

CASTLEMORTON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Castlemorton Parish Council held on
Thursday 5 March 2026 at 7.00 pm in Castlemorton Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs: Mike Wilkinson, Dawn Fisher, Yvonne Milne, Nigel Baker, Dan Bowker and Rebecca Rollinson.

In Attendance: Mrs C. Leake (Clerk) DCllr John Gallagher.

Members of the Public: 4 on behalf of Castlemorton Common Association

Public Comments:

18/26 Apologies: Received from PCllr Flanders, DCllr Wild & CCllr Wells.

19/26 Declarations of interests

1. *Register of Interests*
2. *To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and/or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) in items on the agenda and their nature.* Cllr Mine ODI re 4Cs.
3. *To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011).* None

20/26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the meeting of **8 January 2026** were a true record of the meeting and were signed.

21/26 Matters Arising

Minute 05/26 Malvern Hills Trust. Chairman updated councillors. No substantive reply to date from WCC to complete the process despite chairman's extensive supporting research. Consequentially a formal complaint has been submitted to WCC monitoring officer and no response to date. Agreed to write to nominees with an update on situation and follow up with WCC the complaint.

22/26 Speeding and Signage on the B4208

Representatives from Castlemorton Common Association outlined the on-going concerns re risks to drivers, people and livestock on the B4208. It seeks parish council support in improved signage although not considered sufficient on its own and therefore a reduced speed limit along a length of the B4208 from Welland to Rye Cross. CCllr Tom Wells will support a campaign for reduced speed along the B4208 upon receipt of a resolution from the respective Parish Councils. (Welland, Castlemorton and Birtsmorton).

Agreed to support a proposal to request of the County Council improved livestock warning signage and explore the possibility of a reduced speed limit from 60mph and 50mph to all 40mph from Welland to Rye Cross.

23/26 District Councillors Reports

DCllr reported on the consultation process as regards Local Government Reorganisation. Responses due by 26 March 2026. The online consultation is complex. He highlighted the benefits of the split proposal and concluded that 'going on feel' is another way of approaching the consultation.

The chairman in supporting the discussion had provided a summary with the questions asked. In conclusion **Agreed not** to submit a Parish Council response due to the complexity of the consultation information, but encourage contributions on an individual basis.

24/26 Parish Council Vacancies & Members' Roles.

Vacancies: The Parish Council still has 2 vacancies and the chairman very willing to engage with any potential interested parties.

4C's: Members were pleased to note that Mr Chris Milne had expressed his interest as a Parish Council representative on the 4C's committee. The proposed appointment was agreed by all and Mr Milne was thanked for his interest.

Next meeting 18 March 2026, reminder for items for inclusion in the agenda.

25/26 Finance Report

a) Finance Report:

| Community Account | £ | £ | |
|---|--|----------------|--|
| Balance: 8 January 2026 | | 2193.32 | |
| Add Income | 203.50 194.00 | | WCC Lengthsman Ward Funding Defibrillator |
| Total | | 397.50 | |
| Less Expenditure pre and at meeting | 8.50 203.50 120.00 165.00 837.47 200.00 | | Bank Charge Jan & Feb Lengthsman Survey Printing Lengthsman Clerk 4th Qtr Castlemorton PCC* |
| | | 1534.47 | |
| Balance at close of meeting 5 March 2026 | | 1056.35 | (Note 4.25/165 for next minutes bank) |
| | | | |
| Savings Account | | | |
| Transfer from Community A/C Interest to date | 5000.00 12.13 | | |
| Balance as at 5 March 2026 | | 5012.13 | |

DCllr Gallagher was thanked for his generous ward funding of £194 towards the parish defibrillator maintenance as it had been noted the battery was now on 2 bars, half of full charge.

***Government Act 1972 Section 137 sub section (1) Application.** Upon receipt of a completed application requesting £400, it was RESOLVED after discussion and consideration of the information in the application to award a grant of £200 to Castlemorton Church towards churchyard maintenance for the year ended December 2025. Present funds did not permit the requested amount if there had been a supporting proposal unless reserves were utilised. Consideration was given to the forthcoming tree survey which could benefit from financial support from the Environmental Group if thought appropriate.

26/25 Update of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and New IT Policy

Councillors agreed to adopt the updated and reviewed as necessary Parish Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment 2026 and the new IT Policy

27/26 Planning

Report of planning applications **received/decided** since last meeting was noted

| | | | |
|---------------|--|---|------------------|
| M/25/01995/HP | Morton Rough Morton Green Welland Malvern WR13 6LR | Construction of single storey extension and associated demolition of conservatory, conversion of existing garage into guest accommodation | Pending Decision |
|---------------|--|---|------------------|

| | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------|
| M/25/02038/HP | Hollybed House Farm Hollybed Street Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6DB | Demolition of previous extensions and construction of new single and two storey extensions | Refused |
| M/25/01994/FUL | Hollybush Village Hall Hollybush | Change of use of church hall to a single dwellinghouse and associated conversion works. | Approved |
| M/25/01885/FUL | Gunnells Druggers End Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JD | Use of land as a caravan site for the siting of two caravans for holiday let purposes and associated works | Approved |
| <u>M/24/00613/FUL & M/24/01141/LB</u> | Barn At (Os 7908 3752) Church Road Castlemorton | Conversion of a barn to a Class C3 dwelling house. | Approved |
| M/25/00121/FUL | The Turbles Druggers End Castlemorton WR13 6JD | Live/Work Unit | Refused - Appeal |
| <u>M/24/01340/FUL</u> | Land At (Os 8172 3904) Lockeridge Lane Upton Upon Severn | Use of land as a caravan site for the stationing of 10 log cabins for holiday let use and associated works | Refused - Appeal |
| <u>M/26/00058/HP</u> | Hailes Pitt Farm Druggers End Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JD | Demolition of existing side 'lean-to' structure and part of the chimney. Construction of ground floor extension. | Pending Decision |
| <u>M/25/01895/HP</u> | Holly Cottage Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6DA | Proposed raising of roof to the lower single storey section to create an upper floor bedroom; minor alterations to facilitate works; infill single storey rear bathroom extension and exterior timber cladding to lower section | Approved |

M/25/02015/TC This planning application for a telecommunications mast submitted in the neighbouring Birtsmorton Parish was approved.

Forest Of Dean Local Plan: Local authorities on the borders of this plan became aware of standard method updates which required towards 13k houses for the FOD Local Plan. For this statistical housing requirement the FOD proposal is for the inclusion of a development site (Commuter town) for 3.5k houses in the Glynychbrook area near junction 2 of M50. Upon discussion it was **agreed** the Parish Council would respond with local impact concerns as addressed on:

Common recreation activity, road damage, extra traffic, education facilities, flooding, proximity to NL and generally multi issues with a proposal not considered to be well planned and lacking in viability.

A number of local meetings continue to take place in preparation of substantive responses from MHDC and the neighbouring parish councils before the deadline of 18 March.

MW and NB agreed to co-ordinate a PC response to the Glynychbrook/FoD policy

Planning Application comments: Councillors request a meeting with a senior member of the MHDC planning department with a purpose in understanding the expectation in responding to planning applications as a (statutory) consultee.

28/26 Village Survey

Thanks to Cllr Rollinson for her input and production of the survey with financial support from CCllr Wells. An encouraging response so far and further reminders planned to hopefully encourage more.

29/26 Highways & Lengthsman

Cllr Rollinson continues to liaise with the lengthsman on permitted tasks in the parish. This has included some excellent drainage work on Hollybed Street with the reinstatement of the drainage ditch alongside the highway.

30/26 Footpaths

No report this meeting.

31/26 Castlemorton Environmental Group

2 Further talks planned (Bees and Agro Ecology), the on-going success of the Black Poplar project and plans in the churchyard,

32/26 Parish Hall Trust

New contractor engaged for the ground maintenance work.

33/26. Website /Email Changes

The new Parish Online (Local Authority Technology CIC) website for Castlemorton is live, having been ported from WCC, but still requires tweaking for public use:

Website: <https://castlemortonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
Email: clerk@castlemortonparishcouncil.gov.uk – not active yet by clerk

Aim to have up dated for the next What’s On with future assistance from Cllr Bowker.

34/26 Correspondence

Particular mention of emails:

- Proposed Glynchbrook Development – MHDC preparing a response to the FODean Local Plan as per minute 27/26
- Agenda Item requests for next 4C’s 18 March
- Resident letter re Lockeridge Appeal
- Malvern Hills Trust Newsletter – Where to promote
- Local Government Reorganisation – forthcoming consultation. Actioned in Minute 23/26 Period 5/2/26 – 26/3/26
- CALC Updates
- Community Arts and Culture Grant for Parish and Town Councils (Malvern Hills District) Closing Date 20 March 2026

35/26 Next Parish Council Meeting(s)

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Thursday 21 May (Annuals) 2026

Subsequent Meetings: TBA

Meeting concluded at 8.50pm

Signed Date.....