

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP

Held at the Church on Tuesday 29th April 2025 at 7.00pm

Present:	Cllr A. Howarth (Chair)	Cllr. G. Edwards
	Cllr S. Reeves	Clerk
	Cllr D. Dickens	1 Parishioner

Apologies- County & District Councillor L. Robinson

1. Minutes- The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 30th 2024 were approved as true and correct, there were signed by Cllr Howarth

2. Annual Report of Parish Council presented by the Chairman.
The Parish Council has met six times over the last year.

Thank you to Councillors, Gill Edwards, Dave Hudson, Dave Dickens and. Steve Reeve. Particular thanks to Councillor David Hudson who resigned from the council in March we very much appreciate his commitment and contribution during his time on the Council.

We are also very grateful for the support of County and District Councillor Linda Robinson who regularly attends our meetings and supports our village keeping us up to date with District and County issues.

Other thanks also go to Duncan Turner who has taken over the task of the internal audit of the Councils accounts. Thanks go to Peter Holpin who has undertaken this task for many years and resigned last year.

I would also like to record our thanks to the Parish Clerk Lisa Cope who does a tremendous job and is very efficient in the management of all the Parish Council paperwork.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

This is a fully funded service provided by Wychavon and until recently Carl Brassington was our lengthsman, Carl retired in March and we would like to thank him for his service and to welcome our new lengthsman Paul Brewer.

VILLAGE

Thanks must go to Dave Hudson who regularly mows the village green which is looking particularly attractive. The situation regarding unsympathetic parking by the telephone box has been resolved by Highways as double yellow lines have been painted along the road adjacent to the telephone box and also round the village green. This will now make sure there is always access to the defibrillator in the telephone box and also allow easier passage for vehicles, particularly agricultural vehicles into and out of Seaford Lane. Thanks must also go to Chris and Ros Pretty who have regularly mowed

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the churchyard for the last few years , this responsibility has now been passed to a rota of helpers co-ordinated by Councillor Dickens.

HIGHWAYS

Thank you to Councillor Dickins and to Councillor Edwards for taking over responsibility for the speed camera and for extracting the data. The data shows that while most drivers do observe the speed limit through the village , those who do exceed the limit are mostly under 35 miles an hour however there are still a number of inconsiderate drivers going too fast through the village. The increase in very heavy farm vehicles has had a devastating effect on the grass verges leaving deep ruts at the side of the road particularly on the bend by the Old House. This has been made worse this year because of the heavy rain through the winter. We do urge villagers to keep their road side hedges trimmed back and for farm vehicles and the school buses to go slowly through the village.

There have also been concerns about vehicles speeding down Seaford Lane , which is a single track and used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Following our request for a sign about horses and riders who regularly use this lane we are very pleased that thanks to help from Councillor Linda Robinson we now have a sign. Once again there have been several vehicles stranded in the ford when it is in flood, this is in spite of the fact that there are three large depth signs showing the height of water in the middle of the ford. The situation with cars parked on the bend by the church has been resolved as the resident is now able to park vehicles next to his cottage.

DONATIONS

An annual donation is made to the church for the use of the church for Parish Council meetings and a contribution is made towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

PLANNING

The Council have not received any planning applications since last April to the present time

DRAINAGE

Highways have continued to monitor the drain by the Main street bridge.

BT Telephone Box

After much effort by our Parish Clerk we have finally had a proposal from the police that a donation of £1000 would be made by them for repairs and we would in future become the owners of the box. This has yet to be discussed by the Council.

Heart of England Forest

The Heart of England Forest have purchased land that stretches from the parish of Naunton Beauchamp to and includes land in Peopleton. Already 69 acres of native broadleaf woodland have been planted and the village has been invited to the consultation meetings. This site will have further planting and will be part of a forest stretching from south Birmingham to the North Cotswolds. Also we have an ancient apple and pear orchard in a field along the main Pinvin road which is being restored by the Vale Landscape Heritage Trust.

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3. Parish Council Accounts

The Accounts for 2024/25 have finalised and the Internal audit completed by Duncan Turner the Annual Income for the year was £8,015.55 and the Annual Expenditure was £7,113.69.

4. County & District Councillors Annual Report

I am so sorry that I am unable to join you this evening as I was already committed to two other parishes before your meeting date was brought forward. I feel worse because I missed your previous meeting as well ! However Lisa and Anne keep me well informed and as always I am happy to answer any queries outside of the meeting and get back to you.

There is not a lot to report as we are currently in purdah with County Elections being held this Thursday. Please find a few of the main topics below

Proposed Local Authority Reorganisation Update

At present, Worcestershire has one county council, responsible for services including roads and social care, sitting above six district councils that run services such as bin collections and housing.

Following the publication of Labour's devolution white paper, our administration commissioned consultants PwC to provide an independent review of the options.

Scrapping Worcestershire's existing seven councils and replacing them with a single authority could save more than £20m a year whilst costing £11.9m according to their report.

They also suggested that an alternative option of splitting the historic county into two new unitary councils – north and south - could save £4.3m a year but would cost £16.9m,

Local politicians are currently divided over the two options, after the government asked council leaders to produce proposals to merge the county's two-tier system. Opinions are currently divided as to which option to follow. Councils are required to produce a business case for changes by the end of November.

Any new local authorities could be up and running as early as April 2028, following elections in May 2027. This will inevitably be a hot topic for County & Districts moving forward.

Worcestershire Parkway

Worcestershire Parkway has recently celebrated its fifth anniversary with plans to build a single storey car park above the existing facility as demand increases.

The proposed Worcestershire Parkway new Development has gone through its examination in public as part of the revised SWDPR. (still subject to review). I attended the examination in public at the Guild Hall in Worcester and expressed concerns over infrastructure. I strongly believe that any new development should be infrastructure led and hope that this will be achieved sooner rather than later in the plan.

Worcester's new school and hospital multi-storey latest

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Plans for a new secondary school and a multi-storey car park next to Worcestershire Royal Hospital have been approved by Worcestershire County Council.

The new school and car park were approved by the county council's recent planning and regulatory committee of which I am currently vice-chairman. The secondary school is expected to welcome its first cohort in 2028.

The multi-storey car park would be built to address long-running issues with the availability of parking at the nearby hospital, by offering 850 more spaces for staff, patients and visitors.

Guy Kippen, associate development director at Prime, commented: "Securing planning approval is a major milestone in delivering a sustainable solution for parking and access to Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

"By working collaboratively with Worcestershire County Council and local stakeholders, we will ensure that parking and access improvements reduce congestion for all users.

"Now we have achieved outline planning consent, we will progress with the detailed design required for a reserved matters application. As part of this, we will keep the local community informed."

A new exit road onto the A4440 Nunnery Way has been approved for visitors to reach the car park, as well as giving emergency vehicles a new specialised route to reach Worcestershire Royal Hospital. On Newtown Road, a new access road dedicated to serving the school will be built to help manage school-related traffic and minimise its impact on the area.

A spokesperson for Worcestershire County Council added: "The approval of this hybrid application ensures a strategic and comprehensive approach to traffic management, benefitting the hospital, school, and local community while delivering a biodiversity net gain on the site."

Secondary, Primary and First School Places for September

Worcestershire County Council received 6,592 applications this year and everyone who made an application for a secondary school place has received an offer of a place.

9 in 10 of Worcestershire's children will be starting secondary school in their first-choice preference in September. Parents are also being reminded to apply for school transport for their child/children as early as possible for the September 2025 school term. This applies to secondary and middle school places.

For more information, please visit the apply for school and college travel assistance pages of the county council website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooltransport.

Rural Support for Young People

As part of our new promise to develop five new community youth projects in rural areas some new detached work is taking place. YMCA Worcestershire will be out and about in rural areas across the district over the next year to check in with young people and find out what is going on

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for them in their local area. Detached workers will be targeting identified areas for around six weeks to engage with young people and encourage local communities to start a youth project. Volunteers can also access the training and support needed to help them get a new youth project off the ground. For more information about this exciting community resource please contact robin.mace@wychavon.gov.uk

5. Reports submitted by community organisations:

a) Women's Institute- Gill Edwards

We are pleased to report that our membership has increased slightly over the past year. We now have 21 members but would still be keen to boost our numbers further.

We have enjoyed various talks throughout the past year on topics such as Woodland photography, The Gunpowder Plot, Women in Space, British gemstones & The Diglis Fish Ladder. We enjoyed a demonstration of Easter flower decorations, a guided tour of Pershore Wetlands and an evening playing curling.

The craft group continue to meet regularly to have a go at various projects while we chat and drink tea!

Several of us join together to walk our local countryside or venture further afield. A highlight this year was an Autumn outing to Batsford arboretum.

We accepted the challenge of competing in the skittles competition at a different venue for us The Lenches Club which has proved to be very popular. Win or lose we have had a lot of fun. We also held a couple of very enjoyable skittles social evenings which we opened up to others

We had great success at the Annual Worcestershire Federation Craft Competition this year, winning the co-operative entry themed 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. We also achieved a 2nd place for preserves and a highly commended in the photography competition. This is a huge achievement for such a small club.

We showed our resilience by running a catering tent in gale force winds at the local Apple Day organised by the Vale Landscape Heritage trust and again in better weather at their Wassail event in Tyddesley Wood. This enabled us to boost club funds and promote ourselves as a club.

Anyone interested in finding out more about us would be warmly welcomed at any of our regular meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at Upton Snodsbury VH at 7.30 pm or speak to Jackie Plant, Gill Edwards or Ros Pretty for more information.

b) Naunton Beauchamp Church- Gill Jubb

During 2024 we have continued to hold services and social events in the church. We continued with the Carol Singing on the green as a way of taking the Churches Mission out into the community.

In 2024 we had 14 services with one service a month and a couple of special services. This is the fewest services that we have ever had in a calendar year since numbers were recorded.

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Our average attendance at the usual Sunday services is 5 with more for special services such as Harvest and Carol and Crib Services. The harvest service and lunch were held in the church and this was a successful event.

There were no weddings or Baptisms in 2024

To assist with running social events in 2024 a social committee was convened. This has allowed the social events to be organised separately from the church committee and has brought 4 different ladies to assist with running the events. Any funds obtained from these events has continued to be used for the church.

A questionnaire was delivered to all the houses in the village to ask what events they would be interested in and a number of different suggestions were made. A mailing list has been compiled with 35 different contacts and a monthly update on social events is provided. The village Facebook site is also used to publicise events in addition to posters and some mail drops around the village

Coffee and Chat continues on the first Saturday of each month with between 5 and 16 attending.

The Quiz evening in June had a good attendance from people of all ages and of course the usual Fish and Chips.

Alice and Duncan Turner offered their garden at Naunton Court for a village garden party with afternoon tea and games. This was a true village event with a number of villagers attending who we have not seen before. They have offered to host a similar event this year.

Our service pattern will be the same in 2025 with a service on the second Sunday of each month. Every quarter this will be a communion service. Others will be Lay led.

We have a rota for Cleaning and Flowers which works well and also a rota for Coffee and Chat which helps to spread the workload and encourages others to get involved. In 2025 we will also have a rota for churchyard maintenance.

The church has remained both a worshipping presence and a community focus with the Christian values showing through in our social occasions as well.

c) Police- PC Molly Keeler

From us within Pershore Safer Neighbourhood Team, reports to police in the area of Naunton Beauchamp remain very low.

Only one crime incident which was a vehicle theft in December which was subsequently recovered. A reminder that vehicle thefts are currently very popular and so please keep car keys either in the microwave overnight or far away from the car inside the house to prevent theft.

This time of year is always when tool thefts increase so please remain vigilant and vans are locked with tools out of sight.

The best contact method to reach the team is via our email:

pershorerural.snt@westmercia.police.uk

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A new CSO is joining the team shortly, meaning there will be full Police numbers for the area.

6. Questions from members of the public- None

The meeting closed at 7:20pm

SIGNED..... Chairman Date

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