

The minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 from notes recorded at the meeting.

Present: Mr. D. Taylor (Chairman) Mr. P. Gorbing, Mr. J. Horne, Mrs. C. MacDonald, Mrs. H. Tanser, Mrs. M. Fordington (County Council) PCSO Lee Durrant and two members of the public.

1/26:1: Apologies for absence: Mr. and Mrs. P. Cumming, Mr. G. Darby, Mrs. S. James.

1/26:2: Declaration of interest: none.

Questions / Comments: dealt with under agenda item Section 106.

Correspondence: letters of thanks received with regard to the Over Sixties Christmas Party, Acorns Childrens Hospice for donation of £350 . Notification from Democratic Services regarding the County Council Budget Engagement meeting 2026 (on line) (details circulated to those interested in attending), and a letter from John Gallagher leader of MHDC regarding local government reorganisation (circulated).

1/26: 3: Minutes of meeting held on 12th November 2025, approved and signed.

1/26:4: PARISH PLAN KEY ISSUES:

County Council: Mrs. Fordington provided an update on Council matters, advising of an intense budget meeting on 26th February. This would significantly impact on everyone.

With regard to school access and parking, there was a lack of funding at County level but efforts were being made to secure funds from Malvern Hills and the Malvern Hills Business Growth Hub. A written request for a car park to alleviate road pressure was needed (Action DT) to pursue these avenues, but this does remain a funding challenge. Parish Council priorities were reviewed including inconsiderate driving in Dark Lane.

Traffic and village signs were discussed with consideration being given to "Astley 30" on the village gates and the possibility of more effective radar type speed signs with a request for update quotes (Action JH).

Planning: Discussion covered planning and neighbourhood parishes, with concern that 734 new homes including those by Barratt Homes would impact on the area despite being on boundaries with other districts. The need for joined up planning across district borders was emphasized. The impact of potential unitary structures was considered.

Flooding: flooding issues are a persistent concern including a recent incident on the B4196. Mrs. Fordington urged residents to report such issues immediately and provide photos and reference numbers for tracking. Potholes were also highlighted requiring constant reporting.

PCSO Lee Durrant reported on anti social behaviour on The Snipes (partially curbed by the weather), and general speeding on the B4196 and the A451.

The Police Crime Commissioner is now funding a TruCam for PCSOs enabling them to issue tickets, a significant improvement over the ProLaser. Targeted patrols were also underway for drug issues and anti-social behaviour around Ridley's Cross and also poaching around Bull Hill and Hampstall Lane.

Crime statistics for the last quarter were provided: one assault, three burglaries, two safety concerns, four suspicious circumstances, four RTCs and two counts of highway disruption.

Rights of Way: concern was raised re Bridleway 628 to Glasshampton and the dilapidated fencing on New Bridge. The clerk will take up with Oakhampton and Astley Estates.

Newsletter being prepared for distribution.

Village Hall and Section 106 update. Following questions from members of the public present it was explained that initial proposals for sporting facilities etc. were deemed too expensive. Outdoor exercise and children's equipment were also considered but, following consultation with other local Parishes it was found that this type of facility is often underused and so thoughts turned to options that would be more likely to be used by Astley and Dunley residents.

The current proposals are for a 400 metre track installed around the hall for access, exercise and potential events with wildlife areas incorporated. The track to be waterproof with concrete edging to prevent damage and allow access in all weathers. In addition the patio will be extended and a veranda and a picket fence. This will provide a safe outside space with protection from the elements for all to enjoy including parents with young children.

Mr. Peter Gorbing had volunteered to lead the Village Hall Management Committee – next meeting scheduled for 25th February. Plans are to fix existing issues before focusing on creative improvements.

An historical walk starting from the village hall was met with enthusiasm and approval by Parish councillors and suggestions made for coffee and cake events incorporating walks on Summer Saturdays. Section 106 funding could not be used for this but funding is available from Parish Council funds.

Notice board: Clerk to obtain quotes for a new notice board (£500 received from the District Council Ward Budget), also price for replacement enamel sign at Lanes End.

The Christmas Event was discussed, possibly to be held in the afternoon of 19th December and to be more family friendly.

There being no other matters arising, Mr. Taylor closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.