Bournheath Parish Council

Minutes for 9th September 2026, 7.00pm, Bournheath Village Community Centre

In attendance

Parish Councillors (Cllr):	Louise Colley (Vice Chair), Phil Hughes, Matthew Guest and Maria Stepin.
District Councillors:	None
County Councillor:	None
Clerk:	Ro Hardeman
Members of the public:	None
Other attendees:	None

1. Apologies:
   Cllrs Gary Davies, Sophie Moir, Karen May, Simon Nock (District Cllrs) and Mark Dunkley (County)

2. Declarations of interest: none.

3. Dispensations requested: none.

4. Planning
   No new applications submitted. Planning decisions were reviewed with no further comments.

5. County Councillor and District Councillor Reports
   a) Worcestershire County Council - Cllr M Dunkley
      i) County Council update – no update
      ii) Parish resident requests update – the following update was submitted by e-mail:
         (1) Traffic signs (speed and horse riding)
         Highways have looked at the 30MPH speed signs in question and have instructed me that they are perfectly adequate.

         There are larger signs in place to clearly indicate the start of 30MPH zone, with smaller repeater signs within the zone, these smaller signs are limited in size under the Traffic signs regulations of 2016 and only used where there is no street lighting. Larger signs within the zone are not only illegal but may cause confusion for drivers as to where the zone begins.

         The Horse signs you refer to seem to have got lost in the portal! Could you please email me with a map of preferred location for the signs and a sign image. I can then reinstate the request. In the meantime, I do have a few safety posters from the B.H.S. that can be displayed on private property around the village.\
         Clerk – to submit proposed sites for the horse-riding signs.

         (2) Flooding on Doctors Hill (The Nailers Arms)
         Flooding on Doctors Hill and other locations in Bournheath were discussed with Jason Simon at our meeting a few months ago, he informed us that there was no

longer a fixed maintenance schedule in place, and that the drainage team will respond quickly to any issues that are reported.

(3) Claypit Lane reinstatement of original road width
I have reported the debris left on Claypit Lane by the cutting back of the hedges and the build up of silt and mud and am awaiting a response from Highways.

(4) Funding request – new village noticeboards
I am willing to contribute £1000 from my divisional funding towards the new village notice boards. Hope this helps.

(5) Residents report that the bridge between Catshill and Wildmoor is being used as a urinal and have asked if the area could be cleaned.
MD – to arrange for the area beneath the bridge (Catshill/Wildmoor) to be cleaned.

b) Bromsgrove District Council, Cllr May, and Cllr Nock
Cllrs May and Nock had been called into a working group meeting on 'Future Local Governance in Bromsgrove'. A report was submitted and attached as appendix A.

6. Approval of Minutes from 8th July 2026 – approved.

7. Vice Chair's report
I want to begin by saying that our thoughts are with Gary and Sarah and I'm sure we all wish Sarah all the best for her operation, treatment and recovery period, and that we'll do all we can to support Gary at this time.

In terms of the Parish, it's been a hot and relatively quiet summer, although I use the term "quiet" metaphorically, as there has obviously been a lot of building work going on in both Parish Hill and Fairfield Road.

Speedwatch sessions have continued on a regular basis, and we have recorded fewer cars speeding than in the past two years – although there still seems to be a lot of speeding when the teams are not out there. Thanks to everyone involved in the monitoring process.

This may be mentioned in the project reports later, but, having spent time meeting with the Playground consultant and having thoughts of engaging people in the village to get their ideas, it is unfortunate that Ro has now been told that the consultant should not have met with the Parish Council as it is a District Council matter.

The older trees in the community orchard have suffered with the hot and dry weather, and despite a rescue mission with several members of the village helping to carry water from the Community Centre, and the use of David and Denise Field's water supply for a hose, too, they may be beyond help. However, they may have just gone into a premature autumn and could recover in Spring. The younger trees look more healthy. The trees near the motorway are similarly affected – some still look alive, but not all. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with planting or maintenance of the trees.

8. Reports from community associates:
   a) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
      No reports of any issues. However, we are still seeing anti-social behaviour and careless driving by the five ways junction and at the entrance to The Nailers Arms.
      Clerk – to contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team to ask for increased monitoring along Doctors Hill.

   b) Village Community Centre
      Wednesday coffee mornings resumed on Wednesday 2nd September after the usual August break, and there was good attendance.

      Table tennis continued very successfully throughout August, always with a good atmosphere, and attracting a range of people who wouldn't have used the hall for other opportunities.

      Repair work on the drains took place over July and August, and should now be complete.

      Replacement deep-flow guttering will be installed when the builder does the porch (there have been leaks and overflowing). Although the intention had been to have water butts, the builder has advised against this because of the site being open and, therefore, vulnerable to vandalism with the risk of people opening the taps on the butts and causing water to flow out next to/beneath the walls.

      The builder has had to register for VAT since he gave his original estimate and we have accepted his revised estimate.

      We have been unable to get estimates from other builders as those we have contacted have not been interested in/available for the work. However, we know that this builder will do a good job and will be fair with his costing.

      We had another broken window in August, which was quickly repaired.

      The next events are the Pumpkin Trail in October and the Christmas Fair in November.

      It was previously mentioned that we are in need of a new treasurer. No-one new in the village has come forward, but we have managed to persuade a previous treasurer to re-join us, which is a huge relief.

   c) Footpath's Warden Report
      No report due to absence.

9. Community Project Reports
   a) Flood Prevention
      No further issues to report on.

   b) Playground – Community Play Audit & Investment Strategy
      The project will progress according to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) timescales and the council will be notified of next steps once the play audit report has ben reviewed and the programme of works has been agreed. A decision is due this quarter.

   c) Bournheath Village Community Centre (BVCC) lease

No further updates, we continue to wait for BDC to confirm the correct set of deeds before any further work can be undertaken.

d) 2026 Autumn Newsletter – items for inclusion
A request was made to include a note on planning and the council's involvement in planning decisions. Furthermore, there was a request to discuss the role of Parish Councils as consultees in planning applications at the next meeting.

10. Clerk's Parish report and Finance review
    a) Lengthsman update and Councillor requests
    The Clerk has asked that the lengthsman team focus on drainage and keeping gulleys free of any debris. No further requests currently.

    b) Authorisation of payments – approved.

    c) Bank reconciliation – approved and attached as Appendix B.

    d) To consider and approve the draft Budget for 2027/2028 financial year
    Deferred to the next meeting work while some further forecasting work is undertaken.
    Clerk – to draft 2027/2028 budget for review.

    e) Office correspondence – no items to report.

11. Parish Council Election – May 2027
    Prior to the meeting, Cllr Davies confirmed that he will be stepping down as Chair at the next election (May 2027). Cllr Hughes also confirmed that he will be stepping down as Councillor at the next election due to work commitments.
    Clerk – to cover council elections in the next newsletter.

12. Reports from Parish Councillors
    No items to report.

13. **Exclusion of Public and Press to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to discuss the following confidential matters:** consider and approve office staff appraisal for August 2025-July 2026.
    Deferred until next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.39pm.

_____ Date _____

Chair, Bournheath Parish Council

Appendix A- Belbroughton and Romsley District Councillor's Report:

(Belbroughton, Bournheath, Clent, Fairfield, Frankley, Hunnington and Romsley)

1. Purpose of the Report

This joint update is submitted on behalf of Cllr Simon Nock and Cllr Karen May to provide the Parish Council and residents with a definitive, high-level update on the emerging Bromsgrove District Local Plan. As members of the cross-party working group, our priority is securing a technically sound plan that acts as a robust legal shield for our local communities.

2. Current Statutory Stage: The Scoping Consultation

The District Council is currently delivering a vital statutory milestone under the plan-making framework:

- **The Scoping Consultation:** This formal stage concludes this **Friday, 4th September 2026, at 5:00 pm**.
- **Focus of Scoping:** This stage establishes the high-level strategy, broad visions, and methodologies for the district's growth up to the year 2044. It defines how communities will be involved moving forward.
- **Exclusion of Site Allocations:** This stage strictly focuses on high-level strategy and objectives. It **does not** identify specific housing sites or draft definitive local planning policies. Those actions will take place during 2027.
- **Protection of Previous Feedback:** Residents are reassured that their prior feedback from the massive Draft Development Strategy remains fully logged on the system. These representations will automatically carry forward into the site allocation phase next year; there is no requirement to resubmit them now.

3. Addressing Delivery Challenges and Housing Target Pressures

We are fully aware of public anxiety regarding the lack of an updated, adopted plan and the pressures caused by the district's limited 5-year housing land supply. However, the Council is actively executing a clear strategy to regain local control:

- **Transition to the New Fast-Track Framework:** Rather than proceeding under the old, slow, and heavily bureaucratic national structures, Bromsgrove District Council formally initiated plan-making under the Government's **brand-new 2026 streamlined planning system**.
- **The 30-Month Delivery Window:** Activating this new system legally binds the Council to a strict, mandated **30-month timeline** to deliver a complete plan. This guarantees a significantly faster resolution than the previous framework allowed.
- **Defending Against Speculative Applications:** Rushing an incomplete or technically weak plan simply to meet a political news cycle would fail at the examination stage. To securely withstand legal challenges from speculative developers, officers are building an iron-clad evidence base.
- **Infrastructure-First Model:** Future housing distribution must be dictated by the physical capacity of our highways, school places, and GP surgeries, alongside an updated, legally rigorous Green Belt review.

4. Immediate Next Milestones

Following the closure of the Scoping Consultation files this Friday, the plan moves into the late 2026 technical infrastructure testing and data compilation phases. We anticipate returning to the public in **Spring 2027** for a comprehensive consultation regarding preferred policy directions and specific site options.

Cllr Karen May and Cllr Simon Nock
Belbroughton & Romsley Ward Members **September 2026 Version 1**

Appendix B

Bournheath Parish Council
Bank Reconciliation Statement

Opening date	**01 July 2026**
to closing date	**31 July 2026**

	Current a/c opening balance:	**01 July 2026**	**£**	**25,974.12**
4	WCC lengthsman May		£	210.00
4	WCC lengthsman June		£	200.00
21	BDC lengthsman - June		-£	240.00
22	WPension Fund July		-£	212.51
23	HMRC July		-£	67.72
24	Office salary - July		-£	833.30
25	Unity Trust Bank charge		-£	7.00
equ	balance C/F		**£**	**25,023.59**

Opening Balance as at	**01 April 2026**	**£**	**22,206.36**
Add receipts for period		£	9,845.63
Less payments for period		-£	7,028.40
Equ closing balance as at	**31 July 2026**	**£**	**25,023.59**

Bank balance	**£**	**25,023.59**

Bournheath Parish Council
Bank Reconciliation Statement

Opening date	**01 August 2026**
to closing date	**31 August 2026**

	Current a/c opening balance:	**01 August 2026**	**£**	**25,023.59**
26	HMRC July (shortfall)		-£	2.00
27	WPension Fund Aug		-£	212.51
28	HMRC Aug		-£	69.72
29	Office salary - Aug		-£	833.30
30	Unity Trust Bank charge		-£	7.00
equ	balance C/F		**£**	**23,899.06**

Opening Balance as at	**01 April 2026**	**£**	**22,206.36**
Add receipts for period		£	9,845.63
Less payments for period		-£	8,152.93
Equ closing balance as at	**31 August 2026**	**£**	**23,899.06**

Bank balance	**£**	**23,899.06**