

**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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7:30pm**

**Present:**

Cllr P. Collins (Chair)	Cllr S. Richins
Cllr T. Richards	Cllr E. Faizey
Cllr I. Bull	County Cllr L. Robinson
Cllr V. Longmore	District Cllr N. Dawkes

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

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – No public in attendance

1. **APOLOGIES-** Cllrs A Chapman, R. Drake and S. Richens sent their apologies
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST-** None declared
3. **GRANTS FOR DISPENSATION-** None received.
4. **MINUTES-** The minutes from the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were approved and true and correct as proposed by Cllr Collins and seconded by Cllr Bull. These were signed by the Chairman.
5. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**
  - a) **District Councillors Report- Nick Dawkes-**No Report
  - b) **County Councillors Report-Linda Robinson**

Happy New Year to you all.

So here we go for my first report of 2025. I hope you all enjoyed a break over Christmas. I was heartened to see so many of our villagers across my Division embracing the various activities that were held over the festive season and would like to thank all those who worked hard to make them happen.

I would like to publicly thank those who attended the County Council meeting last week and was pleased to offer my support and speak further to the cabinet member after the meeting regarding your request.

The engineers at Wychavon need to capture details of any internally flooded properties in Wychavon. This has been requested by WCC its role as lead Local Flood authority (contact Martyn Cross at WDC)

I have attached a statement I have prepared re proposals towards Unitary proposals and hope it offers some clarification but would stress that nothing is definite at the moment. I think we can safely say though that change is coming!

WCC have released some interesting stats on their Facebook page over Christmas one of which is that 45 kms of tarmac have been laid on footways across the County. I am glad to see that some of yours have benefitted from this achievement.

Pershore Education Planning Area review- forthcoming changes.

Decisions have been reached to extend the age ranges of all the first schools in the Pershore Education Planning Area to become primary schools. The middle schools in Pershore will no longer have a point of entry into Year 5 for September 2025, and Pershore High School's intake will be expanded to accommodate all Year 7 pupils in the area from September 2027.

School	Age range in 2025	Age range in 2026	Age range from 2027
Abbey Park First & Middle	2-12	2-12	2-11 (Year 7 closed)
Crowle CE First	5-10 (Year 5 added)	5-11 (Year 6 added)	5-11
Defford-Cum-Besford CE First	5-10 (Year 5 added)	5-11 (Year 6 added)	5-11
Fladbury CE First	3-10 (Year 5 added)	3-11 (Year 6 added)	3-11
Pinvin CE Academy	2-12	2-12	2-11 (Year 7 closed)
St Barnabas CofE First and Middle	2-12	2-12	2-11 (Year 7 closed)
Upton Snodsbury CofE First	5-10 (Year 5 added)	5-11 (Year 6 added)	5-11
Pershore High	11-18	11-18	11-18 (all Year 7 places for area)

More information about these changes is available at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/pershorereview> but if you have any questions, please email [persshorereview@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:pershorereview@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Devolution

1. Prior to Christmas the government announced major changes to how local government will operate in the years to come, following the publication of its White Paper. Nothing has been decided but the government's intent seems to be clear, and I would suggest these changes will happen.

I will try to outline the proposed changes and how these changes are likely to affect Worcestershire.

- a. The government wants to abolish District Councils and County Councils and replace them with one Unitary Council. This would mean that the six District Councils and the County Council in Worcestershire would all disappear to be replaced with one Unitary Council. Town Councils and Parish Councils will not be affected.
- b. The timeline for this is very short. The government want "letters of interest" by interested parties by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. It is my understanding that the government will make its decision early in March as to which counties will proceed in "the first tranche". If Worcestershire was in "the first tranche", it is likely that elections in May 2025 to the County Council will be cancelled and elections to the new Unitary Council may be held in May 2026.
- c. The above is further complicated because this is the first phase of the government's proposed changes. Once the counties have become Unitary Councils, the government then wishes to create Strategic Authorities. It is proposed that each Unitary Council will represent approximately 500,000 people;

Worcestershire has 600,000. Strategic Authorities will be made up of a number of Unitary Councils (2 or 3), headed by an elected Mayor.

- d. A letter of interest has now been submitted to the Government by the leading political group at County. It was felt that if Worcestershire was to have any say in shaping its own future it is imperative that we are in the first tranche. It remains to be seen if Worcestershire itself will remain united as a single unitary authority or is linked with other shires.
- a. The Cabinet met to discuss the government's proposals and we decided it was clear that these were not really proposals, they were changes which the government intends to implement. With the "majority" which the government has, then of course, any legislation would pass through Parliament with ease.
- b. We decided that if Worcestershire was to have any say in shaping its future, it is imperative that Worcestershire is in "the first tranche".

## 6. HIGHWAYS

a) Cllr Collins reported that Cllr Richins had already fixed what he could from the sign that has been reported to highways, another part still requires attention. Clerk shared that the highways signage team are aware of it.

b) Highways have confirmed that the best location for an addition VAS sign along Cockshot Lane would be outside Brambling, Cllr Collins to contact the Highways Officer for a meeting onsite to discuss further.

c) Dormston Lane surfacing was raised for carriageway repairs but as this type of work has a limited budget for the summer months and not included in last year highways have contacted the engineer to add to patching works instead.

d)Kington Lane patching works has now been upgraded to recommended resurfacing works which will hopefully be added to the summer 2025 schedule

Cllr Collins added requests for two new cow hazard signs in Kington and the viability of a pull over in the lay by sign along Kington Lane also. Additionally, a request from a parishioner for a partial curb along Kington Lane to prevent cars entering the ditch has been received- clerk to send all requests to highways to consider.

A parishioner has complained about speeding motorcycles on the A422- Cllr Robinson suggested to invite them to the A422 safety meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January at The Flyfords- Cllr Collins to invite them.

Cllr Chapman had emailed over correspondence with West Mercia Police Road Safety Team regarding speeding issues on Cockshot Lane. They shared that Speed data was collected between 13/11/24 and 20/11/24 in Cockshot Lane and the average speed was 27mph and the \*85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed (Speed at which 85% of vehicles were travelling at or below) was 31mph.

Motorists compliance was therefore generally good. This would not fall into the enforcement criteria by West Mercia Police. As a Parish Council, the speed data would fall within the parameters i.e. 34mph and below for consideration for the Community Speed Watch (CSW) Programme. This could be considered in the future.

Cllr Robinson shared that The Flyford's Clerk has secured a meeting with John Campion (PCC) and Marc Bayliss from the WCC for 7.30pm on 21st January to discuss A422 Safety. The meeting will be held at the

Flyford's Hall, Grafton Flyford, WR7 4PG at 7.30pm, it is public meeting and parishioners are invited to attend, Cllr Collins confirmed attendance representing the Parish Council.

Cllr Collins shared that a footbridge in Kington was missing wire mesh and could pose a hazard to walkers and dogs slipping through the gaps of panels- Clerk to await What3Words for the location and report it to the footpaths officer at WCC.

## 7. LENGTHSMAN

The lengthsmen was working well and had discovered a culvert by the house with the blue wall at Kington which he had successfully dug and unblocked a pipe to help.

The lengthsmen also shared concern for a tree overhanging a road in Kington (thought to be on Ridge Farm land) Clerk to write to the landowner, some residents had also noted the issue.

## 8. PLANNING

Nothing to report

## 9. FINANCE –

- a) The following payments were approved by all Cllrs:

Wychavon DC	Additional bins	£720.09	BACS
Lisa Cope	Salary	£599.45	BACS
HMRC	Lisa Cope Tax	£149.80	BACS
Lisa Cope	Expenses	£73.63	BACS
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman November	£157.50	BACS
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman December	£157.50	BACS

- b) The bank balance as of January 2025 was £8,457.34 and £6,709.22 in the savings account.
- c) The 2025/26 budget was discussed and a draft recommendation from the Clerk was circulated to all Cllrs before the meeting. All Cllrs agreed to set the budget at £8,900.00 for 2025/26 which was a 3.34% increase on a Band D levy on last year, this was proposed by Cllr Collins and seconded by Cllr Bull and all Cllrs present.
- d) Cllr Longmore confirmed that she is now registered for online banking, Cllr Collins and Drake also have submitted requests but may require another councillor for online approval- Clerk to check.

## 10. TELEPHONE BOX

The Clerk shared that despite emailing the Police, no further correspondence has been received regarding maintaining the telephone box and its upkeep. Cllrs have mixed opinions on whether to take ownership or not therefore it was agreed to continue to push the Police for an answer on them taking ownership for the property's maintenance. In the mean time Cllr Richards has agreed to research different uses for the Phone box.

## 11. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk shared details of a Parish and Town Event for Cllrs on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Cllr Collins to try and attend.

## 12. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Richards shared that a years worth of litter picking events have now taken place in the village, with a large amount of rubbish accumulated in some areas and some signs have been erected around the village to try and deter fly tipping and people from not leaving dog mess and to use the bins provided.

Cllr Collins shared that the new trees ordered from Limebridge to replace the ones damaged have now been planted.

Cllr Richins had sent a note from SmartWater to be considered within the budget for 2025/26, Cllr Robinson explained that if the Neighbourhood watch committee were close to securing enough residents to commit to the scheme the Police might cover the costs of the project in its entirety and therefore additional funds would not be required.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting was agreed for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....