

**MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 1st Sept 2026, 7.00 pm at Finstall Village Hall, Finstall**

Councillors present: Cllr Will Taylor, Chairman

Cllr Norman Hewer
Cllr Wendy Molloy
Cllr Molly Molloy
Cllr Rosemarie Ryan
Cllr Christine Orr-Cooper
Cllr Sam Evans
Cllr Peter Whittaker

Councillors absent:

In attendance: Carol Blake, Clerk/RFO.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting open.

2. Apologies for absence. Cllr Caroline Spencer sent her apologies, she is on holiday.

3. Declarations of interest – None received.

4. To consider any request from a councillor for a dispensation to be allowed to stay in the meeting after declaring an interest. None received.

5. Public Forum.

a) An opportunity for members of the public to raise matters of interest or concern relating to this agenda or for future meetings. No attendees were present.

b) County and District Councillors – Cllr Evans and Cllr Whittaker reported on the local Government reorganisation across Worcestershire which will split the county into north and south divisions with each authority responsible for all services for its part of the county. The services have not yet been split up. The majority of Bromsgrove District Council's representatives voted to support the option of two unitary councils as part of Government instructed plans to transform politics at a local level. Under Government plans, Worcestershire County Council and the six district, borough, and city councils will be abolished on April 1, 2028. Cllr Evans reported that there has been a lot of objections to the idea of building 700 new homes on the current Bromsgrove Golf Course site. The issue of the tree roots on Alcester Rd has been reported but no work has been done to dig them up as yet.

A resident has reported that cars are parking on kerbs and on the grass area at Penmanor, the resident suggested planting trees on the grass area to alleviate this issue. Councillors have not seen any parking on the grass area, and require some evidence to take any action on this. The Chairman will monitor the area in the next month and Cllr Evans will suggest the resident who raised the issue attends the next Parish Council meeting to discuss this further.

c) Safer Neighbourhood Team - No representative in attendance

6. To consider the minutes of the previous council meeting held 07/07/2026.

Agreed by all and minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

7. Planning Development.

(a) comment on any planning consultations received and (b) note Planning Authority (Bromsgrove District Council) decisions made, and (c) consider any other planning matter.

No planning applications received in the past couple of months.

8 FINANCE

a) To note the bank reconciliation to 24/08/2026

The reconciliation with latest bank statements was checked and signed by the Chair.

For period 01/04/2026 – 24/08/2026		
Opening bank balances 01/04/2026	16409.34	
Add actual receipts for year to date	6486.00	
Less authorised payments for year to date	-7969.79	
Total	A	£14,925.55
Bank balances as at 24/08/2026		
Unity Trust Bank	4425.55	
Bromsgrove DC short-term investment	10,500.00	
Less unrepresented payments		
Total	B	£14,925.55
	-	A=B=balance

b) To consider and authorise payments and note receipts.

Vno	To	Reason	Gross amount	VAT paid
Payments				
32	Carol Blake	Mileage April to July	21.60	0.00
33	Scribe (D/D)	Monthly Subscription July	14.40	2.40
34	Scribe (D/D)	Monthly Subscription Aug	14.40	2.40
35	DM Payroll Services	Payroll Charge April – Sept 26	79.20	13.20
36	Parish Council Websites	Hosting and support annual charge	345.60	57.60
37	Unity Trust Bank (D/D)	Service charge June	7.00	0.00
38	HMRC	PAYE Month 1 and 2	181.80	0.00
39	Carol Blake (S/O)	Salary July	378.30	0.00
40	Unity Trust Bank (D/D)	Service charge July	7.00	0.00
41	Carol Blake	Annual Microsoft charge	104.99	0.00

42	HMRC	PAYE Month 3	92.23	0.00
----	------	--------------	-------	------

The clerk, as RFO, confirmed each invoice had been checked to ensure:

- i. Expenditure has been agreed prior to receipt of invoice.
- ii. The budget for each purchase had been agreed.
- iii. Each invoice complies with the purchase order and is as expected.
- iv. Each invoice is arithmetically correct including appropriate VAT calculation.

The schedule was checked and signed and each invoice was available for inspection and will be attached to the online payments schedule circulated to all members.

- c) Internal Audit Appointments for 2026-27 - **It was agreed** that DKE Audit Services be assigned to audit the accounts for 26/27 at a fee of £275 plus mileage
- d) Penmanor playing field audit and investment plan was discussed - Cllr Evans reported that Community Funding will be open in a few weeks which could be considered to help with an update. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting to be discussed in more detail.

9. Updates and discussion on the following:

- a) Bank approvers – No further update on adding approvers.

The Clerk raised the issue directly with the Bank that it is impossible to get through to talk to somebody, the Bank suggested that Councillors try to contact them between 3pm and 4pm which they say is the Bank's quieter times.

10. Members to raise items for discussion at next meeting.

Cllr Norman Hewer reported that during the dry summer months the conifers at the churchyard have started to droop over the pathway so they need to be trimmed back. A contractor has been assigned to trim the lower branches and any other branches that need attention, this is due to take place on 22nd Sept so will close one part of the road when the work is carried out.

11. Date, time and venue of next meeting: Tuesday 6th Oct @ 7:00pm Finstall Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:44pm.

Signed..... Date
Chairman, Finstall Parish Council