

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 10th March 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr P. Collins (Chair) Cllr S. Richins
 Cllr T. Richards Cllr R. Drake
 Cllr I. Bull
 County Cllr L. Robinson

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No public in attendance

1. **APOLOGIES-** Cllrs V. Longmore, E. Faizey and District Cllr N. Dawkes sent their apologies
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST-** None declared
3. **GRANTS FOR DISPENSATION-** None received.
4. **MINUTES-** The minutes from the meeting held on 13th January 2025 were approved and true and correct as proposed by Cllr Collins and seconded by Cllr Bull. These were signed by the Chairman.
5. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**
 - a) **District Councillors Report- Nick Dawkes-**No Report
 - b) **County Councillors Report-Linda Robinson**

Latest Update on Devolution Proposals and Elections

Wychavon has committed to exploring two options for local government reorganisation in Worcestershire.

At the beginning of February, the local government minister wrote to councils across Worcestershire requesting interim reorganisation proposals by 21 March, ahead of a full and final submission by 28 November.

Under the Government's proposed changes, Wychavon, along with the county council and five other district councils, will be abolished. They will be replaced by either a single tier of local government delivering all services across Worcestershire.

At a meeting on Wednesday, 26 February councillors discussed the Government's plans for the first time in public. While some councillors supported a single Worcestershire unitary authority, others expressed interest in exploring the potential benefits of a north-south division. Concerns were also raised about the speed of the Government's timeline and the lack of data needed to make an informed decision.

As a result, councillors agreed to instruct the Council Leader and Chief Executive to enter negotiations with their counterparts across the county to ensure both options are included in the interim plan and further explored.

The interim plan will allow ministers to provide guidance to councils as they develop their final proposals. The contents of the interim plan will be debated at a Special Council meeting on 19 March.

Feedback will be used to guide the full proposal to be submitted in November, which may include one or both options. The Government will make the final decision on which plan to implement. It is expected the new arrangements will be in place by April 2028.

A £19,000 fund is being made available to help communities across Wychavon mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Wychavon is making £250 available to town and parish councils to support activities on and around Thursday, 8 May, to celebrate a significant milestone in the nation's history. Parish and town councils will be contacted directly over the coming weeks with details about how they can claim the money.

As well as the dedicated fund, Wychavon is also scrapping fees for road closure notices for anyone holding a street party either on 5 May, 8 May, or over the weekend from 9 to 11 May 2025.

Wychavon will join communities nationwide by raising the VE Day 80 flag at 9am on 8 May. Churches are being asked to ring their bells at 6.30pm and communities are also invited to light a beacon at 9.30pm. At the same time, Chelsea Pensioner Colin Thackery will lead the nation in a rendition of I Vow To Thee My Country.

Although 8 May isn't a public holiday, communities are still encouraged to hold street parties on the Bank Holiday Monday before, on the day and over VE Day 80 weekend.

Residents are also urged to support their local fish and chip shop by enjoying the nation's favourite treat in tribute to the courageous fishermen who braved the German U-boats and the farmers and Land Girls who cultivated the fields to keep the country fed. Fish and chips was among the few foods not rationed by the Government during the conflict.

Public Rights of Way

I recently attended a LAF (local access forum) meeting and learnt from County's Public Rights of Way team that there is to be a ROWIP consultation in June. Questions will be about their network, how people use it and what their views and aspirations are. They welcome responses from parish councils so asked me to let you know in case you have any issues you may wish to raise.

Secondary School Places

Worcestershire County Council received 6,592 applications this year and everyone who made an application for a secondary school place has received an offer of a place.

9 in 10 of Worcestershire's children will be starting secondary school in their first-choice preference in September.

Parents are also being reminded to apply for school transport for their child/children as early as possible for the September 2025 school term.

For more information, please visit the apply for school and college travel assistance pages of the county council website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooltransport.

Urgent call for adoptive parents in Worcestershire amid national shortage

Established in 2018 ACE was one of the earliest regional services to come together to improve opportunities for children through adoption and is celebrating its seventh anniversary this month.

The service not only prepares and assesses people who are wishing to adopt, it also recognises that importance of offering longer term support to adoptive families.

ACE recognises that adopting a child who has been in the care of a local authority is not going always going to be plain sailing, which is why longer-term support is available through its experienced and therapeutically trained team.

Since 2018 more than 580 adoptive families have been approved by the ACE with more than 720 children having the benefit of a secure family life and upbringing through adoption as a result.

Currently there is a national shortage of adoptive parents, due in part to financial considerations and the uncertainty that this may involve for people.

Adoptive parents are also encouraged to consider adopting siblings, helping brothers and sisters stay together whenever possible.

Visit www.aceadoption.com or call 0300 369 0556 for more information.

6. HIGHWAYS

Cllrs shared that the gullies require emptying on Dormston Lane- Clerk to contact Highways
Cllr Drake reported that a pothole requires filling on Bourne Close with the junction to Cockshot Lane- Clerk to report

Clerk to set up a meeting with Cllr Robinson, Cllr Collins and Highways to discuss a number of issues including the signage requested in Kington, the VAS location and the verge between the Red Hart and the Flyford requires siding out along the A442.

Cllr Collins requested the Clerk write to the Flyford's Parish Council and highlight that the hedge needs cutting back along the A422 where the planning permission has gone in and opposite The Boot the BT Box in the verge is protruding onto the highway- Clerk to action.

7. LENGTHSMAN

Cllrs requested the Clerk ask the lengthsman to check the grips in Dormston lane opposite the new build as rainwater was pooling in parts of the road.

8. PLANNING

Nothing to report

9. FINANCE –

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

Limebridge	Trees	£456.00	BACS
Lisa Cope	Salary	£532.80	BACS
HMRC	Lisa Cope Tax	£133.20	BACS
Lisa Cope	Expenses	£53.94	BACS
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman January	£157.50	BACS
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman February	£157.50	BACS
Village Hall	Meeting room hire	£72.00	BACS

b) The bank balance as of 24th February 2025 was £6,256.00 and £6,709.22 in the savings account.

10. TELEPHONE BOX

The Clerk shared that the Police had agreed that if the Parish Council take ownership of the telephone box they would commit some funds towards repairs required. Cllrs discussed how the telephone box was not in a suitable location to be used purposefully as it was too close to the highway with no parking nearby.

Cllr Collins asked the Clerk to contact the Police and ask if the Parish Council take ownership of the telephone box will they decommission it so that the Parish Council could move it to another location in the village. In the mean time Cllr Richards has agreed to continue to research different uses for the Phone box.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk shared details of a £250 donation from Wychavon towards the 80th anniversary of VE Day- Cllrs agreed to research within the community if any local groups are organising anything to mark the event and whether the funds could be used towards that.

Correspondence from the defibrillator maintenance company to check whether all items are in date- Cllr Longmore was checking.

12. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Richards shared that a years worth of litter picking events have now taken place in the village, with a large amount of rubbish accumulated in some areas and some signs have been erected around the village to try and deter fly tipping and people from not leaving dog mess and to use the bins provided.

Cllrs requested the Clerk send a card to the Seniors group on behalf of the Parish Council as they are celebrating their 60th Party.

Cllrs acknowledged the resignation of Cllr Chapman and wished to thank him for his for his time and efforts on the Parish Council. The Clerk had notified Wychavon of the changes and the PC are able to co-opt a new member in from 13th March 2025 if there is no election required.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting was agreed for Monday 12th May 2025 starting at 7:00pm in the Village Hall, this will be the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....