

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 8th September 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 J. Turner	
County Cllr L. Robinson	

In Attendance: Clerk and twenty members of the public were in attendance.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No comments, public question time re-opened at item 9.

1. **CO- OPTION-** Cllrs were advised that they are now able to co-opt another Cllr, this will be advertised in the What's On magazine too.
2. **APOLOGIES-** Wychavon District Cllr N. Dawkes sent his apologies.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST-** Cllr P. Collins declared a pecuniary interest in item 9 and Cllr S. Richins declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9.
4. **GRANTS FOR DISPENSATION-** None received.
5. **MINUTES-** The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 14th July 2025 were approved and true and correct as proposed by Cllr Collins and seconded by Cllr Bull. The minutes from the extra-ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 26th August 2025 were approved as true and correct as proposed by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Drake.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS:

- a) **District Councillors Report- Nick Dawkes-** No Report
- b) **County Councillors 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 applications. Deadline is 15 Jan. 2026.

For more **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.

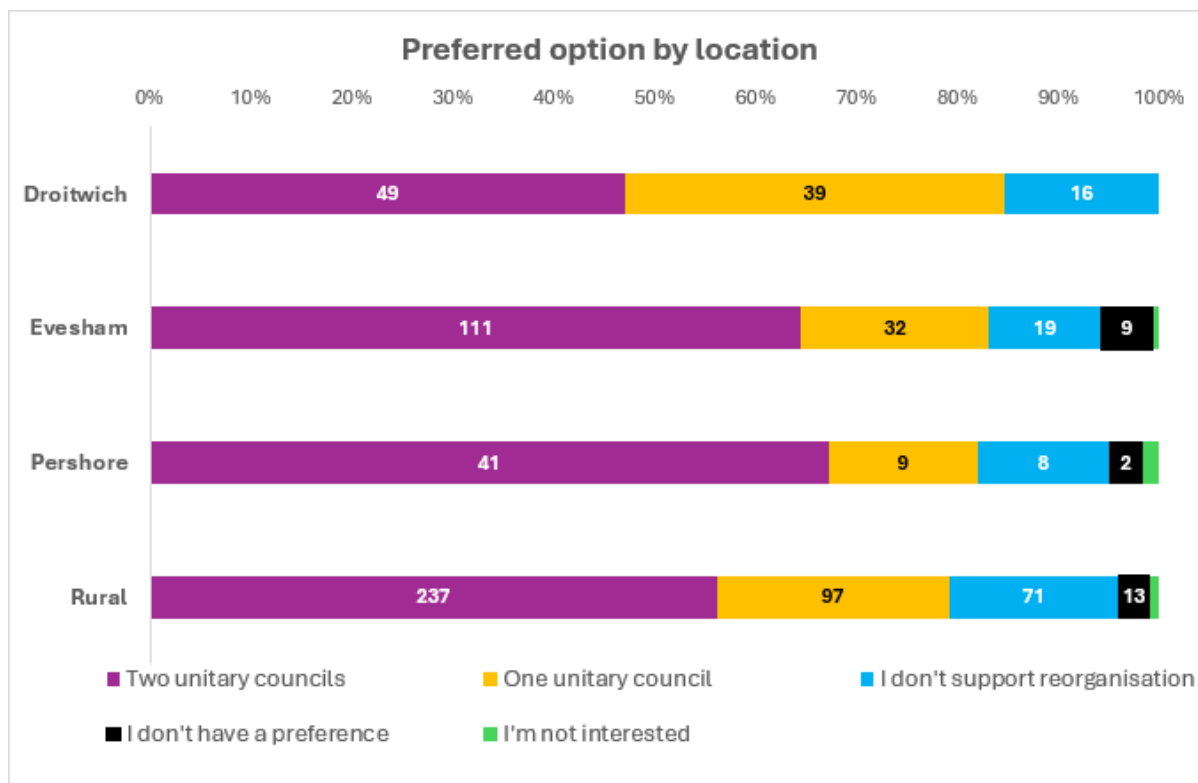
But if we look at the longer-term trend over the last few years, then the weather we have experienced matches the climate change predictions for Worcestershire and the Midlands as a whole, with summers becoming warmer and drier and with more extreme weather events like heatwaves (we have had four so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



7. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Collins shared that the pavement running from Dormston up to the Flyford garage is starting to subside and the road is breaking up too causing the pavement to move into the fields and at ditches on the A422- Clerk to chase with highways.

Clerk to follow up on the vegetation on the bend past the Red Hart Pub towards Coneybury as this has now been cut back the vegetation has been left behind not cleared and so it will block the drains-Clerk to report

Cllr Richins also stated that due to the recent fatality on the A422 will the road safety be re-visited. Clerk to follow up with the Clerk at Flyford.

8. LENGTHSMAN

The Clerk has already requested the vegetation around the 30mph speed sign at Kington be cut back. Clerk to request the vegetation around the VAS sign be cleared and the phonebox area to be kept clear ongoing.

9. PLANNING

7:45pm Cllr Collins and Cllr Richins left the room

The following planning application was discussed:

10. W/25/01659/OUT	Land At (OS 9802 5620) Cockshot Lane Dormston Kington	Outline planning application for up to 6 no. dwellings and associated works (all matters reserved except for access to the highway)	Pending Decision
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Cllr Richards resumed the meeting as Chair and re-opened the meeting to parishioners for questions. One parishioner enquired as to the timeline for when the planning will go to Committee, Cllr Robinson thinks it will be heard before Christmas.

Cllr Bull shared that the Parish Council cannot make an informed decision or comment on the application without relevant departments such as highways and drainage giving their reports first. One parishioner enquired if these reports aren't published will the Parish Council not make any representation then.

Cllr Robinson shared that residents could contact their other District Councillor Ben Hurdman if they wished to on Ben.hurdman@wychavon.net and request a site visit from the Planning Committee. At the site visit it would then be beneficial if Cllr Hurdman could attend. Parishioners are able to watch the site visit from a distance and hold placards if they wished to but cannot speak to the officers during the visit, it is therefore important to raise any specific points/ areas they would like the officers to look at beforehand in an email.

One parishioner asked why local residents have not been asked about the wildlife they know to inhabit the area- Cllr Robinson replied that residents are able to send photos or recordings in to the planning officer as evidence of this.

One resident asked what an outline planning permission involves and Cllr Robinson shared that a detailed planning application will need to follow this afterwards.

One resident asked if the planning officer and all the committee members will read all of the submissions on the portal by residents and have all the facts before they make their decision. Cllr Robinson sincerely hoped they would.

Cllr Robinson added that any petition that has been made can be submitted to the planning officer.

One resident added that they will lose the view from their property but Cllr Robinson replied that unfortunately no one has an automatic right to a view in planning laws.

One parishioner enquired as to why countryside is being developed rather than brownfield sites, Cllr Robinson replied it is often much easier to do so.

One parishioner had concerns with living directly next to the access and the safety of having large construction vehicles use it as it is narrow, whilst maintain a public right of way. Cllr Robinson suggested that this is one of the specific points to put to be looked at during the site visit. They can then look from a specific aspect or area that might be of a concern.

One parishioner asked why the houses are not more spaced out and Cllr Robinson replied that as present this plan is just indicative and could change.

At 8:20pm Public question time closed and Cllrs Collins and Richins re-entered the meeting

11. FINANCE –

a) The

Lisa Cope	Salary	£581.55	Cheque 665
HMRC	Lisa Cope Tax	£145.40	Cheque 666
Lisa Cope	Expenses	£62.46	Cheque 667
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman July	£148.75	Cheque 668
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman August	£TBC	Cheque 669

following payments were approved by all Cllrs to pay:

- b) The bank balance as of 5th September 2025 was £6,228.55 and £6,709.22 in the savings account.
- c) The Cllrs discussed the opposition fund for the Roundhill Solar Farm but did not feel a Parish Council donation was appropriate at present.

11. TELEPHONE BOX

Inkberrow Men's Shed have agreed to carry out works on the Phone Box and paint it but require written confirmation from the Police that the Parish Council have permission to paint the phonebox red. Clerk to chase and Cllr Collins suggested the clerk email the Police and Crime Commissioner or his assistant- Clerk to action.

12. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Wychavon have announced that they are removing the Parish portal used by many Parish Councils as a website to remain compliant and post agendas, minutes, policies and financial information. This website will be discontinued from September 2026.

The Clerk shared that she will research and obtain three quotes for a website, Cllr Collins suggested Tapcast be contacted.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Worcestershire County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) consultation
The Clerk agreed to re-circulate this to Cllrs and noted that Fiona Argly has left WCC.
- b) CALC survey on Local Government Re-organisation-noted.

The Clerk shared that three emails had been received from parishioners objecting to the planning application discussed in item 9. These have been replied to suggesting that their comments are shared on the planning portal or with the planning officer.

The Clerk also shared that two emails have been received from residents sent to the Monitoring officer concerned with Councillor impartiality and the declaring of interests in relation to item 9 on the agenda

14. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Richards enquired as to who is checking the defibrillator at the Village Hall ongoing and will liaise with Victoria Longmore to see if she will continue to do so.

Cllr Richards would like to book defibrillator training in the Village Hall and checked if the Parish Council are still willing to fund this which they are.

Cllr Richards stated that parked cars along Cockshot Lane are becoming more of an issue and whether the Village Hall car park should be opened and offered to help relieve this. Cllr discussed that this maybe should not be pursued and if so should be suggested to the Village Hall Committee to decide.

Cllr Richins shared that the new trees planted in Kington and Dormston have died due to the hot summer.

Cllr Collins requested the clerk follow up with enforcement on an S106 variation at Church Meadows campsite.

- 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting was agreed for Monday 10th November 2025 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....