



Brockhampton Group Parish Council

Clerk to the Council David Hunter-Miller, 35 Benbow Close, Malvern Wells, WR14 4JJ
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brockhamptongrouppc.org.uk

Annual Parish Meetings held at 7:00PM on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at Bromyard & Winslow Town Council Offices, HR7 4DU

Brockhampton Minutes

Present: Viv Burdon (Parish Council Chair), 0 parishioners

In attendance: David Hunter-Miller (Parish Council Clerk), 4 other members of the public

1. Chairman's welcome

Viv Burdon opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record and they were duly signed.

4. Matters arising from those minutes (if any)

No matters arising.

5. To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman

I was both surprised and honoured to be elected Chairman of the Parish Council at the last Annual Council Meeting. It has been a very steep learning curve for me and the year has been a challenge sometimes. Nevertheless, throughout the year I have received tremendous personal support and guidance from our very capable Clerk, all my fellow Parish Councillors and our Ward Councillor, Pete Stoddart.

This year we were pleased to welcome a new Parish Councillor, Annie Grocott. This means that for most of this year we have been operating with 3 vacancies.

The Parish Council continued to consider planning applications and to represent parish views to Herefordshire Council. However, we have had to pause progress on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and work isn't expected to restart until Herefordshire Council's Local Plan is finalised and fresh funding opportunities emerge. In the meantime, the Parish Council is considering preparing a Parish Plan.

Attention was given to the environment with the Parish Council joining CPRE and the Herefordshire Tree Warden Network. After seeking volunteers, we welcomed Jane Masters as our new Tree Warden. Work with Herefordshire Council and Bringsty Common Manorial Court resolved issues with regard to safe grazing arrangements to manage vegetation and dangerous trees.

Congratulations are also due for finally getting the removal of the unsightly closed layby on the A44 after years of campaigning by the Parish Council and successive Ward Councillors. Furthermore, the reinstated bank has been rewilded with wildflower seed.

We were also proud to support the opening and promotion of a new 26k circular walking route that passes through the Parish. The scenic Bromyard Ring was developed by Bromyard Walkers are Welcome based on existing public rights of way. The launch, hosted by the Royal Oak on the Downs, was very well attended and opened by Ellie Chowns MP.

Issues relating to speed limits and roads safety on local roads were raised by parishioners and the Parish Council continued to raise these concerns with Herefordshire Council. In particular, the traffic, parking and road safety issues at Brockhampton Primary School was exacerbated by building work. A multi-agency on site meeting took place to consider solutions and any outcomes continue to be pursued by our Ward Councillor.

The Linton Rail and Trail Project took a step forward this year. With support from the Parish Council and Herefordshire Council funding, an independent land valuation and a structural survey have been completed to help progress the project with the landowner.

A big thank you must go to the Footpath Officer, Gwen Dumpleton for another year of significant improvements to the footpath network and work on the Bromyard Ring, and to the Lengthsman, George Johnson for his continued work in all weathers to improve drainage, prevent flooding, ensure grit bins were replenished, and treating one of our bus shelters with preservative.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the Councillors, Ward Councillor and the Clerk for their efforts and contributions this year.

Viv Burdon

Chair, Brockhampton Group Parish Council

6. To receive a report from the Ward Councillor

Herefordshire Council has selected a new Chief Executive to replace Paul Walker. The appointment of Paul Satoor was formally passed by full council on 1 May with a unanimous vote. He is expected to take up the role in the summer.

Earlier this month the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in Herefordshire, another significant announcement for the county. Its recommendations are based on the consultation carried out from 25 November 2025 to 2 February 2026. The Commission aims for councillors to represent a similar number of electors, which ward boundaries are appropriate for local communities, needs and people's views. Its draft recommendations for Herefordshire are based on retaining 53 councillors, with 53 single-member wards. It proposes leaving 31 wards unchanged, but with revised boundaries for 22 wards. I can confirm that there are no changes proposed for the Bromyard Bringsty ward.

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The photo on the left shows the recent major road resurfacing on the A44, Bromyard Road, Whitbourne. The resurfacing programme forms part of a broader package of improvements designed to maintain and improve the county's highways and public spaces. Together, these investments will support a wide range of improvements including better drainage, safer walking routes, repairs to bridges and other structures, and upgrades to local public spaces.

Herefordshire Council have also announced some significant developments that will make a real difference to people across the county. Our new Strategic Housing investment programme aims to reduce homelessness, cut use of expensive and unsuitable temporary accommodation for families, and help young people and care leavers take their next, safe steps towards independence. We also joined forces with the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion,

to announce funding for nine local organisations and groups, supporting them to provide inclusive social activities for children and young people with SEND.

On the 24th April Herefordshire Council's new 'Pop and Shop' 30 minutes' free parking scheme went live in all council-operated pay and display car parks and on-street pay and display bays across the county. It's designed to make it easier and more convenient for people to make quick trips into local towns, while supporting high streets and independent businesses.

I would also like to remind you all of the various major projects that we are on track to deliver – all making a huge impact for local people - including opening the new Transport Hub in late autumn/early winter, major improvements to Great Western Way and Holme Lacy Road, the new flood alleviation zone at Merton Meadow, phase one of Ross-on-Wye Enterprise Park – unlocking opportunities for developers and investors and bringing associated new jobs, and of course starting work on Phase One of the Hereford Bypass in December 2026.

Talk Community are working with AbilityNet to support them to deliver a programme for Digital Skills, funded by BT, across the county. We are seeing a growing disparity in digital skills, with older people and those with a disability being most affected, so local Talk Community Hubs and partner organisations can now apply to host a series of three two-hour sessions covering online safety and scam awareness, smartphone skills, and tailored digital support based on community needs, all delivered by a specialist Digital Skills Trainer. The programme aims to help residents build confidence, independence and access to important online services. Where we have very rural or isolated communities, we will be looking to utilise the Talk Community Bus which is equipped with IT to ensure all residents have access to support.

Please remember to inform Herefordshire Council of the location of non-emergency pot holes, drainage issues and Public Rights of Way (PROW) issues using the Herefordshire Council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1> For any emergency potholes please report them via the 24hour telephone number: 01432 261800

Brockhampton Group of Parish Councils

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Bafour Beatty Living Places have visited the drainage issue at the entrance to the Royal Oak pub. I now await to hear from them in regard to their plan of action to address this issue.

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Following a complaint from a resident regarding potential damage to protected trees I have requested that planning enforcement investigate the matter.

I am present at the Surgery in the Foyer of the Conquest Theatre on the first Saturday of the month from 10:30 – 12:00 for residents to meet with me in person.

It remains my pleasure to assist residents of the Bromyard Bringsty Ward with their Herefordshire Council issues and concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone or email if you have any Herefordshire Council related issues.

Pete Stoddart
Ward Councillor, Herefordshire Council

7. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

No questions were received.

Linton Minutes

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In attendance: David Hunter-Miller (Parish Council Clerk), 3 other members of the public

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Viv Burdon

Chair, Brockhampton Group Parish Council

6. To receive a report from Bringsty Common Manorial Court

Bringsty Common Manorial Court is a non-profit organisation that maintains the land on Bringsty Comon at the request of the land owner, Herefordshire Council.

Bringsty Common is approximately 200 acres of publicly accessible Common land with around 80 households on or around the Common.

BCMC's mission statement states that:

"Bringsty Common will remain a place where residents and visitors alike can safely enjoy the physical and mental well-being from visiting or living in a peaceful and beautiful landscape. We will enhance the sense of community, honour our heritage, increase the bio-diversity of the Common and contribute to CO2 reduction."

This mission statement is currently adopted for the period 2025-2030.

BCMC currently has a flexible management plan:

- Maintenance of tracks twice each year
- Maintenance of grassland areas once each year
- Maintenance of the football pitch regularly throughout the summer months
- Maintenance of woodland

Woodland management is funded through a Countryside Stewardship Agreement Higher Level Scheme, however funding covers less than half the woodland on the Common.

Other activities are funded by a grant from Herefordshire Council, which is expected to last through to 2027.

Maintenance of the football pitch is funded by contributions from Brockhampton Group Parish Council and Whitbourne Parish Council.

BCMC has no other forms of income.

BCMC is currently investigating funding opportunities to be able to continue maintenance activities beyond current grants.

The last twelve months have seen continuation of the woodland management plan, delivering woodland cleanup and allowing veteran trees to thrive. Selective grazing on the Common has

helped to maintain some compartments, and restore areas that were bracken covered to grazeable grassland. Current bank balance allows for continued management activities, while new funding avenues are still required.

Niall Waller
Chair, Bringsty Common Manorial Court

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Brockhampton Group of Parish Councils

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Pete Stoddart
Ward Councillor, Herefordshire Council

8. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

No questions were received.

Norton Minutes

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In attendance: David Hunter-Miller (Parish Council Clerk), 2 other members of the public

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6. To receive a report from Bromyard Downs Common Association

No matters were reported.

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The meetings closed at 7:24PM.



David Hunter-Miller
Clerk and RFO