



DORMINGTON AND MORDIFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

**Annual Meeting of the Parish on Wednesday 13th May
2026 at 7.00 pm at Mordiford School.**

Due to being a Group Parish Council, both Parishes have their own Annual Parish Meeting agendas, but they are identical and run concurrently.

**The Annual Parish Meeting for Dormington was opened at 7pm.
The Annual Parish Meeting for Mordiford was opened at 7pm.**

1) Welcome and Introductions

It was **NOTED** that there were five members of the public present.

It was **NOTED** that the Ward Councillor, Cllr Graham Biggs was also present.

2) To approve as correct the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st May 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held on the 21st May 2025.

3) Parish Council Report by the Chair, Julia Cotton, outlining Parish Council activities and achievements for the year 2025/2026.

Here's a brief overview of what your Parish Council has been doing over the past year, from May 2025 to April 2026.

- Last May I was elected Chair, with Mike Jones as Vice Chair. The Parish Council also confirmed its working groups covering highways, flooding, planning, finance, footpaths and the environment. Behind the scenes, councillors worked hard to keep the Council well run and transparent, reviewing policies, financial controls, risk assessments and our assets. This has been assisted by the smooth handover to our new clerk in January, with no disruption to day-to-day business. We've continued to keep residents informed through newsletters, noticeboards, social media and the website, and we're always glad to hear from anyone who'd like to get more involved.
- On finances, the Council remains in a sound and well-managed position. We met all audit and reporting requirements, kept budgets and reserves under review, and worked to get good value for money. Spending has focused on services that matter to residents, including footpaths, open spaces, the speed indicator device, allotments, burial grounds, insurance and staffing.
- We've also pursued external funding from Herefordshire Council for projects such as footpaths, drainage and the Lengthsman Scheme. But with rising costs from weather damage and less funding available, we needed to review our service charges, increase the precept to and prioritise the services we provide.

- Planning remains a major part of our work. We've reviewed all planning applications, supporting sensible development while raising concerns where traffic, access, infrastructure or environmental issues needed more thought. A major milestone this year was the adoption of our Neighbourhood Development Plan by Herefordshire Council. After more than ten years of work, it is now a made plan and carries real weight in planning decisions — a huge achievement for the parish.
- Highways, traffic and flooding have been especially busy areas. We set up a Highways and Flood Emergency Planning group, bringing together councillors and residents each month. In Dormington, traffic surveys led to the installation of a Speed Indicator Device, and the data suggests it is making a difference, with speeds and complaints both down. Following that success, we're now pursuing further SIDs in Mordiford
- Mordiford Bridge remains a serious concern. It is vital to the county but regularly damaged, and residents are rightly worried about the size and volume of traffic using it. We continue to press Herefordshire Council on safety measures, signage, vehicle limits and vegetation management, and we hope to see progress.
- Flooding is another priority. A draft flood plan has been prepared and is with Herefordshire Council for input. Once that is complete, we'll consult residents and organisations most affected, especially in Mordiford, where surface water, blocked drains and flash flooding from the Pentoloe Brook can seriously affect homes and the B4224.
- Looking after our footpaths, open spaces and community assets has taken a lot of effort this year. We've had some upsetting incidents of fly-tipping and vandalism, particularly at Swarden Quarry and Checkley Barn. We've worked with the school, liaised with the police, and remained vigilant to protect these valued places.
- On a more positive note, regular footpath maintenance has continued, including repairs to bridges, supported by funding and volunteers. Improvements have also gone ahead at Checkley Barn, Swarden Quarry, Maltings Green and Mordiford Green, including refurbishment of the Green Hut and the donation of a commemorative bench for the Dragons Playgroup. Work has also continued at the allotments, burial grounds and churchyards.
- In September, we were delighted to present our first Community Award to Liv Moss, in recognition of her many years of dedication to the Mordiford Dragons Playgroup. We very much hope to see more nominations in the year ahead.
- Looking ahead, our focus remains on good governance, careful use of money, safer roads, protecting the environment and supporting community wellbeing. Our priorities include further highways improvements, a refreshed website, stronger community assets, and continuing to represent residents' views as strongly as we can.
- We'll keep working with our partners — Herefordshire Council, the school, local churches, businesses, the police and landowners — but above all, our most important stakeholders are you: the residents, businesses and visitors who make this parish what it is.
- Thank you for your time, and for your continued support, much appreciated.

Report from: The Ward Cllr

- Transport Hub at the Railway station is now under construction with 100 cycle spaces.

- Ross Enterprise Park , first phase with 6 business units now completed. Phase 2 to begin shortly.
- £4m to be spent this year on accessible housing, with a further £6m on wider housing improvements including refurbishment of the John Venn building in Hereford city centre to create a number of affordable units.
- Leominster old bank building has been purchased and created a business hub and 4 flats.
- Merton Meadow project underway to create 2 - 400 homes near the city centre.
- First Phase of the bypass is underway.
- The old bus station site will become available when the transport hub at the station is completed. It is proposed to create a multi storey car park at this location as this would create additional capacity for parking at the hospital and city centre shopping.
- Additional roads investment by carrying out proper resurfacing rather than just pothole repairs.
- Devolution, the government is pressing ahead with requirements for councils to merge and grow bigger. Herefordshire council's preferred partners are likely to be Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, but this is by no means certain at this stage.
- Business Improvement Bids, schemes for Hereford city and one for the county as a whole are assisting with growth in tourism across the county.

Report from the Footpaths Officer

- It's been another busy, challenging, and rewarding year for the Dormington and Mordiford Parish Council Footpath Officer keeping the paths clear for all to enjoy. I have been doing this for 6 years now, regularly walking and inspecting the paths in our beautiful part of the county..
- We are very fortunate to carry on funding our monthly contractor Envirobility, who trim and cut the vegetation on the more popular footpaths. This is done from April to October every year.
- I with the help of a few volunteers are able to manage the rest of the paths including keeping the styles and gates clear.
- I now have a hedge trimmer along with a Strimmer that was funded by the Parish Council which keeps the cost down of employer and contractor to do the extra work that we provide as volunteers.
- I maintain a good relationship with our local landowners who have footpaths on their land, which facilitates the process of keeping the paths clear.
- During the last year we have replaced a number of finger posts and installed some metal gates to replace worn out styles. I also arranged for a hornets nest to be removed from a busy footpath as members of the public had been stung using it.

- Hereford Council have introduced a PROW grant for all parishes, and I was able to secure funding for the repair of a large footbridge. I am looking to secure further funding this year to install some steps, and a Footpath map notice board at Swardon quarry.
- I was also able to undertake some new bespoke training courses which Hereford Council have recently devised for Footpath Officer. These included 1st aid at work, Footpath officer induction, Hedge trimming and Strimming, and risk assessing.
- I am sorry to report the persistent antisocial behaviour of a few individuals at Swardon Quarry who insist on having barbeques and littering the area of this popular beauty spot. Liaison with the local Police have helped curb the problem but not eradicated it unfortunately.
- That said I am proud that we have some of the best kept paths in the county of Herefordshire for all to enjoy.

The Chair went on to thank the Parish Council Clerk, Molly Walters, and Ward Councillor Biggs for their work with the Parish Council, and to thank the Footpaths Officer, and all the Parish Councillors, who are volunteers and give freely of their time to attend monthly Parish Council meetings, meetings with stakeholders, repair and maintain Parish assets when needed including the bus stops and green hut, the benches, picnic tables and the green spaces.

4) Flood Working group and Highways group reports

These were covered in the Chair's address

5) Submissions/questions/proposals from Parishioners.

There was discussion around the ceremony to launch the refurbished Green Hut on the Mordiford Green, likely to be combined with the now regular coffee morning, on June 13th. It was NOTED that there were no further submissions.

Both the Dormington and the Mordiford Annual Parish Meetings Closed at 19:52