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# PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
# Draft Minutes for the Meeting
# Wednesday 15th April 2026 7.30pm – Pembridge Parish Hall

**Councillors Present**: Cllrs Garfield Evans, (Chairman), Marguerite Fothergill, John Mallett, Steve Jones, David Owens, Wendy Powell, Roger Phillips, and Clerk R Bissell.
No members of the public.

Councillors received an interesting presentation from Ben Woodcock and Merry Albright from the River Arrow Trust. It is a new charity with the aim to raise awareness and work on the River Arrow issues to create a more positive outlook for the river for all to enjoy. Being an independent constituted charity it may be able to secure more River Arrow specific funding. The group hope to improve the quality of the river, help reduce flood risk and promote the River Arrow as a tourist attraction whilst encouraging kindness to nature. The group will work alongside other organisations including the EA, the Wye and Usk Foundation and the CPRE. Councillor Evans thanked them both for their time and the clerk will sign up to the online newsletter for updates.

**155/25. Apologies for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Hancock, Jenkins, Zagni, Clegg, Duggan and Williams.
**156/25. Declaration of interest and written requests for dispensation on agenda items.**
There were no declarations of interest made on agenda items. The Declaration of Interest book was available to sign.
**157/25. Approval of the minutes.**
The minutes of the meeting of 11th March 2026 were **Approved** unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
**158/25. Open session.**
**Ward Councillor report:** Cllr Phillips reported:

- 17 years of monthly reports saw Cllr Phillips's 200th report shared in April.
- Highway resurfacing in the ward 2026-27 includes Parson Walk, A44 Penrhos and hopefully Milton.
- MP2 Footbridge repair at Gig bridge also included in the capital budget.

**Members of the Public:** None.
**Police Report:** PSCO Felix Rawlinson provided a written report with no report received.
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.
**159/25. Planning applications for comment.**
Planning Application recently received:

- 260916 – Agricultural building, Pitfield farm Pembridge, HR6 9HY- **NO COMMENT**
  **Prior approval** for change of use to two dwelling houses.
- 260893 – Walnut Tree Cottage, East Street, Pembridge, HR6 9HB - **OBJECT**
  T1 – walnut tree in back garden to be removed and replaced with Mulberry Tree.

Recent Planning Applications recently considered awaiting determination:

- 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.

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- 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.

Planning Decisions:

- 253227 – The Olde Steppes Shop, High Street, Pembridge – **SUPPORT - APPROVED**
  Division of existing property to form 2 separate independent properties.

**160/25. Clerks report**

- Preparing Year end accounts and annual statement
- Internal Auditor arranged for accounts review at end of April.
- First verge cut will be early second cut later in the summer.

*All other items are being dealt with and are ongoing.*

**161/25. Finance Report and Approve Payments.**

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

Balances at 31st March 2026.

| | |
|---|---|
| Current Account: | £ 8428.05 |
| Tracker Account: | £ 24267.52 (Including Interest £61.28) |
| National Savings Account: | £ 12336.68 |

Income since last meeting

| | |
|---|---|
| Herefordshire Council PROW funding | £ 2884.00 |
| Herefordshire Council Lengthsman funding | £ 1422.00 |
| VAT reclaim 30.9.25-28.2.206 | £ 917.20 |

**Requests for payment: APPROVED**

Toilet Cleaner, Clerk salary & HMRC for April 2026 as previously agreed by Parish Council

NEST pension contribution as per agreed payment schedule

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| West Mercia Energy | Electricity Toilets Feb 2026 | £38.41 | + VAT |
| Gareth Higgs | Tree works on Village Green | £650.00 | |
| Barrington Print | Newsletter Apr/May26 | £105.00 | |

**Clerks Report**

- Preparing Year end accounts and annual statement
- Internal Auditor arranged for accounts review at end of April.
- First verge cut will be early second cut later in the summer.
- The parish hall are holding their AGM on 29.4.26 at 6.30pm in the Hall.

**162/25. Speed Indicator Device replacement.**

Following malicious damage to the Speed Indicator whilst in service on West Street, Parish Councillors **AGREED** to make an insurance claim to replace the unit. *Clerk to arrange* — Clerk

**163/25. Diversion of Footpath PM22 Consultation.**

Councillor reviewed the proposed footpath diversion and **AGREED** this would be providing a safer route for walkers using PM22. *Clerk to respond to consultation before 15th May.* — Clerk

**164/25. OPPC Police Force Merger consultation.**

Councillors discussed the proposed Police merger and raised concern that rural area might be left vulnerable and resources will be used in busier cities**.** *Clerk collated points to make a response to the consultation before the deadline.* — Clerk

**165/25. Playground Area Improvement.**

Following parishioner correspondence regarding the playground, councillors discussed the area. It was suggested that although the equipment is quite old (30 years) and somewhat tired, it was still functional. One clamp has broken on the teenage swing, so it was **AGREED** that the swing clamps should be replaced. The slide on the main unit also needs repair and the units would benefit from a clean and paint. The surface is in good condition, requiring only a clean. Following further discussion Councillors **AGREED** to investigate installation of a new fence. *Cllr Mallet will work with the clerk to obtain fencing suggestions and quotes for a future meeting. The clerk will arrange repairs and cleaning. Further funding opportunities will be sought to develop the area further.* — JM, Clerk

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**166/25. Correspondence.**

- Parishioner Correspondence – playground area concerns – Addressed above. *Clerk to respond* — Clerk
- Request to fish in the Arrow – Byelaws only give fishing rights to parishioners – *Clerk to respond.* — Clerk
- Parishioner correspondence – Car parking on pavements in the village – *clerk to report to local policing team* — Clerk

**153/25. Future Agenda from Councillors and members of the public.**

None.

**154/25. To confirm date of next meeting:**

**Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 6th May 2026 in the Parish Hall at 7.00pm**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 20th May 2026 in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm**

Meeting Closed at 8.30pm.

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