

NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs Lisa Cope, email: nbparish-council@outlook.com, tel. 07773793185

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Church

Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A. Howarth (Chair) Cllr G. Edwards
Cllr D. Dickens
District & County Cllr L. Robinson

In attendance: Clerk

Public Question Time- None attended

1. **APOLOGIES-** Cllr D. Turner and Cllr S. Reeves sent their apologies
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-

School admission applications for September 26 are now open. The deadline for high school applications is 31st October 2025. primary, First, infant, Junior and middle apps. Deadline is 15 Jan. 2026.

Worcestershire on-demand bus network is expanding

Following on from the success of our existing Malvern Hills and North Worcestershire Expansion zones, WoD will be launching a new pilot zone in Wychavon this August. The new zone will be our largest yet and will bring the flexible WoD transport service to a whole new part of the county. Designed to offer a convenient alternative to traditional transport the service connects passengers to their destinations without fixed routes or timetables. To ensure smooth and efficient operations across this large geographical area, journeys will be capped at 15 kilometres (approx. 9 miles) as the crow flies. We will also utilise smaller vehicles to more effectively navigate narrow roads in rural areas. All journeys in the new Wychavon zone will be free of charge for the first month to enable residents to try out the service. After this period fares will be £2.50 per person per journey with £1.25 for additional passengers. Concessionary cards are accepted and veterans can ride free of charge.

Since its launch in the Bromsgrove area in July 2021 WoD has completed over 104,000 trips with the Malvern service launched in June 2023 seeing nearly 18,000 trips.

Buses in the Wychavon zone will be operated by Via who also supply the bookings and vehicles.

Passengers can book journeys via the Worcestershire on Demand app, which allows users to select their pick up and drop off points, guiding them to nearby virtual bus stops.

Info and guidance on how to apply visit <https://worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Wychavon :

You'll be well aware how hot and dry this summer has been – but thanks to our weather monitoring station at the Civic Centre in Pershore we can provide some context to the temperatures.

As of Wednesday last week, just 3mm of rain had been recorded during August 2025! To give you a rough idea of how little that is - if that amount of rain fell on a 1 m² area it would only fill 1.5 fizzy pop bottles (about 3 litres).

For the year so far just 319mm of rain has fallen – that compares with 664.7mm at the same time last year and 583.28mm in 2023.

The last time we saw such a prolonged spell of warm weather was during lockdown 2020. However, that year the weather did turn and got a lot wetter so there is still plenty of time for things to change and our emergency planning team will be watching nervously as we head towards flood season.

It's not possible to draw conclusions from one year in isolation and there have been unique factors driving the heat this year. This includes regular spells of high-pressure overhead, dry ground meaning less of the sun's energy is spent evaporating moisture leaving more to heat the ground and air, and a marine heatwave with sea temperatures 3C above normal at times, reducing the cooling effect around the coast.

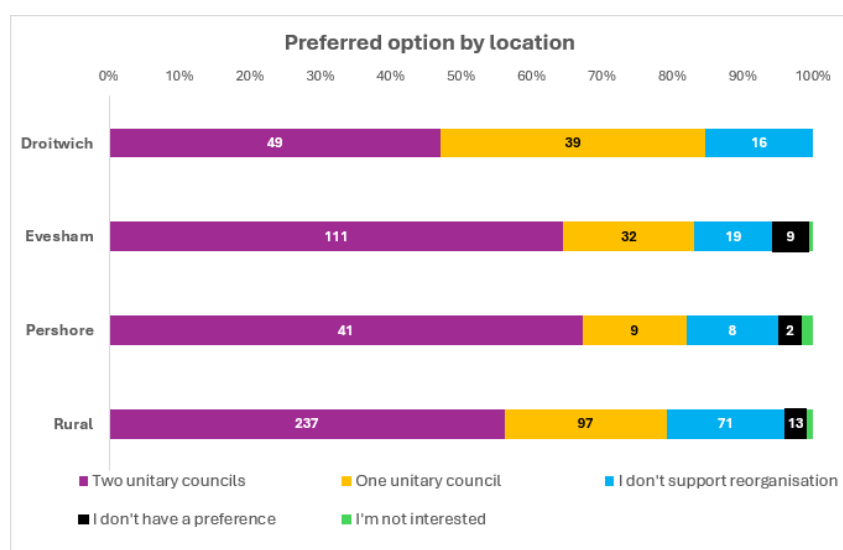
But if we look at the longer-term trend over the last few years, then the weather we have experienced matches the climate change predictions for Worcestershire and the Midlands as a whole, with summers becoming warmer and drier and with more extreme weather events like heatwaves (we have had four so far this year).

Significantly, this summer has been so warm it is about to knock the infamous summer of 1976 out of the UK's top five warmest summers ever. This means the five hottest summers in the UK have now all occurred since 2000.

If you want to [make your own rain gauge at home](#) then the Met Office has produced some helpful instructions.

Local Government Reorganisation: rural vs towns

When we presented the results of the Shape Worcestershire public engagement to you, we presented a breakdown of the choices people made who gave a postcode located in one of the towns. We promised we would also provide you with the same information for the rest of the district, which we have now added to the chart below and labelled rural. As you can see from the slide below, the rural areas largely mirrored the towns with the two unitary council solution being the majority choice. A greater percentage of people living in rural areas supported no reorganisation at all. Not everyone gave their postcode, so the chart that's covers the respondents who did.



Further to the all member briefing earlier in the week, we have amended the slide on demo representation to more accurately reflect the observations made by Mutual Ventures on this aspect of the options appraisal. Please see the graphic below.

Democratic representation

	Residents 2023	Now in 2025		Interim post-LGR measure		Potential long-term solution	
		Cllrs	Residents per cllr	Cllrs	Residents per cllr	Cllrs	Residents per cllr
Worcestershire	614,185	57	7,988	114	5,388	100	6,142
North Worcestershire	290,991	-	-	54	5,389	63	4,619
South Worcestershire	323,194	-	-	60	5,387	70	4,617
Malvern Hills District Council	81,822	31	2,639	-	-	-	-
Worcester City Council	105,143	35	3,004	-	-	-	-
Wychavon District Council	136,229	43	3,168	-	-	-	-

- LGBCE guidance identifies 100 councillors as the maximum number per unitary council
- The average population per councillor in existing unitaries is approximately 4,600

5. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Robinson expressed the disappointment on more fly tipping by the picnic site on Seaford Lane but hopefully this has been collected by Wychavon now.

6. LENGTHSMAN

Cllr Howarth requested the Clerk contact the lengthsmen and request the drain is cleared on the corner of North Piddle Lane and in front of the area. Also further along by The Elms where there is the grid- make sure the grid is clear of growth and reeds in case there is a period of heavy rain.

7. PLANNING

No planning to discuss but the following application was refused by Wychavon:

Number	Location	Proposal	Status
W/25/01505/PIP	Claremont Farm Seaford Lane Naunton Beauchamp Pershore WR10 2LL	Permission in principle for the erection of two dwellings	Application Refused

8. FINANCE

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

Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator battery	£270.00	Cheque 100746 PAID
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman July	£190.00	Cheque 100747
Lisa Cope	Postage/ Stationery/ Expenses	£58.26	Cheque 100748
HMRC	Tax	£151.20	Cheque 100749
Lisa Cope	Staffing costs	£604.90	Cheque 100750

Paul Brewer	Lengthsman August	£120.00	Cheque 100751

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

9. PHONE BOX & DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Dickens awaiting further correspondence with the lengthsman to discuss the renovations required on the telephone box.

Clerk shared that the Police have now retracted their donation offer of £1,000 due to budgetary constraints and offered £250 instead. Cllr Dickens suggested the Parish Council express their disappointment but accept the £250 donation- clerk to contact the Police.

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

10. WEBSITE & EMAIL DOMAIN

The Clerk shared that as Wychavon are now removing the website for Parishes to use and display documentation from September 2026 all Parish Councils will be obliged to undertake their own website to remain compliant.

As Cllr Turner has been exploring different options for this Cllrs deferred item 10 to the November meeting.

11. SMART WATER

Cllr Edwards shared that the documents have been completed and the kits are now on order.

12. TRAVELLERS

Cllr Howarth shared that there had been no further incidents reported since a ditch had appeared in North Piddle Lane.

The Parish Council had reached out to other local Parish Councils to ask if they had encountered similar issues to Naunton Beauchamp this year and whether they could try and work together. Replies were received from The Flyfords and Grafton who are reasonably supportive of the traveller community and have a relatively benign relationship with them. Pinvin however had encountered issues with travellers setting up on the Playing fields and had to use the services of a Bayliff to remove them which was very costly. They have also since paid for bollards to reduce unauthorised access to the fields at additional cost. They suggested that the traveller liaison officer for Wychavon should be re-instated if possible.

Cllr Robinson agreed to enquire at Wychavon regarding the Traveller liaison Officer position and urged the Parish Council to keep important numbers to call at hand should the travellers return so that the authorities can be informed straight away.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk asked Cllr Robinson if a reply was required to the WCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan and she replied although it is quite lengthy it might be worth commenting on anything important and shared that Fiona Argyl was now longer heading up this department and had left the post.

13. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 4th November 2025 starting at 7.30pm in the Church.

Signed Dated.....