

MEETING OF KINGTON & DORMSTON PARISH COUNCIL
 Clerk Lisa Cope Tel- 07773793185 Email kndparishcouncil@gmail.com
 Walcote, Top Street, Charlton, Worcs WR10 3LE

Held in Kington & Dormston Village Hall
Monday 14th July 2025 at 7:30pm

Present:

Cllr P. Collins (Chair)	Cllr S. Richins
Cllr T. Richards	Cllr R. Drake
Cllr I. Bull	Cllr N. Bonehill
Cllr V. Longmore	Wychavon District Cllr N. Dawkes
County Cllr L. Robinson	

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No public in attendance

1. **CO- OPTION-** Cllr Collins proposed to co-opt Jon Tuner, this was seconded by Cllr Bull with all in favour. Declaration of office to be signed.
2. **APOLOGIES-** None
3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST-** None declared
4. **GRANTS FOR DISPENSATION-** None received.
5. **MINUTES-** The minutes from the meeting held on 10th March 2025 were approved and true and correct as proposed by Cllr Collins and seconded by Cllr Bull. These were signed by the Chairman.
6. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**
 - a) **District Councillors Report- Nick Dawkes-**No Report
 - b) **County Councillors Report-Linda Robinson**

Reform UK has taken over the leadership of Worcestershire County Council

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

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. As part of the gritting season, the council's highways team deployed more than 5,000 tonnes of salt to keep Worcestershire's Road network safe and moving between October 2024 and April 2025.

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 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.

SHAPE WORCESTERSHIRE

This recent survey on reorganisation to Local Government in Worcestershire which closed last week revealed views on future of local councils. Please find initial results as below.

More than 4,200 people and organisations have taken part in a survey seeking views on how local councils should be reorganised.

The Shape Worcestershire survey took place in June and invited feedback on government plans to abolish Worcestershire County Council and the six district, borough, and city councils by 1 April 2028. They will be replaced by either one single council for Worcestershire running all services, or two councils – one for the North and one for the South – with each authority running all services for its part of the county.

Survey responses were gathered from residents, community and voluntary organisations, businesses, town and parish councils, and other key partners.

Initial analysis of the survey results reveals:

- 48% backed creating two unitary councils
- 29% supported one unitary council for the county
- 19% didn't support any reorganisation of local councils in Worcestershire

Respondents from Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Redditch Borough and Wychavon were strongly in favour of the two unitary council solution. In Worcester City, 46% favoured creating one unitary council, with 42% supporting the North and South option. In Wyre Forest, opinion was split with 40% backing the one unitary option and 39% supporting creating two unitary councils.

People were asked to consider a range of factors when giving their responses, including how any proposed change would save money, improve local services, simplify local government, support local identity and strengthen community engagement.

The two unitary option was considered better for improving local services, supporting local identity and stronger community engagement. It was felt the one unitary option would be better for saving money/delivering value and making local government simpler.

The local council services people said they were most concerned about being affected by reorganisation were:

- Highways (potholes, footpaths, drainage, street lighting, etc) - 50%
- Adult social care - 42%
- Waste and recycling collection and disposal - 40%
- Parks and other green spaces - 35%
- Planning and related services - 34%

Infrastructure planning, maintaining and improving services and council-owned facilities and Council Tax levels, were the three things that mattered most to people when thinking about their local council.

More than 4,600 comments were also made as part of the survey responses. These are currently being analysed in-depth, along with the results of focus groups held across the county. Survey feedback and other relevant information will be taken into account before councils formally submit their final reorganisation proposals to the Government by 28 November 2025.

Cllr Robinson also asked the Parish Council for any views on the Classic Car Rally's being held at Toast in Flyford as there has been some resident complaints nearby regarding the noise and traffic congestion. Overall Cllrs had no feedback other than the events possibly require some traffic stewarding.

7. HIGHWAYS

Cllrs shared that the hedge running along the path from Dormston up to the Flyford garage needs cutting back and the path has subsidence and needs resurfacing- Clerk to contact highways.

Clerk to follow up on the vegetation on the bend past the Red Hart Pub towards Coneybury and the works required along Dormston Lane opposite Long Acres where the road is subsiding.

Also chase the road sign which was reported back in March which required fixing.

8. LENGTHSMAN

All going well nothing to report.

9. PLANNING

No new planning applications to consider

10. FINANCE –

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

Lisa Cope	Salary	£599.45	BACS
HMRC	Lisa Cope Tax	£149.80	BACS
Lisa Cope	Expenses	£49.74	BACS
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman May	£105.00	BACS
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman June	£140.00	BACS

- b) The bank balance as of 17th June 2025 was £7,224.65 and £6,709.22 in the savings account.

10. TELEPHONE BOX

Cllr Richins has undertaken some research and found the Inkberrow Men's Shed who visited the Phone box and agreed to undertake the works required as a community project, they anticipate it to take three days to complete at £100 a day, with an extra £150 to clean and paint the outside. Overall including some new window panes required the total costs would be circa £1000.

Cllr Collins asked the Clerk to contact the Police and request that if they are not going to maintain the Phone box which is now looking unsightly then will they make a donation towards its upkeep. If they are not prepared to do this will they either please make it safe or remove it completely.

In the meantime, and owing to lack of time as the Inkberrow Men's Shed are able to start work in September all Cllrs still agreed for them to go ahead and complete the works, the Parish Council will cover the necessary costs and try to re-claim what costs they can from the Police

11. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Council has received correspondence from the Neighbourhood Watch Committee that they would like to still push forward with the Smart Water initiative for the village, the Police will contribute £340.43 which leaves a balance of £1,021.28 to pay, Cllr Robinson agreed to contribute £500 from divisional funds and the Parish Council fund the remaining £521.28- this was proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Bull with all Cllrs in favour.

The Clerk to contact the Neighbourhood Watch committee and inform them that they will fund the initiative as long as Neighbourhood Watch manage and organise the roll out of the kits and attain the necessary required households to sign up in order to receive the signage for the village.

The Parish Council has received notification that the two defibrillators in the village are out of warranty in July 2025, all agreed that as long as the units are regularly checked and maintained they may well be serviceable for many more years yet but the budget ongoing should allocate some funds towards a future replacement.

12. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Richards shared that she is researching a defibrillator training session for the village and the Clerk stated she will share the defibrillator locations in this month's What's On so residents are familiar with where they are.

Cllr Collins suggested the Parish Council purchase a small laptop to download the VAS data on- Clerk to first research what is required and whether a phone can be used.

Cllr Collins suggested the Parish Council have access to the traffic survey carried out recently in the village to share with parishioner- all Cllrs agreed and Cllr Collins to try and obtain to report.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting was agreed for Monday 8th September 2025 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....