

Yarkhill Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES OF YARKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING

Yarkhill Village Hall

Friday 27th June 2025 at 7.30pm

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE AGAR FORMS FOR SUBMISSION BY 1ST JULY 2025 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PKF ACTION PLAN.

Present: Councillor Jeff Hughes (Chr) Councillor Sarah Daw (Vice Chr)
Councillors Chrissie Dobson, Ian Carr, Steve Kirby, Peter Durnan and Parish Clerk Sallyanne Lees.

There were 11 members of the Parish present.

Councillor Jeff Hughes (Chairman) thanked those attending and explained that this Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting is convened to approve and sign the AGAR documents for submission by 1st July 2025. As the Parish will be aware we had an action plan compiled with help from the External Auditor which was used to make sure the AGAR is completed correctly and presented to this meeting. Any other matters will be addressed at the July Parish Council Meeting. As is usual, this meeting is being recorded by the Clerk to ensure accuracy of the minutes.

1. Apologies for absence received from Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester, Caroline & Richard Borley.
2. There were no declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations
3. Consider & Approve AGAR Accounting Statements (majority vote required).

Councillor Jeff Hughes (Chairman) explained that, before moving onto the AGAR, he had a few words to say which he had already discussed with Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester.

The AGAR process should be a team effort to make sure we get it right and yet; it has become a process of antagonism and unpleasantness. Our Government Appointed External Auditor suggested it would be sensible

to agree all the points beforehand so we could quickly move to vote on it at this meeting. Unfortunately, Cllr Kirby has not been prepared to do that and Cllr Carr has chosen not to respond to any correspondence at all. As with last year, it is fairly obvious that Cllr Kirby will not approve the AGAR as presented and that Cllr Carr will follow his lead. We are not going to be hoodwinked by them as we were last year.

I also have to tell you that the third member of their faction, James Snell, has already complained to the external auditor even before the AGAR has been submitted though his complaint was dismissed. In the meantime, he has been inundating Sallyanne with unnecessary and hostile emails which is totally unacceptable.

I am sorry to have to tell you therefore, that Cllrs Dawson, Dobbie and Durnan have had enough of all three of them and their appalling antics and have tendered their resignations which I must sadly accept.

I fully support their sentiments and decisions and would like to thank them for their invaluable contributions to this Parish. They have stood behind me unwaveringly throughout the horridness of the last two years.

As you all know, I have always tried to work for the benefit of our Parish whereas Cllrs Kirby, Carr and James Snell have been far more obsessed with needless nit picking, getting their own way and complaining if they don't. Our respective goals are totally incompatible and every well intended deed we try to do, they obstruct; James Snell is not even a Parish Councillor. Ian Carr had already suggested to the External Auditor that she should expect another complaint from the three of them this year and their recent conduct confirms they will almost certainly consider objecting again. I just cannot allow the three to potentially cost this parish a further £7,500 as they did last year nor can I permit them to continue to undermine the very integrity of the Parish Council under my leadership and alienate our parishioners in the process.

Personally, I have been harassed, intimidated and even spied upon by them. They have launched unfounded complaints to Herefordshire Council against me which I was able to rebut easily by pointing out the inconsistencies and untruths. Not one of these complaints was upheld and I was fully exonerated. Despite this, the three have persisted in making my life as the Chair as difficult and unpleasant as possible.

I am afraid that I too will no longer put up with it and for this reason I am also tendering my resignation effective immediately.

This means that the Council is now inquorate under the Local Government Act of 1972 and no decisions can be taken. I am afraid that

the meeting must therefore be brought to an immediate close and without a vote on the approval of the AGAR.

Herefordshire Council will now need to step in to ensure that the PC can continue to carry out its business until elections can be held. The cost of these must clearly be laid at the door of the three individuals concerned on top of the £7500 that they have already cost our parishioners in the last year.

I would like to thank all of you very much for the huge support you have shown me over recent years and I am just sorry that a good Parish Council has been destroyed by the hostile actions of a tiny minority. This is a loss of some combined 80 years of Councillor experience. How sad is that.

As the meeting closed the Parish Clerk confirmed that she would not be resigning in order to continue to oversee the previously approved Lengthsman Scheme and necessary day to day administrative duties.

The Meeting Closed.