

CASTLEMORTON PARISH

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2026 at the Parish Hall, commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: **Parish Councillors:** Mike Wilkinson (Chairman), Dan Bowker, Hilary Flanders, Dawn Fisher and Yvonne Milne.

In Attendance: Christina Leake (PC Clerk) DCllr John Gallagher

Members of the Public: 1

1A/26 Apologies: PCllrs N Baker & R Rollinson, CCllr T Wells and DCllr C Wild

2A/26. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2025 be signed by the Chairman as being a true record of that meeting.

3A/26 Matters Arising

None

4A/25 Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented his 3rd annual report noting various matters of the parish council proceedings and activity over the last 12 months with kindly acknowledgements to the support from fellow councillors and their responsibilities and clerk. Particular mention of councillor resignation and the present 2 vacancies, increasing level of precept with extra demands in administration but with a contingency reserve, acknowledgment to the hall management with a new manager and regular hirers, planning applications with the delegated councillor taking the lead for initial considerations and the approval of the application for a mobile communications mast in Birtsmorton. The production of the monthly What's On and the encouraging response from a recent village survey. The very successful activities of the environmental group. Representation on the 4Cs but resigned from Malvern Hills Trust. The present nomination and process as yet still to be confirmed by WCC. There has been good interaction with district and county councillors.

5A/26. Finance Report by the Responsible Finance Officer

Details as attached and explained:

Opening balance of £10,715.67, receipts of £9,110.80 & expenditure of £13,595.32 and a closing balance of £6231.15. Note the Restricted Funding of £1743.81

- The Responsible Finance Officer reported on financial records highlighting the savings account and a large claim for VAT of £1172.33 to be submitted to HMRC which included the War Memorial work. Community Infrastructure Levy restricted funding has supported projects at the hall including the successful car park marking.

6A/26 County/District Councillor Reports

DCllr Gallagher reported on:

- Potential financial support for low income households of £300 from the Oil & LPG Energy Support Scheme.

- Places of Worship Renewal Fund supports urgent repairs and essential improvements to listed places of worship in England. Grants ranging from £10,000 to £1,000,000 will be awarded for capital works that keep buildings safe, open and in public use.
- The Future Worcester public consultation has been launched to give residents a say on how local governance arrangements should be enhanced in the wake of the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme.
- Malvern Theatre expansion project underway. The Theatre announces the launch of its quest to find talented street artists, creative community groups and schools with an artistic passion to take part in the £20 million redevelopment project. The Priory Park Mural Project is a unique opportunity for artists to showcase their creativity and imagination while contributing to the conversation on the transformation of Malvern Theatres. The theatre invites local artists to submit suggested designs in order to create a series of large-scale mural paintings, to decorate the site hoardings around Priory Park in Malvern.
- Joint Transition MHDC committee planned to explore how to progress with practicalities once the government decision has been made on the new unitary authority.

7A/26 Reports

Parish Hall Trust: Included the new hall manager and grass contractor, healthy state of the financial affairs of the hall but noted this is enhanced with the benefits of FITs from the PV's and continued programme of repairs and new parking marks.

Footpaths: Cllr Flanders report included her continued link with WCC officers over footpaths and especially the outstanding issue with the Tump footbridge but acknowledges the reduction in funding.

Highways: Cllr Rollinson especially reported on the work carried out by the lengthsman.

CEG: Cllr Fisher noted in her report the continued increasingly successful range of activity including talks, visits and the churchyard project.

8A/26 Public Comments

Update on administration of St Gregory's Church in Longdon Benefice and working alongside Berrow Benefice. Previous incumbent retired in June 2025 and the 2 benefices are presently served by local resident, a non stipendiary minister. with enthusiastic community support. It is hoped with the post to be re advertised a new incumbent will come forward and at present Castlemorton has one churchwarden.

9A/26 Launch new Parish Council website and Email

Website: <https://castlemortonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Email: clerk@castlemortonparishcouncil.gov.uk

No further comments from parishioners.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed..... Date.....