

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

07.01.2026

Chairs Report for item 26/06

Since the last meeting of the Parish Council on 5th November 2025, I have attended to the following matters on behalf of the Parish Council.

- Followed up on agreed actions
- Liaised with the Clerk for the purpose of review, planning and update on current developments.
- Met with our NDP consultant and a member of the working party (see item 26/10)
- Spoken with our District and County Councillors
- Helped with response to a number of contacts from parishioners.
- Helped to bring together the development of proposals for Berryfields as a part of the MHDC Legacy Fund compliance process (see item 26/12)
- I attended the CALC AGM
- I attended the Remembrance Service and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council
- I attended the Carol Service and read a lesson on behalf of the Parish Council

As this is the first meeting of 2026 and as we move to the close of the financial year, councillors are asked to carefully consider the information before them in relation to the proposed budget and precept for the financial year 2026/27.

The Parish Council is about half way through its agreed strategy to reduce the amount of funds held (on the advice of the auditors) and therefore it will be sensible to review this, in order to be assured it remains the appropriate course of action. In previous years the precept has only been increased by a minimal amount.

With the help of our county councillor there have been continued efforts to engage the County Council regarding our request for action in relation to speeding and road safety on the A44 as it runs through the Parish. (See item 26/11). Councillors may have noted the recent accident in Broadwas on Boxing Day. This brings the number of serious incidents and accidents in Broadwas to at least 4 in 2025 and when combined with those on other parts of the A44 pushes the number into double figures. Sadly as we know there was one fatality.

It is likely that the discussions regarding the future arrangements for local government in Worcestershire will gather pace in the coming year. There were some helpful and interesting presentations at the CALC AGM. Whatever the outcome, it is likely this will mean change for parishioner and the Parish Council, though as yet sadly those for the latter are not clear yet.

I would like to formally thank both the Clerk and Councillors for their hard work and support during last year. It is I think always important to remember that the councillor role is a voluntary one and one for which no payments or allowances are made. There are many demands on peoples time, and as such the Parish Council is only one choice for those who are looking to make an active contribution to the community. We are fortunate that across the parish so many people offer up their time to support a range of activities and ventures, this makes more of a difference than we might always recognise.

It therefore continues to be the case that the Parish Council and all the voluntary groups and organisations welcome interest and constructive involvement from anyone who lives in the parish.

Richard Burrows

Chair.