Stoke Bliss, Kyre and Bockleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Stoke Bliss Group Parish Council.

Clerk: Carole Hirst – stokeblissgroupclerk@gmail.com

Monday 2nd February 2026

Present: Cllr. Stephens (Chair), Cllr. Adams**,** Cllr. Yarnold; Cllr. Rea, Cllr. Williams, From minute 5.2.26 new Councillors Daniel Gregory, Cllr. David Gwilt, Cllr. Ian Best,
In attendance: Clerk Carole Hirst,
No public.

1.02.26 To consider apologies for absence, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. B. Whybrew, Cllr. Lesley Bruton (MHDC), WCC Cllr. J Bowen.

Absent: **None**

2.02.26 To consider Registers of Interest:

a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. **None received.**

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

Cllr. Adams declared a Non-pecuniary interest in minute 9.2.26 M/25/01792/HP The Old Manor House, Bockleton. (No discussion took place in the meeting)

3.02.26 To Consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) None Received.

Parishioners' comments: No Parishioners questions.

4.02.26 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council held on Monday 3rd November 2025 Cllr. Stephens Proposed and Cllr. Adams Seconded that the Minutes be approved. All in favour.

5.02.26 To consider Co-option to the Parish Council. To co-opt Daniel Gregory - Bockleton, David Gwilt- Stoke Bliss, Ian Best- Stoke Bliss, Christopher Dean Lloyd- Stoke Bliss.

Cllr. Stephens Proposed and Cllr. Arnold Seconded that Daniel Gregory, David Gwilt, Ian Best and Christopher Dean Lloyd be co-opted onto Stoke Bliss Group Parish Council. All in favour.

6.02.26 WCC County Council and MHDC Councillor update reports.

WCC County Councillor Report –Cllr. Justin Bowen

Worcestershire County Council finances

As reported previously, Worcestershire County Council is more than £600 million in debt, with emergency funding (Exceptional Financial Support) being required from the government for this year of £33 million, alongside reserves of £15 million being used to balance the budget. Additionally, the government has now announced its funding formula for local authorities for the next 3 years. Unfortunately, this has resulted in Worcestershire County Council being allocated £7.1 million **less** per year by the government than anticipated, equating to £21 million over the next 3 years. This has increased the already acute financial pressures on the Council and ensures that 2026 will be even more challenging than previous years.

It is therefore inevitable that Worcestershire County Council will again need to request Exceptional Financial Support from the government in order to balance the budget for 26/27. Additionally, with no

further reserves available to draw on, the Council has applied to the government for permission to increase Council Tax by up to 10%. The government is likely to decide on whether to grant these requests in February, ahead of a full Council meeting on 26th February. Although 10% is the maximum option that is being asked for, it is hoped that through various measures being taken by the Reform administration that any Council Tax increase will be below that. Any increase will only be at the level necessary to balance the budget and prevent a S.114 notice being issued.

With the government also due to make a decision on Local Government Reorganisation, the coming months are perhaps the most important faced by Worcestershire for many years.

Tenbury Division Matters

Blocked drains and gulleys

Before Christmas, good progress was made in our area on having blocked drains and gullies cleared thanks to local residents making efforts to report any that were blocked. I've had confirmation both from Highways and residents themselves that in Tenbury and surrounding villages work has been carried out. However, it is important that we collectively keep the pressure on, so please continue to report any blocked drains directly here:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue/report-drainage-and-flooding-highway

If there is no response, or the response is slow, then please let me know so that I can chase it up by emailing jbowen4@worcestershire.gov.uk

This approach is working, so please keep going!

Traffic

I have been informed that the Highways Department has completed a review of its traffic management policy and has decided to make no changes at this time. I believe that this is the wrong decision and that the policy fails to take into account the needs of our rural community, particularly with the criteria for reducing speed limits failing to take into account the impact on quality of life. I will therefore continue to pursue this in 2026 as it remains one of the main issues in our villages.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Report: Cllr. Bruton

No report received.

7.02.25 To report the resignation of Cllr. Warren Powell on the 5th November 2025. This vacancy is now available for co-option.

8.2.26 Finance

A) Approval of the payment of Accounts from 3rd November 2025 to 2nd February 2026.

Payment Schedule to Feb 2nd 2026		
C Hirst	Clerk Pay Nov 25	245.94
HMRC	Tax Nov 25	163.60
Pensax PC	Shared stationery between 5 councils	50.92
IN2OUT	Lengthsman Nov 25	255.00
C Hirst	Clerk Pay Dec 25	245.94
HMRC	Tax Dec 25	163.60
IN2OUT	Dec Lengthsman	242.25
C Hirst	Clerk Pay Jan 26	245.94

HMRC	Tax Jan 26	163.60
CALC	Training	42.00
IN2OUT	Jan Lengthsman	250.75
	TOTAL	**£2,069.54**
Receipts to Feb 2nd 2026		
WCC	Lengthsman Oct	£ 246.50
WCC	Lengthsman Nov	£ 255.00
WCC	Lengthsman Dec	£ 242.25
	TOTAL	**£ 743.75**

Cllr. Stephens Proposed and Cllr. Williams Seconded that all payments to the 2nd February 2026 be approved and that all receipts be noted. All in favour.

B) A Bank Reconciliation as of 22nd Dec 2025.was circulated. The Clerk reconciled the accounts to date with the Chairman of the Council. **Noted.**

C) The Budget Monitoring Report written on the 22nd Dec 2025 was circulated to Councillors for scrutiny. Councillors Noted the budget monitoring report.

D) To report the impact that the 2026/27 Precept will make on Council Tax Band D. The Parish Council Precept for 2026/27 has increased from £5776 in 2025/26 to £6495. This calculates at a 12.45% increase. The impact of the rise on Council Tax Band D is a rise from £22.12 to £24.55. An increase on the Parish Precept for Band D of £2.43 per year.

9.02.26 Planning

- M/25/01792/HP The Old Manor House, Bockleton- The erection of a breakfast room in replacement of a C20 conservatory. The erection of a proposed orangery extension incorporating a roof terrace, with associated opening formed at first-floor for access. The erection of an enclosed porch on the north elevation- **WITHDRAWN.**

- M/25/01956/LB The Old Manor House, Bockleton- Internal and external refurbishment to re-establish the medieval central section and associated later extensions, to also include reinstatement and replacement of windows and doors- **CONSULTATION to 16 February 2026.**

- M/25/01964/CLE Arceye House, Kyre- Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use for: use of a dwelling in breach of agricultural occupancy condition No. 3 of outline planning permission 96/0678/O- **CONSULTATION to 30th December 25.**

- M/25/02003/AGR Stone House, Bockleton- Prior Notification for a new steel portal framed Agricultural Building- **prior approval is not required for the proposal.**

11.02.26 Correspondence – All correspondence circulated to Councillors for information. Anything requiring action or discussion was added to the agenda.

12.02.26 Councillor Updates

Email from West Midlands Ambulance Service to say that Bockleton Village Hall – management of defibrillator is still not sorted by Bockleton Village Hall. Cllr. Stephens proposed that he write to West Midlands Ambulance service stating that the agreement now has to be between Bockleton Village

Hall and Tim Cronin of West Midlands Ambulance Service and they should sort it between themselves.

Lengthsman:
Cllr. Whybrew has been meeting with the Lengthsman to go through work as required.

Police Issues:
Cllr. Whybrew: Just to let you know I a productive meeting with Lee Durrant PCSO - He has been very proactive around the area re- speeding and increased patrols due to the new traveller's site etc. extra patrols included and Lee has upgraded local issues with his superiors. New funding for localised speed equipment on "fast roads" and visibility on other roads to curb speed. There have not been any new incidents around the area and Lee has set up a Malvern Police Facebook page where they regularly list police activity and information. There has been trespassing around the cottage in Bannals Lane - but CCTV and photos on Facebook enabled the police to investigate and find the people who received warnings (as it technically a civil matter) again Lee is monitoring to situation. He will be checking on the recent break in at a house on Stoke Bliss Road where tools were stolen. We agreed to keep in regular contact with updates as and when.

Bridleway from Thornes farm blocked by trees. Will be sorted asap.

WCC Highway Reports:
Any Highways reports received have been uploaded onto the WCC "Report It" Portal.

13.02.26 Any Other Business.
None.

14.02.26 Date of the Date of the next Meeting is Monday 11th May 2026 which is the Annual Parish Meeting immediately followed by the AGM of the Parish Council commencing at 7.30pm

The meeting was declared closed at 20.39 pm

Signed…… Chairman of the Parish Council Dated 11th May 2026