

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF KINGTON & DORMSTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
 Clerk Lisa Cope Tel- 07773793185 Email [kndparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kndparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
 Walcote, Top Street, Charlton, Worcs WR10 3LE

**Held in Kington & Dormston Village Hall**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Cllr M. Tilt (Chair) Cllr S. Richins  
 Cllr R. Drake Cllr T. Richards  
 Cllr P. Collins  
 County Cllr L. Robinson  
 District Cllr N. Dawkes

**In Attendance:** Clerk and no members of the public were in attendance.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None**

1. **APOLOGIES-** Cllrs V. Longmore and I. Bull sent their apologies.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST-** None
3. **GRANTS FOR DISPENSATION-** None

**4. PROGRESS REPORTS:**

**a) District Councillors Report- Nick Dawkes**

Cllr Dawkes explained that the Wychavon Rural fund was now open for applicants with grants of up to £25,000 to be awarded. More details here: <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/business/funding-and-support/wychavon-rural-fund>

**b) County Councillors Report-Linda Robinson**

**HIGHWAYS .**

WORCESTERSHIRE'S grass cutting programme has now started with around 5,000km of grass up for a trim. There is more than six million metres squared of rural verges and over 320,000m<sup>2</sup> of central reservations in place across the county.

Cutting the grass in a programme in place since 2016 helps to keep roads visible for motorists but also provides a safe space for wildlife too.

Green-fingered staff cut less to make areas more friendly and protected for pollinators. When the visibility splays and road junctions are cut back, only one or two metres of grass is now cut back from the carriageway, leaving significant uncut areas available for wildlife.

Coun Mike Rouse, cabinet member for Highways and Transport, said: "Although our primary responsibility for roadside verges is one of safety, we are very keen to support the recovery of pollinator populations within Worcestershire and this includes the way we manage the sites.

"There are 46 roadside verge nature reserves designated for rare or special species and habitats across our county and all sites now receive a bespoke approach to ensure protected or rare species are fully considered when it comes to maintenance. "We all need to look after the bees and other pollinator species because as we know our own survival ultimately depends upon it . The council has become pollinator friendly to promote the protection of pollinating insects and their habitat.

Often referred to as 'Bee Lines', they connect previously isolated areas of ecological interest. During the summer months, the roadsides grow very quickly and there is a statutory duty to maintain them and to make sure the road network is safe.

However, the changes implemented in recent years have seen significant improvement to biodiversity opportunities on Worcestershire's network.

### **Boundary Commission Consultation**

Having recently redrawn Wychavon District ward boundaries the Boundary Commission are now looking at the County Council Division boundaries. They are looking at drawing up a new pattern of Divisions that means the current 57 Cllrs. each represent roughly the same number of voters and reflect local communities.

For your Upton Snodsbury Ward for me this very much means making sure we retain our rural identities with our surrounding villages. The initial consultation now closes on the 19<sup>th</sup> September

The link is: [lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/Worcestershire](http://lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/Worcestershire)

The consultation has been extended in order to give local residents and organisations more time to engage with our initial consultation to ensure that we receive meaningful and helpful responses and input that reflect local needs, views, and circumstances. This is to ensure we create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities while supporting effective local governance in order to provide the best arrangements for the authority.

If you have already made a submission in this stage of the initial consultation you do not need to do so again, however you are invited to make additional comments during this extension if you so wish. We will consider all representations already received as well as those made between now and 19 September.

This consultation on division patterns will now close on: 19 September 2023

Under the original timetable we had intended to run our consultation on draft proposals between 31 October 2023 and 23 January 2024. In order for the commission to properly consider all submissions made to this initial consultation, the consultation on our draft recommendations will now run between 9 January 2024 and 18 March 2024.

The original publication date for our final recommendations was intended to be 7 May 2024. Once we have considered all responses to this stage of consultation, the commission now intends to publish final recommendations in early July 2024.

The implementation of the new electoral arrangements has not been affected by this extension. Following a period of parliamentary scrutiny, these are still scheduled to come into effect at the local authority's elections in May 2025.

If you represent a local organisation or community group in Worcestershire, please pass this message on to your members or anyone you think who might be interested in the review. You can share the message by email or through social media by using the buttons at the bottom right of the page.

What is an electoral review?

Our electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements for Worcestershire County Council. We will propose:

- The total number of councillors elected to the council in the future;
- The number of divisions;
- The number of councillors representing each division;

- Division boundaries; and
- The names of divisions.

#### How to get involved

This is a public consultation and we welcome views from individuals and organisations across Worcestershire on where they think new division boundaries should be drawn.

We are minded to recommend that 57 councillors should be elected to Worcestershire County Council in the future. This is no change from the current number of councillors.

We are now inviting proposals to help us draw up a pattern of divisions to accommodate 57 councillors.

In drawing up new electoral divisions, we must balance three legal criteria, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality: where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county;
- That the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities;
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

We will treat all submissions equally, and judge each case on its merits and against the legal criteria.

If you wish to put forward a view, we would also urge you to ensure that evidence supports your submission.

For example, if you wish to argue that two areas should be included in the same electoral division, make sure you tell us why they should be together, providing evidence about community facilities, ties, organisations, and amenities, rather than simply asserting that they belong together.

There is more advice on our website about how you can get involved in the consultation.

Our website features technical guidance that explains the process and our policies, as well as guidance on how to take part in each part of the process.

We have also set up a webpage dedicated to the review of Worcestershire, where you can find all the relevant information, access interactive maps of the current division boundaries, and give your views.

We welcome comments on our extended initial consultation by 19 September 2023. Representations should be made:

- Through our website
- By email to [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

#### **Further Update from the Acute Trust.**

A MAJOR shake-up of how Worcestershire's hospitals, including the Worcestershire Royal, are governed has now been tabled by county health bosses.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust's (WAHT) board met on Thursday (June 8) to debate a plan for it to fully join the Foundation Group of NHS trusts from August 1.

Already an associate member, the proposal will see the Trust share a chief executive and chairman with Wye Valley, George Eliot and South Warwickshire NHS Trusts if given the green light.

Current CEO Glen Burley would assume the role of trust chief executive on August 1 following the departure of current boss Matthew Hopkins the previous day (July 31).

While it would share leadership with the other trusts, WAHT would remain a separate autonomous organisation and would have a 'credible and experienced' managing director appointed by the board to support Mr Burley. The move follows a review of the organisation in April, a month after Mr Hopkins revealed his departure for the same role at Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust after four years in the role.

According to the report for trust board members, the proposals are backed by the county's Integrated Care Board and regional NHS England, both of whom have offered 'strong support'. In addition to a change of leadership, it's hoped the move will enhance the Trust's bid for University Hospital Trust status to allow its hospitals in Worcester, Redditch and Kidderminster to become centres for research and education.

The trust was moved from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in the latest findings revealed in April

"This latest report means that we are no longer rated inadequate in any area across any of our hospitals – which is positive news for our patients, staff and local communities," Mr Hopkins said.

However he confirmed a detailed action plan would be 'developed and implemented' as it bids to rid itself of the low grading from the health watchdog. Worcestershire's main hospitals, including the Kidderminster Treatment Centre, were moved out of special measures after nearly five years in 2020. Should the move be given the green light, WAHT will apply for full membership of the Foundation Group in July with the first meeting of the newly-enlarged body set for August 2.

#### **A PUBLIC consultation has launched for a new first school in Redditch**

The need for a new school has risen due to new housing developments in the area specifically the huge estate off Foxlydiate Lane, Webheath which is set to deliver more than 2,500 homes by 2037.

Worcestershire County Council is proposing to deliver a new First School with nursery, including wrap around provision, and the school will be located on a site off Foxlydiate Lane.

The school will open initially as a two-form-entry (60 places per year group) in 2027, when it is forecast that 30 children in each school year group will live on the new development, increasing to over 60 by 2030.

The school will open initially to Reception-aged children and will grow over time as it will take a new cohort of Reception children each September.

The number of children is predicted to double by the time the development is completed and fully occupied, so the school will be built to a model that can easily be expanded to include additional classrooms when they are needed.

Additional middle and high school places required for pupils from the new development will be created by expanding existing local schools, says the county council.

Worcestershire County Council said: “Making sure children across the county have access to good quality education, which allows them to go on and reach their full potential, is a long-term priority for the County Council.

“Our team works hard to consistently analyse the need for school places across the county. We are looking to deliver a new first school in Redditch to help us meet the need for first school provision in the town. It is really important for us to listen and consider the views of local residents and stakeholders as we look to take this exciting project forward.”

The school will be delivered by Worcestershire County Council and run by an Academy Sponsor. The process to appoint the Academy Sponsor will run in the Autumn Term of 2023 and will follow the Department for Education (DfE) Free School Process. People are being encouraged to fill out a survey to help the county council shape the school design specification and outline what is expected from an academy in applying to run this school.

The survey runs until 4 August 2023 and you can submit your response online at: [https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Redditch\\_New\\_First\\_School](https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Redditch_New_First_School)

**5. HIGHWAYS**

It was noted that following a request in the May meeting the bus shelter had now been swept by Highways. Cllr Drake stated that a parishioner had expressed the issue of road noise from the A422 caused due to the road surface and motorbikes also speeding through the village. Cllrs asked Cllr Robinson to pursue possible road speeding wires to track speeds through the village on the road outside 5 The Bourne as this could be where speeds are being picked up- Cllr Robinson to enquire with highways. Cllr Drake requested the issue of speeding on the A422 and motorbikes be addressed with Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion to keep the issue prominent.

Cllrs requested the Clerk write to other local parishes affected such as Grafton, Flyford and Upton Snodsbury to see if they are having problems with speeding motorbikes also to work alongside them-Clerk to action.

Cllr Richards stated that a no through road sign is required at Green Lane as there has been an increasing number of vehicles trying to drive down the bridal track thinking it is a through road. The track is a rough surface which the residents maintain, and large vehicles are getting stuck and cannot turn around, gates and verges have been significantly damaged. Clerk to follow up with Highways.

**6. LENGTHSMAN**

Cllr Richins requested the lengthsman trim around the new trees so when the verges are mown the tress are not accidently damaged- Clerk to action.

**7. PLANNING**

**a. Applications considered at the meeting:**

<a href="#">W/23/01215/HP</a>	Tiddington Hall Farm Alcester Road Radford Worcester WR7 4DJ	Demolition of disused stables and erection of ancillary accommodation to house.	No objections
-------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

## 9. FINANCE –

a) The following payments were approved by all Cllrs:

Lisa Cope	Salary	£634.08	Cheque 000558
HMRC	Lisa Cope Tax	£126.80	Cheque 000559
Lisa Cope	Expenses	£79.57	Cheque 000560
Paul Caldicott	Lengthsman	£127.50	Cheque 000561

b) The bank balance as of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was £7,538.56

c) Cllr Tilt suggested that the Clerk be given a pay review and Cllr Collins suggested an increase to £15.00 per hour, this was seconded by Cllr Drake and all Cllrs were in agreement.

## 10. SMARTWATER

No response had been received from Neighbourhood Watch as yet to whether there was demand for the initiative from residents- there was a plan to leaflet all houses. Cllrs agreed that Neighbourhood Watch would need to manage and drive the scheme if the Parish Council were to pursue it.

## 11. JBM SOLAR

The Clerk stated correspondence had been sent to JBM stating that if the scheme is approved the Parish Council would like to take up the offer made for community benefit funding.

Feckenham currently have a planning application from the solar company to upgrade the substation cable connection and are objecting to the plans. Cllr Drake proposed for the Parish Council to support Feckenham in placing an objection on the planning portal to the plans also- all Cllrs agreed- Clerk to action.

## 12. NOTICEBOARD KINGTON

The Clerk explained that Stoulton Parish Council had recently ordered the same noticeboard and had a spare post and so it was agreed by all Cllrs to order the noticeboard without any posts and use that one.

Clerk to order the noticeboard to Cllr Collins' address and the highways have agreed for the Parish gang to erect the board when it comes.

## 13. COUNTY BOUNDARY CONSULTATION

Following discussion covered in Cllr Robinsons report regarding the County boundary review all Cllrs agreed that a response was required that Kington and Dormston would like to stay where it is- Clerk to action and send to Cllrs.

## 14. KINGTON & DORMSTON COMMUNITY SPACE

Following discussion on the village WhatsApp group regarding a field for sale in the village it was discussed as to whether a village green open space might be welcomed by parishioners. This would require multiple funding streams and it is thought too late to consider as the field in question would be sold before they could be explored.

## 15. CORRESPONDENCE

The Church had requested the Parish Council consider brown road signs directing people to the Church, the Clerk has sent for a quote for the signs for Cllrs to consider at the next meeting.

## 16. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Collins that a sign had been hit by a vehicle the other end of Kington which he is going to try and place back into shape but if not may need a replacing.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting was agreed for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....