

CASTLEMORTON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Castlemorton Parish Council held on
Thursday 10 September 2026 in Castlemorton Parish Hall, Armitage Room at 7pm

Present: Cllrs: Nigel Baker (Chair) Hilary Flanders Yvonne Milne, Nick Andrews, Dan Bowker, Dawn Fisher and Rebecca Rollinson.

In Attendance: Mrs C. Leake (Clerk) DCllrs Christine Wild & John Gallagher
Later CCllr Tom Wells

Members of the Public: 0

Public Comments: None

73/26 Apologies: Received from PCllr: Wilkinson

74/26 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.* None
3. *To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011).* None

75/26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the meeting of **16 July 26** were a true record of the meeting and were signed.

76/26 Matters Arising

None

77/26 County& District Councillor reports

DCllr Wild reported on:

- i) Local Government Review: Process paused. The Government has announced in a statement this week, the launch of a review into plans to streamline local government, to ensure it is robust and aligns with new government priorities, following updated and privileged legal advice. The government has also indicated that local elections scheduled for May 2027 will proceed on existing council boundaries while the review is undertaken.
- ii) Her work with Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee and recently looking at neighbourhood health matters including rural loneliness . Communities coming together. Discussion ensued on support available to residents and the 'accessibility' of local transport- On demand bus and Community transport. Contact can be made with Officer at CALC for further advice.
- iii) Work with the Biodiversity group.
- iv) She asked if the Parish Council would explore ways of implementing air conditioning in the hall in hot periods. Confirmed that this was already being investigated by the PHT.

DCllr Gallagher supported with:

- i) Planning- as at end of October 2026 there will be a National Scheme of Delegation for Planning Decisions with applications determined by officers. Only if an application indicates significant material issues will it be presented to committee for consideration. Process yet to be determined by MHDC.
- ii) Organisations urged to help identify women experiencing rough sleeping.

78/26 Parish Council Vacancy.

No further interest to date re this vacancy.

79/26 Village Survey

Cllr Rollinson (arrived at meeting) previously provided councillors with the survey results, hard copies available and these were considered in their format with possible actions to be discussed at a further meeting. Prize winners to be notified in consultation with Morton Majestic re tickets. Cllr Bowker suggested the use of AI to consolidate the survey responses to identify potential areas of action by the Parish Council. This would be available for the next meeting. Further information would be put in the What's On. Cllr Rollinson once again thanked for all her time with this project.

80/26 Finance Report

a) Up to date Finance Report:

Community Account	£	£	
Balance: 16 July 2026		3244.13	
Add Income	37.67 502.00		Morton Majestic PHT Solicitor Fee - Land Registry
Sub Total		539.67	
Less Expenditure pre and at meeting	8.50 593.40		Bank Charge July/August Solicitor Fee incl VAT- Land Registry
Sub Total		601.90	
Balance at close of meeting 10 September 2026		3181.90	
Savings Account			
Balance: 16 July 2026	5020.37		
Interest	4.26		July/August Interest
Balance: 10 September 2026		5024.63	

- i) Donation request from Malvern CAB: This would be considered at the January 2027 meeting alongside any further grant applications.
- ii) Clerk booked on an hour's webinar for Digital AGAR (11th February 2027) FOC

81/26 Highways & Lengthsman

No immediate highway issues. Communication has been shared with lengthsman presently unavailable for tasks.

82/26 Footpaths

Discussion on how to manage and proceed with repairs to Tump bridge with WCC lacking in staff resources and noting the hazard tape is being removed for access purposes across the bridge. Idea to consider the work is managed by Parish Council using approved contractors which would incur an increase on precept. Arrival of CCllr Wells who suggested he be advised of the matter and see if anything productive could be done. Chairman asked about the stile on Footpath 566C. Volunteers could clear the brambles but the stile would need to be repaired by landowner. Agreed to consider contacting landowner about this matter. Seek advice from WCC.

Green Lanes: Look out for planned WCC winter clearance on Heron Lane.

83/26 Speeding and Signage on the B4208

Ref Minute 66/26 48/26 & 22/26 A further meeting has taken place with local representatives, WCC highways and County Councillor Tom Wells. Positive drive remains for the speed limit implementation. But mindful of the mileage length of the proposed 40mph limit and potential speed enforcement. The requirements of signage in this National Landscape area still to be agreed. The public consultation process is lengthy, costly and may meet some objection but hopefully will be prepared in the next couple of months. Consultation is around 21 days and then a lengthy process to go through all the responses and come to the final decision. It is important that all the organisations involved in this scheme encourage their respective contacts to respond with comments.

84/26 Planning

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

M/26/01185/AGR	The Old Barns Fair Oaks Farm Hollybush Ledbury HR8 1EU	Excavation of soil to create a waterbody that will be used for agricultural use.	Pending Decision/ Prior Approval Application required
M/26/01016/GPDE	Hillberry Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JA	Prior Notification for a Larger Home Extension – Single storey rear extension	Permitted
M/26/00929/OL	Street_record Hollybush	Upgrade pole mounted transformer and change H-Pole from 12 M medium to 12M stouts. Upgrade the low Voltage open wire and change any defective pole or stays.	No Objection
M/26/00822/CCO	Gunnells Druggers End Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6JD	Discharge of Condition 3 (Landscape & Ecological Management Plan) on granted planning approval M/25/01885/FUL	Approved
M/26/00784/CLPU	The Smithy Castlemorton Malvern WR13 6BS	Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed outbuildings as shown in plans and described in planning statement.	Refused
M/26/00120/FUL	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	Pending Decision

85/26 Parish Hall Trust

- 68/26 The work has been completed with the updating of Land Registry documentation. This defines ownership of the land adjacent to the Parish Hall with the extended parking area and now includes those 2 parts previously omitted in the land transfer in 2014. This area of land remains as 2 Land Registry documents and concludes solicitor's administrative actions.
- Consideration to provision of audio loop and air conditioning in the hall. Both projects being investigated.

86/26 Environmental Group

- A number of talks are in the pipeline for the autumn (Longdon Marsh, pine martens, the impact of the environment on public health) and on 10th October CEG and Morton Majestic are screening the film Derek vs Derek about two conflicting neighbours (one a traditional farmer and the other the renowned rewilding, Derek Gow).
- Thanks to the group from the churchwarden for all the work in the churchyard over the summer.

87/26 Correspondence

Particular mention of emails:

- CALC & Health & Wellbeing Updates
- Financial Request from Malvern CAB -
- Reminders re Digital Switchover
- Further year's extension on Windows 10 security updates to Oct 2027
- Community Arts Festival Summer 2027 Consultation. Malvern Hills District Council.
- Brity First Aid: <https://brity.co.uk/communities/castlemorton>
- Material for next What's on and review of delivery routes.
- Letter from Kempsey Parish Council re SWDPR 5 Year plan

88/26. Website /Email Changes

The new Parish Online (Local Authority Technology CIC) website for Castlemorton. Looking to improve site presentation. Cllr Bowker willing to support.

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

Email: clerk@castlemortonparishcouncil.gov.uk

89/26 Next Parish Council Meeting(s)

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Thursday 12 November 2026

Subsequent Meetings: Thursdays: 7 January 2027, 11 March and 13 May (Annuals/Election Year)

Meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Signed

Date.....