

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF AVENBURY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 19th MAY 2026, AT 7PM IN THE PUBLIC HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mark Berry, George Churchill, Gill Churchill and Ian Jones.

ALSO, PRESENT: Jennifer Eva (Parish Clerk) and 1 resident.

26/28 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Gill Churchill as Chairman for 2026/27. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

26/29 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Yvonne Berry as Vice Chairman of the Council.

26/30 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Yvonne Berry. The Ward Councillor also sent her apologies.

26/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

26/32 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th March 2026.

26/33 OPEN SESSION

a. Update from Ward Councillor Rebecca Tulley.

Members noted an email from the Ward Councillor dated 19 May 2026, in which she provided the following updates:

Highways matters

- She intends to consult with Avenbury residents regarding their views on the road changes introduced over the past year.
- A number of roads have benefited from patching and resurfacing works during the year. She will continue to work with highways officers to advocate for improvements to smaller roads that remain a concern to residents.
- New speed limit changes have been implemented, and she continues to press for the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to support compliance.
- She is lobbying for improvements to the Traffic Regulation Order process, which currently remains costly and time-consuming.
- The transition from Balfour Beatty to M Group is expected to provide a more joined-up approach to highways maintenance, drainage and ditch clearance, together with greater transparency regarding the prioritisation of works.

Other issues

- Like the Parish Council, she is seeking updates from Welsh Water concerning local water pressure and future network capacity, particularly in relation to proposed developments.
- She has supported residents on a range of issues, including planning applications, green spaces, housing provider responsibilities, highways and rights of way, and community assets.

- At County level, she has been a member of a cross-party working group considering ways to improve adult social care services and achieve better value through closer coordination across housing, transport and community support services.
- b. Public questions for parishioners – none present.

26/34 REVIEW OF AVENBURY PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES AND (RE)ADOPT

- Standing Orders
- Code of Conduct
- Financial Regulations
- Risk Schedule and Financial Controls
- Complaints Procedure
- Equality Policy
- Policy for dealing with Planning Applications received between meetings
- Grievance Policy
- Online payment procedure

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt policies a to h as presented.

- Bank signatories / online payment approvers
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Gill Churchill and Yvonne Berry as bank signatories and online payment approvers.
- To reconfirm eligibility to act under the General Power of Competence (GPOC).
It was **RESOLVED** that the Council continues to meet the eligibility criteria for the General Power of Competence and that its adoption of the General Power of Competence be reconfirmed.

26/35 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- To consider applications for determination by Herefordshire Council.

P253485/RM ... Land at Flaggoners Green South of the A44, West of Panniers Lane East of Chanctonbury and North of Pencombe Lane, Bromyard. Application for approval of reserved matters following outline 190111, allowed on appeal APP/W1850/W/23/3334520 (Outline planning application for the erection of up to 120 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point from the A44. All matters reserved except for means of access).

Members considered this application in detail and **RESOLVED** to OBJECT based on the following reasons.

Members reviewed the application and raised the following concerns:

- The Council remains unconvinced that the proposed drainage strategy is sufficient to manage periods of intense rainfall and flooding and continues to have serious concerns regarding the potential flood risk to neighbouring properties, particularly Chanctonbury.
- Members strongly object to the proposed removal of the established hedgerow adjoining Chanctonbury, citing its importance to the rural character of the area, its potential protection under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, and its ecological value as a wildlife habitat and corridor.
- Concern was expressed that the application does not adequately address existing septic tank discharge arrangements serving neighbouring properties, and the Council does not support any interference with these established systems.
- The Council considers that a site visit by the case officer and design team is

necessary to fully appreciate the relationship between the proposed SUDs infrastructure and neighbouring properties, particularly the potential flood risk to Chanctonbury.

- Members reiterated their request for clarification regarding future ownership, maintenance responsibilities and liabilities associated with the SUDs pond, and sought assurance that no financial or maintenance burden will fall upon Avenbury Parish Council or its residents.

- b. To consider a Grant of Premises Licence at Little Pomona Cider House, Brook House Farm, Avenbury Lane, Bromyard. HR7 4LB

Licensable Activities and Timings: Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on and off the premises) Monday – Sunday 09:00 – 23:00.

Consultation dates are as follows: Begins 23 April 2026 and ends 20 May 2026

Any representation should address one of the four licensing objectives:

- Prevention Crime & Disorder
- Public Safety
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Protection of Children from Harm

It was **RESOLVED** to note the licence application with no objection.

26/24 INSURANCE

- a. To review the current insurance policy and consider any changes.

Members reviewed the current policy and **RESOLVED** to accept it with no changes.

- b. To consider quotations for the renewal of the annual policy.

Members considered the quotations received and **RESOLVED** to accept the renewal quotation submitted by Gallagher in the sum of £411.94, with effect from 1 June 2026.

26/25 HIGHWAYS / FOOTPATHS / TRAFFIC

Members highlighted the following issues to report to Herefordshire Council.

- Potholes on Avenbury Lane.

26/26 INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted information and correspondence circulated to them by the Clerk.

26/27 DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING – 19th May 2026

1. Annual Parish Meeting 6:45pm
2. Annual Council Meeting to commence straight after the parish meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:47 pm

Signed by Cllr Gill Churchill Dated