YARPOLE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Croft with Yarpole and Lucton
Minutes of the scheduled Meeting of the Parish Council
on **Tuesday 7 April 2026** 7.00pm at the Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs John Cadwallader, Sam Colledge, Di Hill, Rose Jenkins, Lynne O'Sullivan, Adam Scott (Chairman) and Geoff Trotter. Two vacancies.

Not Present: Cllr Harold Holder.

In attendance: Two members of public, Ward Cllr Dan Hurcomb and Mrs Maggie Brown, clerk.

159/25-26. **Apologies for absence**. None received.

160/25-26. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation.** None received.

161/25-26. **Vacancies.** No applications for co-option had been received.

162/25-26. **Public Participation (limited to 20 minutes)**

a) Report from Ward Councillor Dan Hurcomb. Damaged railings on the B4362 have been reported to Balfour Beatty. The waste bin at Rosebank layby has been removed as requested, for a trial six-week period. Litter appears to be decreasing. The Parish Council is asked to consider whether the bin should be re-instated at its May meeting. It is hoped an update on Traffic Regulation Orders (Cockgate and Lucton) can be provided at the May meeting.

b) Views of residents on Parish matters. A resident commented on item 168 c), potential exercise equipment at the Community Meadow.

c) Reports from Councillors.
Cllr Hill had been informed that a potentially dangerous dog had attacked another dog at the Community Meadow. It was agreed that, once details have been passed to the clerk, advice on how to proceed will be taken from Herefordshire Council's Community Protection Enforcement Officer.

163/25-26. **RESOLVED** minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

164/25-26. **Finance:**

a) **RESOLVED** in extremis, if signatories are absent and only one is available, the clerk may authorise bank payments, acting as the second signatory.

b) A yearend report from the Responsible Financial Officer was noted and recommendation agreed, to hold a finance working group meeting, to assess Herefordshire Council grants for 2026/27 and consider items in the budget for the coming year.

c) **RESOLVED** to sponsor a Wigmore School award for the annual celebration evening, requesting that it be in memory of former councillor, Audrey Bott.

d) Noted: balances: NatWest combined balances on 27 March 2026 £ 58,645.11.

e) Reserves and Earmarked fund balances. Updated after publication of the agenda. Reserve £7,000.00 General Reserve £22,638.73 (including yearend balance), Earmarked: Election Costs £2,000.00, Community Projects £15,247.82. Total £46,886.55.

f) Noted: payments/receipts since the publication of the March agenda. **Paid.** The Post Office, £26.20 for stamps, paid by credit card 16/3/26. **Received**. £2,306.64 from Herefordshire Council for Drainage and Lengthsman grants 12/3/26.

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g) **RESOLVED** to approve payments i to iv; invoices v. and vi. received after publication of the agenda. vii. Payment to Wigmore School is also listed.

i.	Cloudnext Inv 264698 Annual Website Hosting	£119.98	£19.99 VAT
ii.	Society Local Council Clerks Training Seminar Inv. BK225645-2	£51.00	£8.50 VAT
iii.	Clerk Payroll Month 12	£671.84	
iv.	HMRC Payroll PAYE & NI Month 12	£231.20	
v.	Marches Grounds Maintenance Inv 441	£100.00	
vi.	Community Heartbeat Trust Inv 29671 Annual Support	£162.00	£27.00 VAT
vii.	Wigmore School	£45.00	
	Total Payments	£1,381.02	£55.49 VAT
	Un-reserved balance after payments:	£10,457.64	

165/25-26. **Planning.** Comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council. No applications had been received in time for this agenda. An extension for comments on Application P260614/F was agreed by Herefordshire Council until 6 May. See item 174.

166/25-26. **Policies. RESOLVED to adopt**

a) Data Protection – Subject Data Access Policy.
b) Audit of Data held by councillors – as amended at the meeting.

167/25-26. **Path from Green Lane via the Church to the Cl039.** A request from the Parochial Church Council regarding adoption of the path from the phone box on Green Lane to "Stoneybrook" was discussed. Noted: this subject had been discussed before, and research into ownership of the land was inconclusive. **RESOLVED** The Parish Council is not willing to take on formal responsibility but is happy to discuss what is needed and explore ways it may be able to assist with maintenance. Insurance implications are to be checked.

168/25-26. **Community Meadow.**

a) Noted: date playground inspection completed – 4 April. No issues found.
b) Wording for notice advising of steps leading in/out of the Meadow was discussed. **Agreed** to arrange a notice pointing to a safer exit when leaving the Meadow, to ***not*** have a notice at the steps when entering the Meadow, and to consider replacing the gate with a kissing gate to prevent children running out onto the road.
c) Responses to a WhatsApp poll and article in The Parishioner regarding potential exercise equipment were discussed, along with a letter which was read out. The poll recorded fifty-four who expressed an interest in using exercise equipment and eleven who were not interested. A full discussion took place, including where items might be placed, the space that would be needed, potential guidelines regarding proximity to the playground, not promoting one area of fitness over another, e.g. exercise equipment versus rounders games or similar using the green space.
Agreed. The clerk will research further. Residents will be invited to discuss the matter at the Annual Parish Meeting.

169/25-26. **Lengthsman/Drainage Grant/Public Right of Way (PROW) Grant.**

a) Schemes were discussed, items i. and ii. were detailed in a report.
   i. the maintenance of existing drainage assets/features and/or
   ii. the creation of new assets/features under the 2026/27 Herefordshire Council Grant Scheme.
   It was **RESOLVED** to delegate responsibility to the clerk to proceed with grant applications,

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having first received quotations from the Lengthsman, discussed funding with the Finance Working Group, and taken advice from Herefordshire Council on No. 6 in the report. It was further agreed that No. 5 should be deleted, and No. 3 be listed as a new asset. Cllr Hill asked that a further potential task also be considered.

iii. Improvements to the PROW network. For consideration – kissing gate on YP7 in Community Meadow, advice to be taken on steep slope at entrance to LK14A opposite Lucton War Memorial.

170/25-26. **Highways. To consider**

a) Painting posts and rails along the C1039 in Yarpole. Noted: The Men's Shed group has offered to help with arrangements. **Agreed**, the clerk will discuss with the Group. When date is confirmed, clerk to attend, collect names of volunteers and ensure risk assessment is conducted.

b) Contacting the Traffic Management Advisor, Road Safety Team, West Mercia Police regarding accident prevention near ///spends.unheated.incomes on the B4362. **Agreed** in the first instance to seek advice from Mr Simon Hobbs, Herefordshire Council. Cllr Hurcomb agreed to follow this up as Ward Councillor.

171/25-26. **Dates for Annual Parish Meetings.** All residents are invited to this meeting of the electorate. **RESOLVED** to hold meetings for Lucton Parish and Croft & Yarpole Parish on the same evening, prior to the Annual Parish Council meeting – see below.

172/25-26. Contents of the **information sheet** were discussed. No actions were agreed.

173/25-26. **Items for next agenda.** Litter bin at Rosebank layby.

174/25-26. **The date of the Annual and scheduled Meetings of the Parish Council** was changed to 12 May 2026, at Yarpole Parish Hall. It will immediately follow the Annual Parish Meetings which start at 6pm. Noted: due to this change of date, a further extension for comments on P260614/F will be needed. The clerk will contact Planning Enquiries, and Cllr Hurcomb will support the request.

Meeting closed: 21:12

Signed: ……..

Chairman, Yarpole Group Parish Council Date 12 May 2026

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