

NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs Lisa Cope, email: nbparish-council@outlook.com, tel. 01386 860616

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Church
Tuesday 5th July 2022 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A. Howarth (Chair)
Cllr N. Roberson
Cllr D. Hudson
Cllr G. Edwards

In attendance: County & District Cllr L. Robinson & 1 parishioner

Public Question Time- None present

1. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Cllr Howarth nominated Mr Dave Dickens who attended the meeting to be co-opted as Parish Councillor and this was seconded by Cllr Edwards and all other councillors were in agreement. Councillor Dickens was therefore welcomed to the Parish Council-Clerk to issue documents and register of interest form to be signed.

2. APOLOGIES- None received

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST- None recorded

4. TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR THE COUNCIL TO GRANT A DISPENSATION- None requested

5. THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD MAY 2022-
Approved as true and correct

6. PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

A. County & District Councillor's Report-Linda Robinson

Last month was a welcome respite after the hectic month of May with all the Parish meetings & PC AGM's. Plus, annual meetings for County & District Councils.

The Jubilee celebrations were extremely well supported and enjoyed by residents. I managed to visit ten across my Division on the Sunday and even a slight downward turn in the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm for enjoyment. I hope your street party went well and was not too spoilt by the weather.

There was a huge variety of events from street parties to Morris dancing, beacon lighting, fun fairs and tea parties. The villages came up trumps with bunting, flags and decorated houses and village halls. It reminded me of how diverse our communities are and how good at organising Community events. I recognise though how much hard work goes on behind the events before and after and would like to thank all those involved in turning their visions into reality.

I personally planted several trees in some of our parishes as part of our Lord Lieutenant's green canopy initiative. I am pleased to tell you that so far over 16,000 trees have been planted in Worcestershire to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee.

Successful funding bid for Heart of England Forest project

Heart of England Forest and 'Defra Heart of England: growing momentum, capacity, skills, and trees' has been awarded a £499,446 grant from the Trees Call to Action Fund, led by Defra, the Forestry Commission and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In partnership with Heart of England Forest and Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils, we are running this three-year project to engage with landowners and local communities to increase tree cover across the landscape.

Working together to identify suitable areas for trees to be planted, facilitate tree planting, and support woodland maintenance, new woodlands will be created that benefit the environment, boost biodiversity, and provide havens for communities to enjoy.

As we grow the level of tree cover then more skilled people are needed to plant and maintain the new woods. The project will create four full-time roles, in addition to four forestry apprenticeships, and will provide training for local volunteers, increasing the number of people with the required skills and ensuring the sustainability of these new woodlands.

Covid-19 update as of 3rd July

April saw the end of free testing and this has affected the reliability of infection data. While official testing rates have fallen significantly, information from other sources presents a different picture, although data is still patchy.

Infection rates are on the rise again nationally. The English average is 206 rising to 219 per 100,000 in Wychavon with the highest prevalence being amongst people in their 50's. More people have been re-infected and it is felt that the latest Omicron variant is more transmissible but with less significant symptoms.

There are currently 81 people with Covid symptoms in our Acute hospitals in Worcestershire which shows a considerable increase since mid-June. Vulnerable people have now been offered a fifth vaccination booster. As it stands 83% of people in Wychavon have received at least the first dose. View the latest vaccination data on the Worcestershire County Council website.

Ukrainian situation.

More families have arrived into our towns and villages and are being supported by County & District agencies. Children are settling into our schools across the area. Sadly, as the situation in Ukraine worsens so more refugees are expected to arrive as the conflict with Russia continues.

Cost of Living Crisis

This situation is also worsening together with increased energy costs. Current rail strikes are adding to the pressures felt by many.

Food costs have also increased and we are aware of increased demand at our food banks. Wychavon and County are offering 'Here to help' schemes so please let me know if you know of any families that are struggling and we can signpost them in the right direction.

2021 CENSUS RESULTS

WYCHAVON has seen the second-largest population size increase in the West Midlands over the past ten years, according to the 2021 census.

The population has increased by 13.3 per cent from around 116,900 in 2011 to 132,500 last year, while the overall population in England grew by 6.6 per cent.

This has seen Wychavon rise from the 185th to the 175th most populated area in England.

Despite this, Wychavon is the sixth least densely populated of the West Midlands' 30 local authority areas, with around one person living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

Just 200 people were living in each square kilometre of land in 2021, a slight rise from the 176 people in the same area in 2011.

This was below the 434 residents per square kilometre in England last year.

Overall, there has been a 31.5 per cent increase in people aged 65 and over and a 7.9 per cent rise in those aged between 15 to 64 years.

SWDP

The consultation has been delayed but is due out this Autumn and Cllr Robinson urged Councillors to be aware of publications and how they might affect parishioners and neighbouring villages.

7. HIGHWAYS

Councillors discussed the 20's Plenty scheme and decided not to introduce the campaign to the village at this time as the 20mph speed limit would not be enforceable.

Cllr Roberson was to check whether the 30mph roundels on the road have been re-painted as yet and Cllr Edwards offered to download more speed data from the VAS sign and share at the next September meeting.

Cllr Hudson commented that the footpath round the corner from the telephone box required attention and the tarmac had broken making wheelchair access along the route difficult for residents-Clerk to report to Cllr Robinson with details.

8. LENGTHSMAN

No duties to report to the Lengthsman.

Cllr Howarth requested the Clerk contact Worcestershire Wildlife to cut back the hedge upon entering the village and that the pothole reported had now been fixed making access easier for residents.

9. PLANNING

No new applications to consider

9. FINANCE

a) The following payments were approved-

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Luke Farnsworth | L/man April/May | £250.00 | Cheque 100634 |
| Lisa Cope | Postage/ Stationery/ Expenses | £62.73 | Cheque 100635 |
| HMRC | Tax | £108.60 | Cheque 100636 |
| Lisa Cope | Staffing costs | £434.32 | Cheque 100637 |
| Gill Edwards | Jubilee spends | £100.53 | Cheque 100638 |

11. NEW VILLAGE BENCH

Cllrs Hudson and Roberson reported back that the uneven ground levels would make a circular bench difficult to install in the space allocated by the tree on the green in the village. Cllr Howarth stated that a bench with back for people to lean on would be most suitable.

Cllr Hudson will re-assess the area along with Cllr Dickens with a possibility of a new standard bench with slabs laid underneath and the bench to be secured in the concrete and a decision to be made at the September meeting.

12. CODE OF CONDUCT 2022

The 2022 code of conduct was adopted by all Councillors.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk had sent correspondence to parishioner with land that has a tree obstructing the flow of water in the ford- no remedial action had been made as yet. Cllr Robinson had also received an email from another concerned resident regarding the same issue. Cllr Howarth asked the Clerk to contact the Environment Agency and report the issue.

14. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Howarth stated that the new Noticeboard was in position and looked very smart however it could possibly need some fasteners and a small hold up to make posting notices easier- Clerk to contact Dovetail Joinery.

Cllr Roberson stated that the Naunton Beauchamp sign (coming from Bishampton) is leaning and needed straightening up-Cllr Robinson to contact Highways.

Cllr Roberson announced his resignation from the Parish Council but would stay until a new banking signatory was agreed. Cllr Howarth thanked Cllr Roberson for all of his time and efforts dedicated to Council business since joining and it was very much appreciated. Clerk to contact Wychavon to advertise the vacancy and contact Barclays and add Cllrs Edwards and Howarth to the banking signatory- as agreed by all Cllrs.

145. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 8th September 2022 starting at 7.30pm in the

Signed

Dated.....