outturn is now £35807 but will depend on the precise timing of grant refunds from Herefordshire.

The expenditure budget monitor shows another increase in day to day expenditure due to purchase of salt boxes, salt and sandbags - £780. As a result the forecast surplus has fallen to £3206 but offset by lower costs on the Trails booklet and the advertising revenue from this project.

The Project expenditure shows little change since November although the effect of decisions taken after the 11 December flooding meeting have not yet been fully estimated. However, they may well be containable within the existing budget (line 23) since the Parish budget of £2000 was not fully committed.

In summary the budget is in a healthy condition and the likely surplus generated this year will be a useful addition to reserves for (probably) combatting flooding.

## Draft budget for 2025-26

					2025-26	NOTES
	INCOME	OUTTURN 2023-24	FORECAST OUTTURN 2024-25	VARIANCE FROM BUDGET	FORECAST (DRAFT) BUDGET	
1	Precept	15000.00	15344.00	0.00		
2	Pump Advertising	2391.00	2500.00	0.00	2750.00	Increased by 10%. May be achieved for 24-25 with currently strong advertising revenues.
3	Pump Postage	40.00	40.00	0.00	40.00	
4	Grants	7729.00	12981.00	10581.00	10000.00	Lengthsman & drainage grants will hopefully continue
5	Other Income	108.06	1900.00	1400.00	0.00	
6	VAT Reclaim	2751.62	2097.00	24.00	2300.00	
7	CW Fundraising	300.45	695.00	395.00	500.00	Estimate only. Under control of CW committee.
	Other Projects	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	
8	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>28320.13</b>	<b>35807.00</b>	<b>12650.00</b>	<b>15590.00</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
9	Clerk	4343.36	5000.00	-81.00	5100.00	Updated to include SP26 + 2024-25 salary award
10	Administration	411.66	500.00	0.00	525.00	+5% uplift for likely inflation
11	Insurance, audit, professional	1235.32	1200.00	0.00	1260.00	+5% uplift on likely inflation
12	Website & IT	451.99	520.00	-20.00	500.00	Cancel unused domains
13	Hire of Halls	167.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	Current rates maintained
14	Training and development	229.36	0.00	0.00	250.00	New Cllr. training by HALC
15	Equipment	890.50	800.00	-700.00	200.00	Nominal amount
16	Maintenance	0.00	50.00	0.00	100.00	Nominal amount
17	HMRC	1105.24	3560.00	-2260.00	3500.00	Linked directly to Clerk's salary
18	Other	579.13	1750.00	-1650.00	200.00	Remembrance Day wreath
19	<b>DAY TO DAY EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9413.56</b>	<b>13580.00</b>	<b>-4711.00</b>	<b>11835.00</b>	Costs down mainly due to donations not being forecastable.
	<b>PROJECTS</b>					
20	War Memorial	403.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	Project completed 2022-23
21	Parish Pump	5338.88	5100.00	-1100.00	5100.00	Maintain 2024-25 running rate
22	Lengthsman	9095.00	7600.00	-2200.00	7600.00	Annual Mtce £2376. Nom task £1188 Drainage £2100 Parish budget £2000
23	Community Week	435.00	450.00	0.00	450.00	As 24-25 but under control of CW committee
24	Environment Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00	Holding position pending sponsors estimates
25	Road Safety	500.00	2750.00	0.00	1000.00	May be supplemented by further grants
26	Welcome pack	516.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	Completed
27	Trails Booklet	0.00	821.00	0.00	0.00	Completed
28	<b>PROJECTS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>16288.28</b>	<b>16721.00</b>	<b>-3061.00</b>	<b>16150.00</b>	
29	Reclaimable VAT on the above	2072	2300.00	500.00	2300.00	
30	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>25701.84</b>	<b>32601.00</b>	<b>-7272.00</b>	<b>30285.00</b>	

## Draft Precept for 2025-26

Following agreement of the draft budget it is straightforward to establish the minimum draft precept requirement. (The minimum precept is that required to achieve a balanced budget with no year-end surplus).

From the above draft budget, in summary-

Budget Heading	Value £
Income (excluding Precept) Line 8	15590
Total Expenditure Line 30	30285
Income - Expenditure	-14695

The minimum precept is £14695. Currently for 2024-25 the precept is £15344, £649 above the draft budget requirement.

The tax base information shows that number of Band D equivalent houses has risen by about 2%

Parish Council Meeting	No. of Band D equivalent properties 24/25	No. of Band D equivalent properties 23/24	No. of Band D equivalent properties 22/23	No. of Band D equivalent properties 21/22
Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council	305.66	298.81	299.75	292.71

Last year the precept was set at £51.35 per household or  $298.81 \times 51.35 = £15344$ .

For 2025-26 maintaining the rate per household would yield  $51.35 \times 305.66 = £15696$  or approximately £1000 more than that required to balance the budget.

### Flooding.

The Clerk provided a briefing laying out the current issues around flooding-

- there are growing concerns amongst residents about the flooding problems.
- flooding was mentioned in 2023 by Cllr. Marston and led to a justified re-examination of the precept in the light of 2023-24 very heavy autumn rainfalls. .
- frequency and violence of storm/heavy rainfall is increasing and doing so quite quickly.
- 11 December meeting showed that residents expect to see remedial action.
- current resources fall well short of requirements.

Now is the time to consider an extra lift of the precept to create a storm/resilience fund.

If created such a fund would be ring-fenced for flooding works only. Council is well placed to make good use of such a fund-

- There is grant money to map drainage assets and so identify key blackspots
- There are lead Councillors on drainage whose work can be augmented by creating working groups or similar.
- We have a contracted Lengthsman and other contractors used last year to deal with required works.
- Finally there is a groundswell of resident opinion that expects both the Parish and the County to start fixing this issue.

Council discussed raising the precept by a significant sum to create a resilience fund.

After considerable debate and options examination it was resolved to raise the precept as follows

Year	Total Precept £	Cost/household £
2024-25	15,344	51.35
2025-26	22,696	74.31

The Clerk will submit the precept requirement of £22,696 for 2025-26 to Herefordshire Council

The £7,000 extra raised above inflation from this increase will be added to the existing £3,000 flooding reserve to create a ringfenced reserve of £10,000

This decision will be reviewed annually at the precept setting stage. If successful as a flooding mitigation fund the option to top up to £10,000 annually may be discussed. Alternatively if the fund is not utilised nor effective then return of the fund to the community will be discussed.

### Income received since last meeting -

Nil

### Payments made since last meeting

No.	Name	Ex-VAT £	VAT £	Total £	Details
1	A M Drew	1045.46	0.00	1045.46	Clerk's October 2024 salary. Includes increase to SP26+arrears from 1/4/24
2	A M Drew	414.12	0.00	414.12	Clerk's November salary
3	Autela	68.22	13.64	81.86	Payroll. Now 4-monthly billing
4	Gwent web design	186.00	37.20	223.20	Email hosting ((4/7/23 - 4/7/25). Web hosting (.org.uk)
5	DC Gardening Services	355.00	71.00	426.00	Digging out & stoning around SPVH noticeboards
6	SPVH	25.00	0.00	25.00	18 September 2024 meeting
7	RVH	16.00	0.00	16.00	14 August 2024 meeting
8	RVH	24.00	0.00	24.00	20 November 2024 meeting
9	Barrington Print	489.00	0.00	489.00	November 2024 Pump 360 copies
10	Barrington Print	489.00	0.00	489.00	October 2024 Pump 360 copies
11	Tangled Web	330.00	0.00	330.00	Support & hosting 11/24-10/25
12	PKF Littlejohn	210.00	42.00	252.00	External auditor fee
13	HMRC PAYE	833.08	0.00	833.08	PAYE & Employers NI October 2024
14	HMRC PAYE	276.08	0.00	276.08	PAYE November 2024
15	Hugh Fowler-Wright	107.69	21.54	129.23	Refund for Remembrance day Wreaths
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4868.65</b>	<b>185.38</b>	<b>5054.03</b>	

### Payments for Authorisation

No.	Name	Ex VAT £	VAT £	Total £	Details
1	A M Drew	413.81	0.00	413.81	December 2024 salary
2	A M Drew	413.81	0.00	413.81	January 2025 salary payable 15 January 2025
3	Barrington Print	489.00	0.00	489.00	December 2024 Pump 360 copies, 40 pages
4	Barrington Print	821.00	0.00	821.00	Trails booklet 400 copies, 68 pages
5	Traffic Data	2585.00	517.00	3102.00	A44 Traffic survey
6	A M Drew	275.90	55.18	331.08	Salt boxes & salt Refund to Clerk
7	A M Drew	379.03	75.81	454.84	Sandbags Refund to Clerk
8	HMRC	276.40	0.00	276.40	December 2024 PAYE
9	HMRC	276.40	0.00	276.40	January 2025 PAYE
			0.00	0.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5930.35</b>	<b>647.99</b>	<b>6578.34</b>	

## 9/25 Lengthsman & PROW

Following the 11 December meeting the Lengthsman has been instructed on all the relevant work within Council's annual plan-

- Annual maintenance Plan
- Ditching works at Wheelbarrow, Risbury Court area, Blacksmiths Lane

Additionally the Lengthsman has been asked to quote for work at Lowbrook/Hollywall, The Heath and on C1110 east of Risbury.

New works have arisen from the 11 December meeting -

- Drainage in the area around St Lukes church would be improved if an additional drain was created. Mr Fullwood, a Bury resident had noted how the slope of the road could be used to good effect by placing a roadside drain at a specific location. Much of the water from the road could then be diverted into the roadside drain. **Lengthsman to provide a quotation.**
- A depth marker at Ford bridge would be a worthwhile safety addition since vehicles are increasingly being stranded in unexpectedly deep water from the Lugg. **Double sided surface mount depth gauges are available at about £200 ex-VAT. The lengthsman would be instructed to install the depth gauge**
- The gully cleaning machine would be sent to clear the drains from Hill Top to the War Memorial in Stoke Prior. **Arrangements for instructing such work are not yet clear but the Clerk will progress with Herefordshire.**
- The area around SPVH noticeboards has washed out and needs remedial action. After some discussion it was agreed that plastic gravel containers used in car parks could be the answer and the Clerk would discuss and instruct the Lengthsman as required. (The ECOGRID product looks suitable). **Discuss with Lengthsman and instruct as necessary.**
- Sandbags would be purchased and available in several locations. These locations would be:
  - One third each at-
    - Great Marston (Philip Brown)
    - Stoke Prior Village Hall
    - Steensbridge (Brook House & Humber Close)

As requested the Lengthsman has been told that Councillors wish to accompany him on some works.

There was discussion around the drainage maps and in summary there was some grant money to improve the current maps (which still exist but are limited). The Clerk was in correspondence with both Cllrs. and residents to improve the maps using grant funds.

There was also interest in obtaining advice from a qualified hydrologist to ensure that Council's plans were making the best use of the resources available. Cllr. Yair mentioned that there is a requirement for Herefordshire Council to embed a climate change adaptation officer into the climate change team.

Cllr. Hinton reported that he had discussed the issue of Ms Jackson's alleged overflowing pond with both Matthew and Jenny Jackson. They had assured him there was no problem with the outlet pipe but that with exceptional rainfall the level in the pond rises and then flows over the road.

Some new information has arrived from Herefordshire Council which eases timescales. In brief the Annual Maintenance Plan and Nominated task should still be completed by end of March 2025. However, the end date for the drainage grant and PROW funding has been extended by 3 months to end of June 2025.

### **Donation to Humber Church**

Council had received a request from the Churchwarden of Humber Church for financial assistance with the costs of grass cutting. After discussion the matter was put to the vote and the result was 3 votes in favour, 3 votes against and 4 abstentions. The Chairman used his casting vote against providing funding with the statement that the Council is not prepared to fund maintenance work, although it might look more favourably on projects funded by capital.

### **10/25 Update to Council's Community Resilience Plan**

Mr Philip Brown explained the background to the Plan (which was developed in 2015 during his tenure as Clerk). He summarised the chief benefits from the plan as-

A very useful directory of contacts and resources

Team of emergency co-ordinators had been crucial to managing through the COVID-19 crisis.

Mr Brown was prepared to update the plan to reflect current available resources particularly to establish any change in contact details and whether those named are still available to be called on if necessary.

Cllr. Hinton said that he and Cllr. Yair had been thinking along the same lines for a climate change resilience plan. It now seemed that this Community Plan covered much of this ground.

There was a high level of support from Council for such a Plan and its revision was agreed. To assist Mr Brown three Councillors – Cllr. Fowler-Wright, Cllr. Yair and Cllr. Hinton – agreed to form a working group with Mr Brown. Other residents could be co-opted if required.

Cllr. Marston mentioned that the school had had to close very suddenly due to the very heavy downpour. This had highlighted the issue that many of the pupils come from a distance away but parents had difficulty reaching the school due to flooding. Some explicit arrangements for the school within the updated Plan would be required.

### **11/25 The Lamb Inn**

The Chairman explained that he was on the Lamb working group and was meeting Mark Haslam of CAMRA to discuss possible steps to bring the Lamb Inn into community ownership. Mike Wyldes is active in the community and has arranged a village meeting for 28 January to discuss the possibility of forming a Community Benefit Society as a vehicle to bring the Lamb into community ownership. Cllr. Yair had been asked to be liaison between the CBS and the Council. The Chairman noted that the price of the Lamb shown on Rightmove had dropped to £500k.

It was likely that the CBS would apply to have the Lamb listed as an asset of community value (ACV)

### **12/25 Current projects**

Updates on current projects

Trails booklet Cllr Fowler-Wright

This project is now closed. The Chairman thanked Philip Brown and Ian Fullwood for their most valuable support and contributions.

Traffic Management Plan Cllrs. Grace & Marston

Cllr, Grace is holding a meeting to review the data from the traffic survey. She had held a meeting in December with Simon Hobbs Head of Traffic Safety at Herefordshire Council, West Mercia Police, Cllr. Bruce Baker and a representative from Herefordshire Highways department (works for Callum Bush). Mr Hobbs explained that a reduction in speed limit on this part of the A44 might well produce increased risks from some drivers overtaking the now slower drivers who were obeying the limit. Instead, he suggested that improving visibility at the bend roughly outside Cllr. Grace's property. As a result, Cllr. Grace reported that she had removed the hedge which had obscured much of the bend. She had also cleaned some of the highway signage and she was still awaiting erection of the new sign recently commissioned. However, she hoped it would be installed in the next few weeks. The next traffic survey is due in February/March and Cllr. Grace was keen to see if the actions taken so far had had an effect.

Environment Cllrs. Yair & Hinton

Cllr. Hinton commented that the proposed climate change resilience plan should be combined with the Community Resilience Plan and that combination is now underway.

**13/25 Matters for discussion at the next meeting**

**Date of next meeting**

*To note:* the next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 (the Annual Meeting) at 7.30pm in Stoke Prior village hall

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....