

# NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Church  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 at 7:30pm

**Present:** Cllr A. Howarth (Chair) Cllr G. Edwards  
Cllr D. Dickens Cllr D. Turner  
Cllr S. Reeves District & County Cllr L. Robinson  
**In attendance:** Clerk

**Public Question Time-** 12 Parishioners attended

All parishioners in attendance were there to share the issues with travellers frequenting the village in Seaford Lane and North Piddle Lane from 29<sup>th</sup> May onwards. Problems encountered were water theft, excessive noise and disturbances along North Piddle Lane during the night and day, rubbish, the road being blocked by vehicles and a dog from within the party biting a parishioner's leg which subsequently required hospital treatment.

The parishioners felt there was not enough support from the Police, the Parish Council or the County Council and would like positive ideas from the council on what can be done to prevent future issues like this occurring and the Parish Council to research and liaise with other local Parish Council's on what has worked for them or if they can work together to help find an appropriate solution to the problems that arose.

Parish Councillors shared the resident's strong concerns and will consider the matters raised within the meeting and act where possible on all suggestions made.

1. **APOLOGIES-** None
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST-** None
3. **TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR THE COUNCIL TO GRANT A DISPENSATION-** None requested
4. **PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**
  - A. **County & District Councillor's Report-Linda Robinson-May Elections.**

Reform UK has taken over the leadership of Worcestershire County Council.

I was delighted to retain my seat as your County representative for a second term of office.

At our first full Council meeting Joanne Monk was sworn in as Council leader, and she went on to announce a new cabinet of Reform councillors. The new Cabinet member for Highways is Cllr. Carl Perks. The council has no overall majority, after Reform UK won 27 seats - two short of the 29 needed to secure control.

Meanwhile, opposition groups combined to pick newly elected Green councillor Louis Stephen (former mayor of Worcester City) as the council's chairman, as well as secure a raft of other appointments. I was pleased to be confirmed as Chairman of Planning having served as Vice Chairman for the previous four years with our first meeting having been held this week.

Extensive training has been held by County some of which was mandatory has taken place so and essential to both update existing members and inform the large number of new ones who were first time Cllrs.

**Local Authority re-organisation in Worcestershire** continues to be a hot topic. I hope many of you took the time to respond to the SHAPE public engagement requesting detailed views on proposals to combine Worcestershire into either a One Worcestershire unitary authority or two areas splitting the North and South of the County. The consultation closed on the 29<sup>th</sup> June so the results should help shape our response to Government in the Autumn.

#### **Police & Crime Commissioner. John Campion update.**

Recent stats have been released on the 2,500 miles of roads across Worcestershire County Council area. In the last year there have sadly been 26 fatalities and 230 serious injuries recorded.

THIS YEAR'S annual road surface dressing programme has been started by Worcestershire County Council after a successful winter gritting season.

Operations were supported by six strategically located depots and seven remotely monitored weather stations.

The dedicated efforts of both county council staff and contractor Ringway ensured roads remained in safe condition for all users. A highways team spokesperson said: "While it hasn't been the harshest of winters, our crews have worked tirelessly, sometimes around the clock, to make sure Worcestershire's roads remained safe.

"We are grateful to all involved, especially those who take on winter duties in addition to their regular responsibilities.

"The positive feedback we receive from road users across the county reflects how much their work is appreciated." He added now attention turned to maintaining and improving the county's roads.

"Surface dressing is a preventative maintenance treatment that involves spraying roads with bitumen, followed by stone chippings that are rolled in to seal the surface. "It's a quick and cost-effective method that can extend the life of a road by up to 10 years, while improving skid resistance and helping prevent potholes. "Our teams are fully prepared and ready to deliver this year's surface dressing programme.

"It's a proven and efficient way to restore road surfaces and minimise long-term damage. "Starting the work after the winter season allows us to carry it out under optimal conditions and with minimal disruption to residents and road users." Signs will be displayed on roads in advance of any surface dressing activity. The programme may be subject to change depending on weather conditions.

Visit: [worcestershire.gov.uk/surfacedressing](https://worcestershire.gov.uk/surfacedressing) for more information.

#### **Round Two: Wychavon Rural Fund applications now open**

Rural businesses and communities can now apply for funding of up to £25,000 with Round Two of the Wychavon Rural Fund.

The Wychavon Rural Fund aims to support valuable new capital projects that promote the growth and development of start-ups and small businesses. The funding is intended for physical projects, such as new equipment or machinery and aims to support farm diversification outside of agriculture.

Grants ranging from £2,500 to £25,000 are available, with recipients required to match 50% of the total project costs. This shared investment reflects our commitment to community involvement and economic resilience.

#### **Key dates for Wychavon Rural Fund: Round Two**

· Expression of interest deadline – Midday, Monday, 7 July 2025

· Full Application deadline – Midday, Monday, 18 August 2025

· Funding decision – end of September 2025

All projects from both rounds one and two must be completed by Saturday, 31 January 2026.

Two Wychavon projects that previously benefited from the fund are the Inkberrow Cricket Club and Church Lench Village Hall. Inkberrow Cricket Club received over £11,000 to invest in the future of cricket by helping fund the building of a dedicated junior cricket square. This enables the Club to provide better facilities for more children from diverse backgrounds and from further afield, encouraging them to participate in sports throughout the summer months. A grant of over £7,500 was allocated to Church Lench Village Hall to install a solar panel and storage battery system, bringing a projected energy saving of £79,000 over 25 years.

### **New rules for postal voters- are you affected?**

Many residents who usually vote by post are being asked to reapply by Wychavon. This is because the law around postal votes has changed, and they will now expire every three years.

Residents are being advised that if they are a long-term postal voter and their postal vote was granted before 31 January 2024, they will need to reapply before 31 January 2026.

Please encourage your resident to reapply online, it only takes a couple of minutes.

The Electoral Services team has also contacted affected electors

### **5. HIGHWAYS**

No reply to our request to the landowner to trim back the hedge along the left hand side of the road from the bridge to the main road. However, It is pleasing to see that the hedge trimming has started at the exit to the village.

### **6. LENGTHSMAN**

Cllr Howarth requested the Clerk contact the lengthsman to remove vegetation from around signage within the village- particularly from Flyford's direction.

### **7. PLANNING**

Cllrs discussed the following with no comments or objections:

<a href="#"><u>W/25/01087/TDC5</u></a>	Cedar Wood Seaford Lane Naunton Beauchamp WR10 2LL	Technical Details Consent for the demolition of one dwelling; formation of two plots; and construction of a new self build dwelling, following Permission in Principle application Ref. W/24/02013/PIP	Pending Decision
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### **8. FINANCE**

a) The following payments were approved and cheques were signed:

Paul Brewer	Lengthsman May	£140.00	Cheque 100741
Lisa Cope	Postage/ Stationery/ Expenses	£81.28	Cheque 100742
HMRC	Tax	£124.60	Cheque 100743
Lisa Cope	Staffing costs	£498.60	Cheque 100744
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman June	£160.00	Cheque 100745

b) Online banking was not discussed- this will be deferred to the September meeting

## **9. PHONE BOX & DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr Dickens met with the lengthsman to discuss the renovations required on the telephone box, first works will start to clear all of the vegetation surrounding the Phone Box and then it will be stripped of all the dead paint on the outside to help identify what structural works are required, probably a new door frame to replace the broken one.

Clerk to complete the form taking ownership from the Police and chase the £1000 donation.

Clerk to add the phone box to the insurance policy once form has been signed.

## **10. WEBSITE & EMAIL DOMAIN**

Cllrs discussed the research and options undertaken by Cllr Turner, the Parish Council are required to have a gov.uk or org.uk email address for the Parish Council ready for the next financial audit in April 2026.

In order to obtain an org.uk or gov.uk email address these would be linked to a new website.

Some Cllrs felt a new website was not necessary as the Parish Council are kept compliant by using the Worcestershire generic website and as the village is small most communications are through person, the noticeboard or the facebook page.

Cllrs felt that if all Parish Councils are being made to have a new gov.uk email address this should be supplied by Worcestershire County Council, Cllr Turner agreed to contact WCC and ask if this is possible.

## **11. SMART WATER**

Mr Nick Hall from West Mercia Police agreed to attend the meeting to discuss the Smart Water initiative and roll out, the cost to the Parish Council for 80% coverage is £347.10, all Cllrs agreed to purchase the smart water kits and start the roll out- Cllr Edwards agreed to co-ordinate this and place the order.

The village then must register 70% of the kits provided in order to gain the free signage for the village which is the big crime deterrent.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **13. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Cllr Edwards shared that the street party went well for the 80<sup>th</sup> VE Day celebrations and that there was £90.90 to be refunded to the Parish Council.

Cllr Edwards suggested that a representative from Enforcement at Worcestershire County Council should be invited to the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss the issues raised.

Cllr Howarth agreed to compose a letter to other local Parish Councils to see if they had encountered similar issues and could work together.

## **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 starting at 7.30pm in the Church.

Signed .....

Dated.....