ACTION

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes for the Meeting
Wednesday 18th February 2026 7.30pm – Pembridge Parish Hall

Councillors Present: Cllrs Garfield Evans, (Chairman), Marguerite Fothergill, Safi Zagni, Mark Clegg, Wendy Powell, David Owens, Steve Jones, Roger Phillips, Richard Jenkins and Clerk R Bissell.
PSCO Felix Rawlinson present.
0 Members of the public.

127/25. Apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Cllrs Hancock, Mallett, Williams, and Duggan.

128/25. Declaration of interest and written requests for dispensation on agenda items.
There was one declaration of interest from Cllr Jenkins on agenda item 131. There were no other declarations of interest made on agenda items. The Declaration of Interest book was available to sign.

129/25. Approval of the minutes.
The minutes of the meeting of 21st January 2026 were **Approved** unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

130/25. Open session.
Ward Councillor report: Cllr Phillips reported:

- At the recent Council meeting the 2026-27 budget was set. A rise in Council tax of 4.99% helps to fill a £30m funding gap and savings of £20m will need to be found. There is still £5m included for highway works; and investment in housing strategies to reduce the current high costs. Two more wetland areas are planned as well as ash die back contingency. The first phase of the bypass A49 to the A465 is also included.

Members of the Public: None
Police Report: PSCO Felix Rawlinson provided a written report:

- 7th February – Report received of a vehicle stuck in floodwater on the Weston bend. On police attendance the occupants of the vehicle were safe, and the vehicle was moved into a safe place before it was collected by a recovery agent.
- Remember to call 999 in an emergency or 101 to pass information on. If you require a visit to discuss security concerns, contact Felix Rawlinson: 07971051480.

131/25. Planning applications for comment.
Planning Application recently received, reviewed and decisions made:

- 260178 – Court House, Bearwood lane, Pembridge, HR6 9EA **- SUPPORT**
  Works to trees in Conservation area.
- 260411- Pump House, West Street, Pembridge, HR5 9DX - **- SUPPORT**
  Remedial trimming to large yew tree.

Recent Planning Applications recently considered awaiting determination:

- 253227 – The Olde Steppes Shop, High Street, Pembridge - **SUPPORT**
  Division of existing property to form 2 separate independent properties.
- 252905 – Corner House, East Street, Pembridge HR6 9HA**- SUPPORT**
  Conversion of existing building from 2 to 3 self-contained apartments with storage.
- 221052 – Townsend Farm, East Street, Pembridge, HR6 9HB. **- SUPPORT**
  Amended plans and reports on erection of 19 dwellings and infrastructure.
- 241285 – Barn at Lowe Farm, Pembridge, HR6 9JD. **- SUPPORT**
  Conversion of redundant farm building into a dwelling
- 233205 – Crabtree Barn, Broxwood, HR6 9JJ- **SUPPORT**
  Proposed addition of porch extension and change of use of land from agricultural to residential.
- 231763 – Marston Grange, Pembridge, HR6 9JA. - **SUPPORT**
  Conversion of former school building and attached single storey range to stabling and liveried horses. Proposed hay and manure stores. Continued use of land for grazing and removal of condition 3 of 211861 so that riding arena can be used by liveries.

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Planning Decisions:
None.

132/25. Clerks report

- Continued discussion with neighbouring properties and landowners on the village green regarding the encampment options.
- Liaising with Lengthsman on ditching and PROW works
- Preparing VAT return.
- Spent several days setting up the new parish council laptop. All files transferred and a subscription to MS365 purchased which includes back up facility. Hard drive backups continue as well.
- Organising and cleared mess from by the toilets.
- Signs placed on gate to refer dog walkers use the bin by toilets.
- Cllr Clegg and Jenkins have made house call to residents on Bridge Street to cut hedges back. I have contacted the letting agents for the business properties.
- Balfour Beatty Seward, Neil Jackson is leaving the organisation at the end of February.

All other items are being dealt with and are ongoing.

133/25. Finance Report and Approve Payments.

Bank reconciliation for 31st January 2026 complete using VT cashbook.

Balances at 31st January 2026.

Current Account:	£ 9744.94
Tracker Account:	£ 24206.24
National Savings Account:	£ 12336.68

Income since last meeting

Christmas Trees Donation	£ 450.00

Requests for payment: APPROVED

Toilet Cleaner, Clerk salary & HMRC for February 2026 as previously agreed by Parish Council
NEST pension contribution as per agreed payment schedule

West Mercia Energy	Electricity Toilets Dec 2025	£40.81	+VAT
A Hemuss	Toilet light repairs	£37.20	+VAT
Parish Council websites	Website hosting 1.3.26-28.2.27	£262.20	+VAT
Barrington Print	Newsletter Feb/Mar26	£115.00	
Shaun Price	Ditching & PROW works	£1755.00	
KBS	Materials for Prow	£41.59	+VAT
Barrow Farm	Cheque 103069 cancelled - lost by customer and Re-issued - Xmas trees	£937.50	+VAT
Barclays	Bank Charge for cancellation of lost cheque to be deducted from customer	£12.50	

134/25. Mowing Contract 2026.

There was one tender for the mowing contract 2026 received. Councillors reviewed the detail and **AGREED** to award the contract to James Ross. *Clerk to advise.* Clerk

135/25. Approve the Information Technology Policy.

Councillor Jones proposed and Councillor Phillips seconded approval of Information Technology Policy. Which was **APPROVED** unanimously.

136/25. Conservation Area Update

Pembridge Ecology Group (PEG) are a small group of volunteers who have worked hard to clear the conservation area of the board walk and undertake maintenance work whilst the site has been closed. Cllr Zagni provided and update on the conservation area, including,

- Tree management works are complete with a few piles of wood to be removed shortly.
- Some of the better pieces of wood from the board walk have been repurposed to create a fence at the rear of the site to protect the riverbank.
- The rotten bins have been dismantled and removed.

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- A pedestrian gate has been sourced and will be fitted at the entrance to the site.
- Signage is being prepared
- Monthly wildlife surveys are ongoing
- The planter at the entrance has been repaired and planted
- Wildflower seed will be scattered along the footpath by the bridge.
- The PEG group has a maintenance program that they undertake and are a valuable group of volunteers.
- There is still concrete at the entrance of the site which is delaying the site to open. It is hoped to removed as soon as the site is dry enough.
- There are dippers nesting in the boxes provided , however these seem to be constantly damaged.
- The PEG volunteers will be pick up jobs previously undertaken by the PIPS group, i.e. bench cleaning, mowing the glade and balsam pulling in the conservation area.

137/25. Update following Storm Chandra

Councillor Clegg reported flooding on East Street and Bridge Street following Storm Chandra at the end of January. Cllr Phillips reported works to the culvert under the A44 was incomplete and further blockage still needed clearance, he will be meeting with Balfour Beatty on Thursday 19th to discuss. RJP

138/25. Correspondence.

- Herefordshire Council Parish Summit 3rd March 2026, time tbc – Clerk and Cllr Evans to attend.
- Webinar invite to join the Local Nature Recovery Strategy on 26th February. Cllr Zagni to attend.
- Parishioner correspondence regarding the playground enquiring about improvements – *no funding currently available clerk to respond.*

139/25. Future Agenda from Councillors and members of the public.

None.

140/25. To confirm date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th March 2026 in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Meeting Closed at 8.10pm.