Bournheath Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday 10th June 2026, 7.00pm at Bournheath Village Community Centre

Councillors (Cllr) present: Gary Davies, Louise Colley (Vice Chair), Matthew Guest, Sophie Moir, and Maria Stepin.

In attendance:
Clerk, Ro Hardeman.

1. Apologies
   Cllr Phil Hughes, Karen May, Simon Nock (District Cllr) and Mark Dunkley (County Cllr).

2. Declarations of interest – none.

3. Dispensations requested – none.

4. Planning
   Bumble Hole Poultry Farm Bumble Hole Lane Dodford Worcestershire B61 9JA
   Proposal: Demolition of existing industrial units buildings and construction of a new single-storey industrial unit with associated yard, plant, and infrastructure works.
   Submitted to the planning portal, the following comments:
   The site lies within a rural area characterised by agricultural land, low-density development, and open countryside, the introduction of a new industrial unit with expanded yard and plant risks maybe beyond what is proper for this location and traffic to the site.

   Furthermore, if the new building is larger, more visually prominent, or more industrial in appearance than the existing structures, it would erode the rural setting.

   Access to Bumble Hole Eggs is located on Rocky Lane, a rural road that has been flagged on many occasions to Highways regarding safety of pedestrians with road improvements unlikely due to its rural nature and the impact on the local environment and wildlife. Our main concern is that the expansion of this facility may result in an increase in HGV/commercial vehicle movement on Rocky Lane increasing congestion, risks at junctions and the danger to pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders on a road which is already heavily used.

   In addition, we share concerns stated by Worcestershire Regulatory Services with regards to contamination issues, clearing of the site and noise pollution from the new structure.

   69 Fairfield Road Bournheath Worcestershire B61 9JL
   Proposal: Demolition of existing outbuildings and glasshouse and construction of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
   Submitted to the planning portal, the following comments:
   The council has reviewed the application, and the only concern is the public right of way (PRoW) that is found alongside the property. We would ask that any works at 69 Fairfield Road do not impact/result in the closure of the PRoW, that the route remains open with the relevant safety measures to protect members of the public.

5. County Councillor and District Councillor Reports
    a. Worcestershire County Council, update submitted by e-mail:
    Apologies, I am unable to attend due to a previous invitation I received to attend a celebration meal at the Wildmoor oak.

    I can report,
    1.Highways have requested that the owner of the hedges on Claypit lane cut back them back.

    2. Traffic signs, large vehicles causing damage and other related safety issues will have been discussed in a meeting with Highways earlier today. Ro may be able to give an update on these issues.

    3. Today's meeting was also attended by Jason Simon from the drainage team and hopefully Ro should have an update on this too.

    b. Bromsgrove District Council, Cllr May, and Cllr Nock, update submitted by Cllr Nock via e-mail:
    As you may know, both Councillor May and I are members of the Local Plan Cross Party Working Group. The group meets tonight at 6:00 pm. This working group was established to ensure the timely preparation of a new Local Plan for Bromsgrove. It provides focused political oversight and ensures that our plan-making progresses efficiently in line with national policies. Because of this, it is highly important that we are present in the room.

    Tonight's Meeting
    Due to this clash, it is unlikely that we will be able to attend your meeting tonight. I am very sorry about this. Unfortunately, your meeting dates consistently seem to conflict with our District Council commitments.

    Planning Application: 39 Parish Hill
    One urgent matter has arisen over the last couple of days regarding a Full Planning Application for:
        The erection of 4 detached dwelling houses
        Associated access roads
    I see there are already four objections listed. I have drafted a response for Karen to consider, but I would highly welcome your views on this as well.

    While I cannot always attend your meetings in person, please remember that I am always here to assist you whenever needed.

6. Approval of Minutes from Annual Parish Council meeting, 13th May 2026 – approved.

7. Chair's report
    The last 24 hours has seen a significant planning application submitted, due to the requirement to notify the public of the agenda three clear days prior to a meeting, we were unable to append the application to this agenda. The matter has been deferred to the next meeting on Wednesday 8th July where residents have an opportunity to raise any concerns.

    The Ranger team has been busy working in the woodland today. With help from residents, the existing rapeseed crop was cleared to help the saplings grow. The team mentioned that there

is also further work to be undertaken on the scrapes.

The Council continues to supply dog waste bags to the community. A small supply of bags will be made available each week, this is to deter people stealing supplies.

Thank you to everyone for helping with the Summer Fete and hoping for some sunny weather.

8. Reports from community associates:
   a. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
      Fortunately, the Parish continues to remain unaffected by an increase in car thefts. Areas targeted include Belbroughton, Clent and Hagley.

   b. Village Community Centre
      We have continued to have good attendance at activities.

      We have had a few problems with the building, the main issue being a drain blockage caused by tree roots. In the process of clearing the roots, a broken pipe was discovered which needs to be repaired. We are currently in negotiations with the insurance company as to whether this can be covered or not.

      The camera investigations of the pipes also revealed some other issues with rainwater disposal. We also had a broken window last week, probably caused by a stone from a strimmer. Fire alarms were serviced last week.

      A builder is coming later in the month to look at a new canopy/porch, and we are currently trying to ascertain whether planning permission is needed for a commercial building to replace an existing structure with one that may be slightly smaller.

      Work is needed on guttering and downpipes and associated drains/soakaways and we would still like to know whether Severn Trent would be able to provide water butts, which, although we don't need the water here, may be useful for the community orchard.

   c. Footpath's Warden Report
      Work continues to reinstate the path linking Valley Road towards Dodford. The sign for the footpath by The Gate has not been reinstated, the Clerk will follow-up with the County Cllr.
      AP: Clerk – to contact County Cllr for an update on the replacement of the footpath sign by The Gate pub.

9. Community Project Reports
   a. Flood Prevention
      As a part of the Autumn newsletter, residents will be reminded of the watercourse/culvert which runs through the village and what they can do to help minimise flooding. The clerk will contact Wade (WCC) to ascertain the plan and timescales for the work on the scrapes.
      AP – Clerk: To contact Wade for an update on plans and work timescales for the scrapes.

   b. Playground – Community Play Audit & Investment Strategy
      A consultant is working on behalf of BDC to review the current facilities. The consultant, Adrian Spray, is a landscape and greenspace consultant based in Birmingham. The review will focus specifically on the play areas with the aim to assess the condition of facilities, understand resources and any challenges, and produce a realistic investment plan with funding recommendations.

The project scope covers outdoor equipped play areas, natural play, multi-use games areas (MUGAs), basketball courts/hoops, skate parks/wheeled sports and outdoor fitness equipment along with ancillary facilities such as seating, fencing, surfacing and paths that are an essential part of the play provision. A meeting is due shortly to discuss the Parish's requirements with Adrian.

c. Bournheath Village Community Centre (BVCC) lease
BVCC is trying to appoint a solicitor, this is proving difficult due to the specialist nature of the legal work.

d. Bournheath Summer Fete (Saturday 13th June)
The fete preparation has now entered its final stages. Council approved spend of the Chair's allowance which was allocated to the cost of entertainment (voucher for the Dog Judge and payment to the band).

10. Clerk's Parish report and Finance review
    a. Lengthsman update and Councillor requests
    Following a request from a resident, work has been completed on Tuppenny Cake to tidy up the brambles. A small amount of work was undertaken due to nesting animals and wildlife.

    b. Authorisation of payments – approved.

    c. Bank reconciliation – approved and attached as Appendix A.

    d. Finance approval
    HMRC recommended rate of £6 per week, equating to £26 per month was approved.

    e. Office correspondence – no items to report.

11. Reports from Parish Councillors
    Work request – verge on Parish Hill has not been trimmed this year.
    AP – Clerk to ask Parks team who is responsible for maintenance of Parish Hill verges.
    Work request – the 30mph signs on Parish Hill and Fairfield Road require some maintenance.
    AP – Clerk to review the signage and notify the relevant team.

The meeting concluded at 8.21pm.

_____ Date _____

Chair, Bournheath Parish Council

Appendix A

Bournheath Parish Council
Bank Reconciliation Statement

Opening date		**01/05/2026**		
to closing date		**31/05/2026**		
	Current a/c opening balance:	**01/05/2026**	**£**	**31,454.99**
2	CALC and NALC annual fee		-£	385.94
3	Parish Council Websites (web, email and domain hosting)		-£	293.04
4	Expenses -Win Zip for VAS		-£	51.54
4	Expenses - Microsoft 365		-£	60.99
4	Expenses - SLCC		-£	215.00
5	Unity Trust Bank charge		-£	7.00
equ	balance C/F		**£**	**30,441.48**

Opening Balance	**as at 01/04/2026**	**£**	**22,206.36**
Add receipts for period		£	9,255.63
Less payments for period		-£	1,020.51
Equ closing balance	**31/05/2026**	**£**	**30,441.48**

Bank balance	**£**	**30,441.48**