

NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs Lisa Cope, email: Clerk@nauntonbeauchamp-pc.gov.uk tel. 07773793185

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Church
Monday 6th July 2026 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: Clerk

Public Question Time- One parishioner attended concerned with the hedge on the left over the bridge on the way out of the village, drivers are either scratching their vehicles along it or driving on the opposite side of the highway to avoid it. Clerk to report online and others urged to report also.

1. **APOLOGIES-** Cllr G. Edwards and Cllr D. Turner sent their apologies
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST-** None
3. **TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR THE COUNCIL TO GRANT A DISPENSATION-** None requested
4. **MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD MARCH 2026-** These were approved by all Cllrs and signed by the Chairman
5. **PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**
 - A. **County & District Councillor's Report-Linda Robinson-**

Wychavon

First phase of £5 million support fund unveiled

Residents, families, businesses and community groups across the district are set to benefit from the first phase of the £5 million We Are Wychavon Support Fund.

The money will be invested over the next two years and is built around four key themes of supporting wellness, supporting business, supporting families and young people and supporting sustainable communities.

- The first package of schemes, which will be introduced over the coming months, includes:
- Free swimming for under-16s.
- Free swimming for over-60s.
- Free learn-to-swim sessions for all ages.
- Reduced fares on the Worcestershire on Demand bus.
- One hour's free parking.
- Support for businesses to create apprenticeships.
- Targeted support to help tackle youth unemployment.
- Funding for families facing financial hardship who do not qualify for existing support.
- Enhanced speech and language support for children.

New Ward Budgets enabling councillors to support small-scale community projects that do not qualify for existing grant schemes.

Details of each scheme and how residents can access them are currently being finalised. Launch dates will be announced through Wychavon's website, e-newsletter, social media and the local media.

Instead of focusing on a specific part of the district, schemes have been chosen so as many residents as possible have the opportunity to benefit from them. Further schemes will be announced in phases as the programme develops.

Successful projects under the Wychavon Growth Fund

Following its successful launch in April 2026, the Wychavon Growth Fund has attracted strong interest from local businesses. Fully funded by Wychavon District Council, the Fund is designed to support micro, small and medium-sized businesses across the district, helping them to invest in activities that drive growth. This can include purchasing new equipment, expanding facilities, creating jobs, and improving productivity. Grants of between £500 and £15,000 are available, depending on the nature of the project and the type of business applying. Businesses are required to provide at least 50% match funding towards their project costs. The table below lists the projects approved for funding up to 1 July 2026. Further information about the Fund, including a link to the online application form, is available at www.wychavon.gov.uk/growth

County

Rise in measles cases across Worcestershire

Public Health colleagues have reported a rise in confirmed and probable measles cases across Worcestershire since the start of the year, including a number of cases requiring hospital treatment.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that spreads easily through the air and can remain infectious in a shared space for up to two hours after an infected person has left. While most people recover fully, the disease can cause serious complications, particularly for young children, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems.

Residents are being encouraged to ensure they are fully protected against measles by checking their vaccination status and arranging an MMR vaccination through their GP if required. People experiencing symptoms, including a high temperature, cough, runny nose, sore eyes and a distinctive rash, should seek advice remotely from their GP surgery or NHS 111 before attending any healthcare setting.

Members are encouraged to share this information within their communities and help raise awareness of the importance of vaccination in preventing further spread of the disease. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Accessible days out in Worcestershire

From popular family attractions to much-loved heritage sites, you'll find a growing range of accessible experiences in Worcestershire.

Many local venues have taken part in [Visit Worcestershire](#)'s Accessibility Champions programme, helping teams build the knowledge, confidence and practical changes needed to create truly welcoming spaces.

Whether you're planning ahead or looking for inspiration, here are some of our top picks for inclusive days out across the county.

<https://visitworcestershire.org/.../accessible-days-out...>

Project Gigabit build gets underway in Worcestershire

The rollout of next-generation broadband in Worcestershire has reached an important milestone, with the first homes and businesses now connected through the Government's Project Gigabit programme, which builds on commercial deployments across the county.

The £41 million contract between Building Digital UK (BDUK) and Openreach will bring gigabit-capable broadband to more than 20,000 premises across the county's hardest-to-reach areas.

The first live connections are now serving properties in Lower Broadheath, Hallow, Powick and Callow End, while network build activity is also underway in and around Knightwick.

The project is designed to deliver fast, reliable broadband to rural communities that are unlikely to benefit from commercial investment alone, giving access to speeds in excess of 1,000Mbps, subject to the chosen package.

Project Gigabit forms part of the UK Government's £5 billion national programme, helping extend gigabit-capable broadband coverage across the country and supporting Worcestershire's ambitions for improved digital connectivity.

For more information, visit [the County Council's Digital Connectivity webpages](#).

[Worcestershire accelerates its drive to boost electric vehicle infrastructure](#)

Worcestershire and neighbouring councils have secured a new contract to expand the county's electric-vehicle charging network. The deal unlocks **£3.5m in Department for Transport funding** plus **£13m in private investment**. EZO will install **64 rapid chargers**, while Connected Kerb will add **1,700 on-street, lower-powered chargers**, giving residents a wider mix of charging options.

The project is funded through the **Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund**, designed to speed up local on-street charging and boost private-sector investment. Government says charging access remains a major barrier to EV adoption, noting its additional **£600m** investment and grants that have helped over **100,000 drivers** reduce upfront EV costs. The new programme aims to deliver reliable, well-placed, future-ready chargers to support Worcestershire's shift to cleaner transport.

[Mobile Connectivity Data for Worcestershire](#)

It has been revealed that mobile connectivity across Worcestershire is significantly worse than previously reported. To address the mobile connectivity issue, we are:

- empowering people to make the best decisions now by providing the facts through our Mobile Coverage Checker (Coming soon)
- encouraging local residents and business' to 'report' their issues in Worcestershire by completing our: [Mobile Connectivity Problems Survey](#)
- lobbying Ofcom, MNOs and Government to improve data accuracy now and actual coverage as soon as possible
- supporting the ecosystem – working with planners, making best use of our sites and assets, engaging with the industry
- the wider River Severn Partnership is rallying MP support, locally and nationally, to address the local and national issue in parliament

[Worcestershire's grass cutting season now underway](#)

Worcestershire's grass cutting programme has now started with around 5,000 km of grass to trim.

The county has over six million metres squared of rural verges and over 320 thousand square metres of central reservations along its roads. The cutting regime helps to keep roads visible for motorists but also provides a safe space for wildlife too.

Worcestershire County Council cuts less grass to make areas more friendly and protected for pollinators, however some cutting is still necessary. At Junctions where visibility is required, grass is cut back to the full extent, whereas parallel to the road, grass will only be cut back one or two metres, leaving significant uncut areas available for wildlife.

The County Council is pollinator friendly and actively works to promote the protection of pollinating insects and their habitat. Dual carriageway verges offer important linear networks for pollinators, known as 'Bee Lines.'

Reduced cutting of the central reservations has now created connections between previously isolated areas of ecological interest.

There are 46 Roadside Verge Nature Reserves designated for rare or special species and habitats across our county and all sites now receive a bespoke approach to ensure that protected or rare species are fully considered when it comes to maintenance.

To report a grass cutting issue, please visit [the Report It pages of our website](#).

Overgrown or fallen tree and shrubbery

Overgrown trees or shrubs causing an obstruction? Here's what you need to know 🌳

We can help if vegetation is:

- ✅ Growing from the highway surface
- ✅ Blocking or affecting safe public passage
- ✅ Dangerous or causing an inconvenience on the highway

We are not responsible for:

- Trees or vegetation that do not affect the public highway
- Trees in private gardens or on private property

Property owners are responsible for maintaining trees and vegetation on their land and ensuring they are safe.

Please report overgrown trees or vegetation here: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/.../overgrown-or-fallen...>

Natural Networks

Since 2018, Natural Networks has been providing wildlife conservation advice and funding to community groups and businesses across Worcestershire, delivered by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Wychavon has been a proud supporter of Natural Networks, using a share of our UK Prosperity Funding to make sure that our communities and their local environment continue to benefit from expert advice and guidance to make a positive difference for nature.

In the last year alone, Natural Networks has provided biodiversity enhancement advice to 24 groups, which resulted in 15.95 hectares of habitat enhancement, including traditional orchard, grassland, hedgerows and woodland. They helped groups plant 495 shrubs, over 15,000 bulbs and plug plants, install 38 wildlife boxes, 11 hibernacula for reptiles and 2 bee banks. Groups in Wychavon that have benefited from Natural Networks support include Evesham Town Council, Bowbrook Lodges, Ryden and Craycombe Farms and Westall Natural Burial Ground. Natural Networks also supported the enhancements at Pulley Lane Wood, including planting quite a few of the 15,000 native woodland flower bulbs. There's more information about Natural Networks and some of the fabulous community projects featured in the case studies on the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust website. [Natural Networks | Worcestershire Wildlife Trust](#)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy was published in March. This ambitious plan for nature recovery across the county has been three years in the making, based on a shared vision of halting and reversing the decline of our most vulnerable habitats and species. Led by Worcestershire County Council and supported by all district councils as well as Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission, the Worcestershire LNRS is one of 48 strategies that cover the whole of England and join up to create a country-wide Nature Recovery Network.

The strategy includes an assessment of the State of Nature across Worcestershire, identifies our priority habitats and species, the threats and risks facing them and crucially, what can be done to reduce those harms and turn the tide for our threatened species and habitats. Used alongside the strategy, the Local Habitat Map shows our existing Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity – our nationally protected SSSI and Special Areas of Conservation, but also our locally important Wildlife Sites and Grassland sites and our irreplaceable habitats: Ancient and Veteran Trees, Ancient Woodland, Wood pasture and Parkland and Fen wetlands.

For the first time, the Local Habitat Map identifies not just which conservation actions to deliver but also, where they are best targeted. There is a range of measures or actions, identified in the strategy, that aren't mapped, but are just as important. These measures can take place anywhere suitable and will benefit nature's recovery wherever they take place.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy can be found here [Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

The Local Habitat Map is here [Local Habitat Map](#)

Habitats and Species have Story maps that guide you through how each measure was developed [Worcestershire LNRS Habitat Potential Measures Storymaps](#) [Worcestershire LNRS Species Potential Measures Storymaps](#)

6. HIGHWAYS

Clerk shared road closure details for one day on 4th August- to close part of C2225 North Piddle Lane to Bishampton for pole testing by Openreach.

Clerk to report weeds on road entering the village and ask for kerb cleaner to attend.

Cllr Reeves shared parishioners have asked for a Slow sign or similar for Seaford Lane as a dog was recently ran over on the stretch of road, there is no footpath and walkers with pushchairs using the road as well as horses- Clerk to request with highways.

7. LENGTHSMAN

Cllr Howarth shared the grid is still on North Piddle Lane is till blocked with reeds and offered to meet the lengthsman when he is next in the village- Clerk to arrange.

8. PLANNING

No new planning applications.

W/26/00940/LB Thatchways- partial stabilisation of the curtilage 1953 extension to the original 1650's property- Approved.

9. FINANCE

a) The following payments below were approved and paid by bacs with one cheque written for Church

Paul Brewer	Lengthsman May	£160.00	BACS
Lisa Cope	Postage/ Stationery/ Expenses	£82.82	BACS
HMRC	Tax	£144.80	BACS
Lisa Cope	Staffing costs	£578.80	BACS
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman June	£150.00	BACS
Parish Websites	BWP Creative	£420.00	BACS
Defib padsX 2 sets	Heartbeat Trust	£188.34	BACS
Church	Mower donation	£200.00	100767

b) Correspondence circulated from the Church requesting a donation towards the fixing of the mower which is required for Churchyard maintenance. Cllr Howarth proposed a £200 donation, this was seconded by Cllr Reeves and Cllr Dickens and the Clerk wrote a cheque for the Church.

10. WEBSITE

All working and live and the Clerk now has access for any updates. Some Cllrs now using the updated gov.uk email addresses and others require some help over the summer in order to access.

11. MARQUEE

Cllr Howarth added that it is being hired this weekend and so it's structure will be tested out and maintenance requirements highlighted for the next meeting.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

None

13. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Reeves highlighted that the lengthsman had done a good job of clearing the grips at the start of Seaford Lane and further on down required clearing too.

Cllr Dickens shared that the public footpath over the bridge is now being used rather than the alternative route over the farmers field that many people took previously -however access over the stile/ gate at the bottom is quite difficult-Cllr Howarth stated that as long as access is provided which it is, the landowner is not required to provide dog access etc.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Monday 7th September 2026 starting at 7.30pm in the Church,

Signed

Dated.....