

Pipe and Lyde Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 5th January 2026 at 18.00 at Kenchester Water Gardens

Minutes

In attendance: Alan Paske, Chairman (AP), Ron Davies, Vice Chair (RD), Donna Flowers (DF), Amanda James (AJ) and Phill Meadwell (PM)

Also present: Ward Cllr Crockett, E Noble (Parish Clerk ad RFO) and Adam Westlake (SNT Rural Team North)

1. **To receive apologies of absence – Carol Lawson (member of the public – pleaser see item 4.2)**
2. **To receive declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation – AP declared an interest in item 10.1 and will abstain from discussing/voting the item.**
3. **To adopt minutes of previous meeting –** 22nd September 2025 – DF proposed that the minutes were a true account of the meeting and should be adopted by the parish council – RD seconded this and all those present agreed that the minutes should be adopted. The minutes were duly signed by the chairman.
4. **Public Forum –**
 - 4.1. Ward Councillor Report:

- Everyone, I am sure, is aware that Government and all Local Authorities are planning their next budget, this will be debated locally over the next few months, and will impact on all residents. The Local Government Finance Settlement announced on Friday 19th December means we are likely to need to continue making savings, which is why our focus on efficiencies and value is so important. The combination of central government's new funding approach, rising service demand, and the growing costs of delivering services to across a large rural county, will make an impact on our budget for 2026/27 and beyond.
- I am sure you are all aware of the continuing road surface maintenance programme in Herefordshire. There are many comments directed at HC regarding this on social media, we must be patient as if improvements aren't made, our roads will become even more dangerous and substandard.
- Our green waste collection has now been launched, the service collections will start in March 2026, £60 per year. This is not connected to the present Biffa Green Waste Club.
- Again it is time to get applications submitted for childrens primary and secondary school places.

Locally.

- I continue to liaise with officers regarding the Bus shelters and am advised that a contractor is now being sort
- I have logged a request for Church Road to be swept (especially outside the Church) this will be completed as weather permits
- The large pothole on the main village road has also been reported and will be repaired imminently.

4.2. Local Residents – At Chairman's discretion, up to 10 mins will be allocated for the public to make representations, ask questions & give evidence in respect of any item on the agenda - a local resident had emailed the clerk to put on record that since Balfour Beatty cleared the culvert opposite the house by the dairy farm that despite torrential rain we have had no flooding around houses and that there has been very little water retained in field opposite and that has been draining slowly into the ditch which they are trying to keep clear. Having lived here for 30+ years and only flooding in the previous 3-4 years would it be possible to press the council to clear the culvert every few years from now on to avoid this ? The clerk read the email out and the parish council were pleased to hear that there had been no further issues. The item of drainage will be discussed under item 6.

PSCO Adam Westlake reported that locally there have not been many issues around Pipe and Lyde however there had been a report of poaching on 14th December – officers attended the scene but the poacher had left the scene. There was also a theft between 22-26 November where a 46kg gas

bottle was stolen after a pipe had been cut in a rear garden in Lyde. On the 3rd January suspicious activity was reported around Lyde Arundel involving an e bike – a local resident reported seeing the rider with a bloodied nose. It was reported to PCSO Westlake that pheasants had been found by the green water pumping station along Church Road and that this is also a hotspot for flytipping. PCSO encouraged people to report fly tipping so it can be examined for material that can be identified back to whoever has tipped it. Also registration numbers are a good source and Environmental Health sometimes put a camera up if the tipping is persistent.

The SNT work 8am - 8pm and attend parish council meetings at least once a year. The police charter is reviewed every 3 months which gives parish councils an opportunity to record their 3 main policing concerns for the parish – currently it is flytipping, speeding and theft. PCSO Westlake will liaise with Ian Connolly and Steven Bullock regarding speeding to see if they can get a monitor along the road to collect data and then liaise with the parish council and Ward Cllr as appropriate.

PCSO left the meeting.

5. Parish Reports and Local Issues including footpaths and lengthsman

5.1 Footpath Update – to include update on requested extension of footpath along the A49 from the bus stop – Highways have responded to Ward Cllr Crockett with the following:

I can confirm that we do not at present have any plans to extend the footpath on the southbound side of the A49 to better connect Upper Lyde to the Pipe and Lyde bus stop. We're currently facing significant financial constraints for improvement works, and we don't expect that to improve during the next Roads Investment Strategy (RIS3). Much of the budget for improvements in RIS3 has already been allocated to improvements we developed during RIS2 but weren't able to deliver.

For this reason, and others, during the next 5 years we expect the majority of active travel infrastructure improvements made on our network to be funded by developers to accommodate growth on and around our network.

Extending the footpath here is particularly difficult as the gravel you can see along the verge is a filter drain. This means that it wouldn't just be a case of just extending the footpath, it would also require diversion of that drainage further back into the verge. The verge here is an embankment rising up to a field, so cutting out that embankment for the diverted drainage would require geotechnical work too, likely requiring a retaining wall to be built or potentially needing land take.

All this said however, we're currently developing an A49 route safety scheme which we expect to deliver in the later part of RIS3. This scheme will look at many different aspects of safety, including pedestrian crossing points. I can't make any promises but I discussed this with our engineering team earlier today and they will look into the issue you have raised to see what is possible as they develop these proposals. I'll keep you updated on how these progresses during our ad hoc catch ups. Apologies that I cannot provide any more certainty at this time.

In regard to footpaths around the parish in general RD reported that both the bins purchased recently are being used and that the parish ideally needs two more bins – one along the A49 and one by Lyde Bridge. The parish council agree to this in principle but as the A49 is owned and managed by Highways they will need to give permission. Ward Cllr Crockett is aware that highways are currently removing bins from roadsides as it is felt they attract car users stopping to empty the contents of their car and emptying them is proving costly. RD is happy to empty the bins if permission is granted from Highways. Ward Cllr Crockett will liaise with Highways and report back to the parish council.

ACTION: Ward Cllr Crockett

5.2 To consider training requests for FPO – RD did not feel he needed any training courses at present but noted the opportunities for training should he change his mind.

5.3 To consider lengthsman work and schedule – the parish considered an annual schedule of maintenance. It was decided by all those present that RD and AP will hold a site meeting with the locality steward and lengthsman to look at work and scheduling – reporting back to the parish council.

5.4 Bus Shelter update – a contractor has been sourced and a work schedule has been emailed - start Feb/March 2026 and complete March/April 2026.

- 6. Drainage – To note confirmation of drainage grant £2236.90 and confirm works as per drainage Application.** – this is just under half of what was originally applied for and the quote from R Mills for drainage was for £3250 (C1127 U72636) and cutting clearing grips gullies and culverts c1127 U72626 U73007 £1875.00. This leaves a shortfall of £2888.10. The Parish Council have a grant for £636 towards lengthsman costs and will enquire to see if the £636 can be used for the cutting and clearing gullies/grips etc as this is lengthsman work and would then just leave a shortfall of £2252.10 in order to complete both jobs. The parish council agreed that RD and AP will liaise with the locality steward (as it is believed some of the proposed work is tidying up from a job Balfour Beatty did not complete properly resulting in more work needing to be undertaken). Therefore there is a possibility that the £3250 price may be reduced if Balfour Beatty agree to re do some of the work. It was agreed by all present that the work still needs to be done regardless and that the parish council will pay the shortfall to ensure both jobs are done but first a site meeting to confirm responsibility and the clerk will enquire re lengthsman grant and report back to the parish council. The Ward Cllr is also happy to meet with both locality steward and lengthsman along with the parish council. The clerk will arrange a convenient time/day.
ACTION AP RD CLERK

AJ reported that there is a patch of land that is rather boggy in the field towards the A49 from Lower Lyde and that this may be a Welsh Water issue – AJ will What Three Words it and take photos for the clerk to report to Welsh Water.
ACTION: AJ

- 7. Financial Procedures** – To note financial position, bank reconciliation and consider the following payments and income against budget and to note payments made in accordance with the budget

6.1 To consider HMRC payment for clerks salary - ACTIONED

6.2 To note payment to HMRC for salary October and November and December 2025 - NOTED

6.3 To note payment to Eyelid Productions - £170.00 website domain and support - NOTED

6.4 To note payment for payroll services – Autela December 2025 £87.00 - NOTED

6.5 To consider clerk payroll (January 2026) and expenses and note salary payments for October, November and December 2025 - NOTED

6.6 To note bank reconciliation and financial position - NOTED

- 8. To consider and set the budget for 26/27** – The parish council went through this years spending requests, projects and forecast for the year end. There is currently budgets set aside for the Lyde Trumpet and Friends of Lyde that have not been used since Covid. It was agreed to remove these budgets and add the funds towards lengthsman work as this benefits all in the parish and spending on this will have increased in the current 25/26 budget. The clerk will amend the budget paperwork accordingly. The parish council noted that the parish council agreed to keep one years of precept in reserve to cover council business. A budget for HALC was also agreed (£600).
- 9. To consider and set the Precept 26/27** - the parish council stepped through the current expenditure forecast for 25/26 and noted that they have used funds from the reserves in order to pay for projects this year. After looking at projected costs for 26/27 and noting how much is left in reserves it was agreed by all present that the precept request for 26/27 will increase from £4850 to £5010. The clerk will send the necessary form to request this.
- 10. Planning** - To consider planning applications determined by Herefordshire Council
- 10.1 To consider planning application 253424 Springfield variation of condition 2 of planning permission to enable a revised design which improves the internal layout and functionality of the dwelling. AP declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. The parish council discussed the application at length and noted the internal amendment. The parish council all agreed to neither object or support the application.

11. **To consider response to NPPF National Planning Policy Framework consultation** – The parish council will view the documents and inform the parish clerk of any comments to submit by 31st January 2026.
 12. **Neighbourhood Development Plan – to consider NDP for the parish** – This item was discussed at length. The parish council do not currently have an NDP. Cost to the parish council could be around £7000-£12,000 to hire a consultant to undertake all the consultations etc. At the moment the government has confirmed that no funds will be available to help with costs leaving parish councils to pay for the work. It was unanimously decided to wait and see what local government say in the near future as there is currently a consultation in process in regard to local housing.
 13. **To note Electoral Review Consultation/Ward Boundaries** - noted – feedback can be left by parish councillors should they wish.
 14. **To consider items for the next agenda -**
 15. **To consider date of next meeting – 23rd March 2026 6pm KWG**
- Emma Noble – Parish Clerk Email: clerk@lydeparishcouncil.co.uk