

**HUNNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2025, 7.00PM AT ROMSLEY CHURCH HALL**

Present:

Cllr. G Goodwin, Cllr. S Goodwin, Cllr. Myatt (Chair), Cllr. McGregor, Cllr. Seeley and Cllr. Waller

Also Present: Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Chair asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the agenda.

Other Disclosable Interest

Cllr. Myatt – has a development business in Redhill Place.

Cllr. G Goodwin – member of Cannon Clay Shooting Club.

3. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S –

Cllr. May and Cllr. Nock – report below:-

Bromsgrove Local Plan and the Draft Development Strategy (DDS)

Residents will hopefully be aware that a consultation was launched on 30 June 2025 and since that time extensive engagement has taken place.

There is information available at

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/bromsgroveplan> and

<https://www.bromsgroveplan.commonplace.is>, the online consultation platform for residents to provide feedback on all aspects of the strategy and its alternatives, from the vision and supporting evidence to housing locations and infrastructure needs.

A series of 19 public consultation events have been held representing over 1000 hours of officer time for people to engage to planners.

Adverts have been placed in the local press, and a series of press release have taken place, alongside a comprehensive social media campaign.

Ward members have also been encouraged to help spread the word with many leaflets and posters provided when requested. Cllr May and I have attended drop-in sessions in Hagley, Frankley and Clent. They were mostly well attended, and some interesting conversations have taken place.

The most recent data indicates that BDC have received over 26,000 visitors to the commonplace website, over 2,300 different respondents and over 5,800 individual responses.

Over the last month the numbers of people visiting the website who then contribute has risen to 13.33% which BDC are informed by commonplace represents an excellent response rate in this setting.

There have been over 1,000 emails to BDC and approximately 100 hard copy letters.

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 9 September a unanimous recommendation was made that Council consider extending period of consultation period. This was considered by Cabinet on 10 September 2025. An urgent decision was subsequently made, and the consultation period has been extended by 4 weeks to 20 October 2025 to allow further public engagement in the process.

Accordingly, Karen and I have hosted an additional drop-in session in Belbroughton. Further sessions are planned as follows:

- Fairfield Village Hall, Stourbridge Rd, Fairfield, Bromsgrove B61 9LZ on Wednesday, 1st October 2025, 4pm to 6:30 pm
- Romsley & Hunnington Cricket Club, 332 Bromsgrove Rd, Hunnington, Halesowen B62 0JW on Wednesday, 1st October 2025, 7pm to 9pm.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The background to LGR has previously been reported.

At an Extraordinary Council Meeting on 3 September 2024 members were asked to select from one of the following options:

OPTION A: One Unitary Authority for the whole of Worcestershire made up of the six district/borough areas of Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills, Redditch, Worcester City, Wychavon and Wyre Forest (currently covered by the six Worcestershire District Councils and Worcestershire County Council).

OPTION B (Presented as Options B1 and B2): Two Unitary Authorities made up of North Worcestershire (covering Bromsgrove District, Redditch Borough and Wyre Forest District) and South Worcestershire (covering Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District) providing the former district/borough and county council local government services for each area.

Members voted to explore further OPTION B. This means that all District and Borough Councils in Worcestershire, with the exception of Wyre Forest, have voted for this option. Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council are the in favour of "One Worcestershire".

Further work will on the financial implications be undertaken and a final proposal will be brought back to Council in November.

4. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**
Cllr. May – nothing to report

5. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 5.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2025 be signed as a correct record, the Chair duly signed.

6. **FINANCE**

- 6.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments: -

HMRC	Payroll taxes due	£686.83
Ruth Mullett	Expenses	£37.30
Unity Trust	Bank charges	£6.00
Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£300.00
Tree Tops	Hedge Cutting	£390.00
Richard Poole	Maintenance	£340.00

Cllr. Myatt and Cllr. McGregor to authorise the online payments.

- 6.2 Quarterly Bank Reconciliation Statement approved by all Councillors.
 6.3 Internal financial control check was approved by council.
 6.4 Discussion took place regarding the forthcoming precept for 2026/27 and it was agreed that we should be looking at increasing over a number of years to build up our reserves. This will be discussed further once we receive the taxbase figures from Bromsgrove District Council.
 6.5 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to add Cllr. G and Cllr. S Goodwin to the Unity Trust Bank Mandate.

7. **PLANNING MATTERS**

7.1 **District Council Decisions**

Nothing to report

7.2 **Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments**

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Ref:	25/00994/FUL
Proposal:	Proposal of double storey rear and side extension, a rear single storey extension, a new front porch and a loft conversion with rear dormers
Location:	424 Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington
Decision:	No objections

Application Type:	Section 73 Application
Planning Ref:	25/00768/S73
Proposal:	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of application 19/00592/FUL to alter details of the conversion of the administration building
Location:	Blue Bird Administration, Needlers Way, Hunnington
Decision:	No objections – subject to further investigation of online portal.

7.3 Appeals

Site Address:	124 Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington
Des of Development:	First floor extension over the existing single storey side extension
Application Ref:	25/00364/FUL
Appeal Ref:	APP/P1805/D/25/3372022

7.4 **Bluebird Factory** – 60% of the homes are now complete with 40 occupied.

7.6 **BESS Application**

BDC Planning Committee – 29th July 2025

At the planning meeting there was a late intervention by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer from Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Services (HWFRS). On the morning of the meeting the Assistant Fire Officer sent an email to the Planning Officer regarding fire and safety issues that remained outstanding since HWFRS's consultee comments in October 2024.

Consequently, additional detailed documents were distributed to the Planning Committee Members, containing Grenergy's responses to the email, and they were asked to read and assimilate these at the start of the meeting. Committee members expressed concerns over this approach, yet planning officers appeared to be pressing for approval of the application. This was perceived as bias by many who witnessed the meeting. The outcome was a vote to defer the application pending Grenergy's responses to the HWFRS concerns.

Letters of Complaint

Letters of complaint about the planning officer's bias at the meeting on 29th July were sent to BDC Chief Executive by the parish council, district councillors and residents. All received the same response from BDC's Legal Advisor. A second and more detailed letter of complaint was then sent as stage two of BDC's Complaints Procedure. The third stage of the complaint's procedure is escalation to the Local Government Ombudsman but this stage is not available to parish councils.

Grenergy Documents Submission

New documents in response to the meeting on 29th July were submitted by Grenergy on 5th September, which included a revised:

- Site layout plan
- Fire Strategy
- Firewater Management Plan V3
- Flood Risk and Drainage Plan V3
- Landscaping Plan, NPA 855 document
- Statutory Biodiversity Metric Report
- Biodiversity Metric Calculation

HPC Responses to Grenergy's Documents

- A letter was sent from HPC to the Planning Officer regarding Grenergy's revised Site Layout Plan and the HWFRS issue of two access points to the site. It emphasised the need for a full response from HWFRS. This is on the Portal.
- A second letter was sent to the Planning Officer regarding the newly submitted Flood Risk assessment and the potential for flooding via Illey Brook. This is also on the Planning Portal.
- eP3 had provided a revised Biodiversity Metric report which failed to provide an adequate response to the independently assessed BNG response in April 2025. The revised e3P report also includes the suds pond as part of the overall Biodiversity Net Gain calculation. A rebuttal document with revised BNG scores was submitted to the Planning Officer and Thomson Environmental Consultants, the LPA's independent assessor.
- The revised Site Layout Plan and Fire Strategy Plan still did not adequately address some of the issues outlined by HWFRS on 29th July. A full and comprehensive HPC Fire Safety rebuttal document was sent to the Planning Officer and HWFRS.
- On 23rd September Wychavon District Council refused planning permission for the Lincomb Farm BESS on the grounds that (a) two access points were not provided and (b) there wasn't 6 metres of clearance between containers. Both these shortfalls apply to Grenergy's application, and the lack of a second access point was the specific reason for deferral at the meeting on 29th July. HPC have sent a letter highlighting this refusal to the Planning Officer, also copied into Head of Planning and HWFRS.

Kitwell GSP Capacity

On 1st September IMcG emailed Grenergy for an explanation of the statement *"the site is restricted by the operational capacity of the nearby grid connection, which would prevent any further sprawl or development"* (Grenergy Planning Statement September 2024, paragraph 8:11). His response was "Grenergy have a grid connection secured for a specific capacity (70 MW). As such we have designed the site to accommodate the necessary infrastructure for that capacity. We would be unable to expand the site further without securing more capacity from the grid network – which as you know is very constrained and our understanding is that all capacity from that substation has now been secured."

Further investigation on Clearview Connect shows Kitwell with a queue of 11 connections to the grid of which 7 are BESS sites, and Grenergy are 6th in the queue. Developer capacity is indicated as zero, and the assumption is that this is after the current queue is connected.

Jonathan Cooper also stated "I am conscious that a significant level of misinformation has come about on the proposal, particularly around fire

safety, noise and visual impact to which we have qualified and expert opinions, evidence and **government support backing our positions.**”

Parliamentary Engagement

IMcG met with Bradley Thomas MP on 12th August to complain about the conduct of the Planning Officers at the 29th July Planning Committee meeting, and to raise his awareness of the BESS oversupply issue. He agreed to raise the oversupply issue as a Parliamentary question when the summer recess was over.

Publicity

Resident contacted Midlands Today with a suggestion that they record a piece about three BESS sites being approved in the same vicinity, and they have shown interest. A resident has agreed to be the resident’s spokesperson and council also contacted Bradley Thomas MP, suggesting that he used the opportunity to highlight the BESS oversupply issue. The resident is currently attempting to coordinate the session.

The resident also contacted The Halesowen News, who has responded requesting a photograph of concerned residents standing in an area between Goodrest Farm and Illey Brook Farms.

Hunnington Photo Gallery

A photo gallery was created on the HPC website to highlight the photographs of Hunnington taken by a new resident. Another Hunnington resident sent a link to the gallery to all the councillors on the Planning Committee.

- 7.7 **Bromsgrove District Council Local Plan** – councillors attended the drop in session at Romsley Scout Centre to discuss the proposed local plan but it was noted by council very disappointing that two local sessions had been organised with no involvement with the parish council.
8. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS/TRAFFIC/HIGHWAYS**
 - 8.1 Subject to confirmation of £1,000 grant from the District Councillor’s Divisional Fund it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to purchase 30mph speed signs stickers for the new residents bins.
9. **PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**
 - 9.1 Nothing to report.
10. **CLERKS’ REPORT**
 - 10.1 **Parish Communication** – an update was given on councillor’s now using GOV.UK email addresses and it was agreed to help any councillor struggling to set them up.
 - 10.2 Due to the new Assertion 10 in the AGAR report clerk confirmed that we would need to budget for a new laptop in next year’s budget.
 - 10.3 Council noted the new NALC payscales backdated to 1st April 2025.

10.4 Clerk had received notification from the electrician that the tree would need to be installed earlier this year.

11. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**
IMcG – bench needs sanding, Clerk to instruct Lengthsman.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 23rd September 2025.

Meeting closed at 19.55.

Signed
Chair, Hunnington Parish Council