

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP

Held at the Church on Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7.00pm

Present:	Cllr A. Howarth (Chair)	Cllr. G. Edwards
	Cllr D. Hudson	Cllr S. Reeves
	Cllr D. Dickens	Clerk
	County & District Councillor L. Robinson	Mrs Jubb- Church representative

Apologies- County & District Councillor L. Robinson

1. **Minutes-** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 16th 2023 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.

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 Peter Holpin for continuing to complete the internal audit of the Councils accounts. 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. Our new Lengthsman Carl Brassington has been very helpful keeping the grips and drains clear and also clearing the grass under the traffic signs. Even though we have had continuous heavy rain throughout the winter so far the village has not been flooded.

VILLAGE GREEN

Thanks must go to Councillor Dave Hudson who regularly mows the village green which is looking particularly attractive. The old bench has now been re-sited in the churchyard. We are still having problems with people parking by the phone box which obstructs access along that side of the green and has resulted in the green being torn up by heavy vehicles having to drive onto the green to get past a parked car. Thanks must also go to Chris and Ros Pretty for regularly mowing the churchyard and helping to make the village look tidy.

HIGHWAYS

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Thank you to Councillor Dickens for taking over responsibility for the speed camera and to Councillor Edwards 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. We do urge villagers to keep their road side hedges trimmed back and for farm vehicles to go slowly through the village.

There are also concerns about vehicles speeding down Seaford Lane, which is a single track and used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. We have been unable to have any speed restriction imposed on the lane but we are still hoping to have a sign requesting drivers to slow down for horse riders. 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.

A pothole in the main road going out of the village has been filled and the footpaths on both sides of the main road and in Orchard Lea have been resurfaced. We are still concerned about the two cars parked partially on the footpath by the church which make driving into the village hazardous on that corner.

DONATIONS

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

PLANNING

We have considered two planning applications with no objections from the Council.

DRAINAGE

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

BT Telephone Box

The telephone box which houses the defibrillator is now in need of re-painting which is the responsibility of the owners, the police. However we have been unable to have any response from the Police regarding ongoing maintenance of the phone box so we have now set aside Council funds to repair and repaint the box.

3. Parish Council Accounts

The Accounts for 2023/24 have finalised and the Internal audit completed by Peter Holpin the Annual Income for the year was £7,287.06 and the Annual Expenditure was £7,165.17.

4. County & District Councillors Annual Report

Good evening and thank you for attending your Annual Parish meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank your Parish Councillors who work tirelessly and with great enthusiasm on your behalf as does their clerk Lisa who helps keep me updated and informed between meetings.

Much of my time across our Upton Snodsbury Division is spent on Highways' issues and Naunton Beauchamp is no exception. I hope the current roadworks are not causing too much inconvenience.

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The abnormally high rainfall experienced this winter totalled 720mm over the last six months alone which would normally have equated to an average years' worth. This is off the scale compared to decade averages since 1980 and exceeds anything going back to 1960 in reference to data from our local weather station at Wychavon Civic Centre. Surface water levels have been abnormally high and the gulleys and ditches at the side of the roads are struggling to cope but efforts are made to keep them clear where possible.

Please report any Highways issues you spot direct to Highways on <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/tell-us-about-road-highway-or-travel-route-issue/report>. with a precise location. Alternatively, e mail me on lrobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk and I will report it to my Highways liaison officer. This also applies to any fly tipping you spot at the side of the road. The increase in littering along our country lanes is a big concern and much of it is just thrown from car windows when passing. WCC has a duty to litter pick the 'A' roads regularly and it is sad to see the amount their operatives find to put in their blue sacks ready for collection.

As many of you may be aware County Hall remains partially closed in its upper storeys due to the presence of defective cement known as RAAP. Surveys and quotes are being undertaken to assess repair costs. Obviously, we cannot afford the risk of re opening with any danger of collapse. Some NHS buildings are evidently also affected.

Council & Planning meetings are being held at District Council offices with many having been at Wychavon which is convenient.

Some difficult decisions had to be made in the 2024/2025 budget

The recent rise in the County Council tax precept by 4.99% included a 2% Adult social care precept in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

Voluntary redundancies have also been offered to Management & Staff with quite a good uptake and it is anticipated that these Budget proposals will significantly reduce our current overspend.

In last year's report I mentioned a proposal to build a new Secondary School between the hospital and Newtown Road. This is currently on hold due to spiralling costs with the opening date delayed until at least September '28.

I have not made my report too long this evening as I am aware that there are other speakers to follow. However, my regular report from each Parish Council meeting is published in their minutes if you are interested.

Finally, if I may, a date to note for your Diaries in September. On Saturday 7th WCC will be hosting one of their roadshows with me in attendance at Peopleton's popular Flower & Fruit festival. You are all very welcome to come along and find out more about your County Council whilst enjoying a great day out. I hope to see many of you there.

Finally Wychavon is celebrating its 50th Anniversary so please find below some interesting facts on its formation and history.

History of Wychavon

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Wychavon was formed out of the Local Government Act 1972.

The council, and the district, was created out of five existing councils:

- Evesham Borough Council
- Evesham Rural District Council
- Droitwich Borough Council
- Droitwich Rural District Council
- Pershore Rural District Council

Originally called District No.9, the name Wychavon was chosen to reflect all parts of the district with Wych being the Anglo-Saxon name for Droitwich Spa and the Avon being the main river that runs through the district.

A shadow council was elected and met in Pershore for the first time in summer 1973, with Wychavon's first constitution being approved at The Raven Hotel in Droitwich Spa.

On 31 March 1974, Wychavon's founding councillors and officers visited Pershore Abbey where they pledged themselves to service. At midnight on 1 April, 1974 Wychavon - both the council and the place - came into being.

5. Reports submitted by community organisations:

a) Women's Institute- Jackie Plant

Naunton Beauchamp WI is a group of like-minded ladies who enjoy fun and friendship. We have just 19 members and so would be keen to recruit over the forthcoming year.

We have enjoyed various talks throughout the past year, ranging from Lepidoptery and the Blues to Crime Writing and from Georgian Worcester through to holidaying on the Orient Express. We have learnt about the traditions of the Bowbrook Morris Dancers and joined in with some of their dances and we engaged in a fiercely competitive evening of curling. The Swan at Birlingham was the destination for our meal out. This proved to be an excellent choice being both wheelchair accessible and providing delicious food.

The craft group now have a new meeting place in our president, Sally Grainger's lovely garden studio. We regularly meet informally for crafting and chat.

We have improved communication between members by setting up a WhatsApp group. This has helped with organisation of our regular walks although rain has stopped play several times. Our latest walk was up Bredon Hill from Westmancote with a soup lunch at a member's house afterwards.

As always, the Worcestershire County Federation has provided opportunities for attending crafting workshops, competitions, medical lectures and various outings. Two members gained their food hygiene certificate, and we achieved a 2nd place in the photography class at the annual craft competition

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Anyone interested in giving us a try would be warmly welcomed at any meeting 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 if you would like more information.

b) Naunton Beauchamp Church- Gill Jubb

St Bartholomew's Naunton Beauchamp

During 2023 we have continued to hold services and social events in the church but also to continue with outdoor and community-based activities where these had worked well during the COVID pandemic.

In 2023 we had 15 services including the Remembrance service for the Benefice which was led by Steve Reeves. Rev Emma Goldby led 5 of the services. Other services were lay led by Steve Reeves and Gill Jubb authorised worship leaders.

Our average attendance at the usual Sunday services is 6 with more for special services such as Harvest and Carol and Crib Services. The harvest service and lunch was held in the church this year and this was a successful event. We held the Carol service in the church but also had a separate "Carols on the Green" with different people attending. We tried a Praise and Prosecco service in July

In October, we had our first baptism since 2007 when Harry was welcomed into our church community.

A short service on Coronation praise was also held on the green after the Street Party but only a few people attended.

Social events held in 2023 continued with Coffee and Chat on the first Saturday of each month with between 5 and 16 attending. The Chocolate and Wine Bingo in March was cancelled as there were not enough people attending to make it a fun event. The Quiz evening in June had a good attendance from people of all ages and of course the usual Fish and Chips.

Gayle Rowe opened her garden twice in the summer. She offered the opportunity to the church to serve teas as a fund raiser at the gardens and this was well supported by the WI and many in the village. The church was decorated with flowers on each of the weekends. Thank you to Jackie Plant for co-ordinating the teas and the flowers and to Duncan Jubb for manning the church each afternoon. Gayle has decided not to open her garden in 2024.

As this was a big fundraiser as well as a social event, we have been looking to events for 2024. A separate group from the PCC has been set up to co-ordinate these events. Dates have been set for some events for 2024 and a survey has gone round the village to explore what activities people would like to participate in.

Our service pattern will be the same in 2024 with a service on the second Sunday of each month. Every quarter this will be a communion service. Others will be Lay led.

The A frame notice board put outside the church to let people know of events seems to work well although it is not very robust and blows over easily. We also use the village Facebook site to let

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