

# NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs Lisa Cope, email: [nbparish-council@outlook.com](mailto:nbparish-council@outlook.com), tel. 07773793185

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Church

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7:30pm

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

**In attendance:** Clerk

**Public Question Time-** None attended

1. **APOLOGIES-** None
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 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025-** These were approved by all Cllrs and signed by the Chairman
5. **PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**
  - A. **County & District Councillor's Report-Linda Robinson-**

As this is my first report of 2026, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and also thank all our parish councillors and our clerk for their continued efforts and commitment to support our community. Looking forward, our main challenges this year are Local Government Reform and balancing the budgets which are due to be approved in February. There will also be a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) out for consultation together with a South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR).

### Free home improvements available for eligible Worcestershire residents

The Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme offers a range of fully funded improvements, including insulation, upgraded heating systems, heat pumps, solar panels and energy efficient windows and doors. A free technical survey will identify which measures are most suitable for each property.

To qualify, households must either have a gross annual household income of less than £36,000, receive means-tested benefits, or live in a pre-qualified post code area. Eligible homes must have, or be assessed as having, an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D to G.

The EPC assessment is provided free of charge. Worcestershire County Council is delivering the scheme in partnership with local energy charity Act on Energy, alongside Worcester City Council, Wychavon District Council and Malvern Hills District Council.

If you think you might qualify, or know someone who might benefit, it's easy to apply. For more information, full eligibility criteria and to register your interest, visit the Warm Homes Local Grant pages of our website. To speak to an energy advisor, contact Act on Energy's free advice line on 0800 988 2881.

### Local Government Reorganisation

The Government is requiring 21 areas of England to restructure their system of local government before 2029 through a Local Government Reorganisation. They are looking to replace Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Redditch Borough, Worcester City, Worcestershire County, Wychavon District and Wyre Forest District Councils with fewer councils.

There are two plans for Local Government Reorganisation being submitted to the Government for Worcestershire. One Worcestershire: this would create a single unitary council to run all services for the county. It is being proposed by Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest.

Transforming Worcestershire: this involves creating two unitary councils - a North Worcestershire Council and a South Worcestershire Council - to run all services for their part of the county.

This is the option put forward by us, Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Redditch Borough and Worcester City Councils. What happens next: Both plans were submitted to the Government on the 28th November. A formal consultation will then be held in early 2026.

A final decision by the Government is expected by July 2026. For more information, visit: Local Government Reorganisation –

### Wychavon District Council Winter weather measures

We are now experiencing severe weather conditions with temperatures dropping to -7o this weekend. Our winter maintenance teams are busy ensuring our transport networks remain safe and open where possible. We have 36 gritting vehicles, over 50 drivers and 16,750 tonnes of salt to grit the roads when needed throughout the winter. Our teams monitor road surface temperature, moisture levels and forecasted low temperatures to know which routes to grit and when.

For more information about gritting in Worcestershire visit: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/gritting](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/gritting)

The local Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) has been activated several times to help those in hardship stay safe in this weather. The local authorities across Worcestershire operate a SWEP. During the coldest months of the year if the temperature is forecast to be zero degrees or less, then an emergency shelter is opened at the local Salvation Army. Professional and trained staff are on hand throughout the night to ensure the shelter is a warm and safe space to stay. Support is on hand to help those who wish to explore longer term accommodation options and connect them with the support they need.

### Wychavon Residents' Survey 2025 results

Thank you to everyone who completed the 2025 Residents' Survey, which took place from 10 October to 9 November 2025. There were 2,027 responses to the survey, an increase of 39% from 1,458 in 2024.

The overall picture for this year's results shows lower levels of satisfaction compared to 2024 in a number of areas, however the proportion of respondents who rate Wychavon District Council as good or very good has remained the same as 2024.

Although nearly all the headline tracking questions have shown a decrease in satisfaction compared to last year, the figures are like the results for 2023. Levels of satisfaction with many of our services remain very strong. There has been little change in satisfaction with eight services since 2024.

Satisfaction with two services has improved and there are notable drops in satisfaction with three services. Here are some of the headlines: Headline questions

- 80% satisfied with the local area as a place to live (82% in 2024, 79% in 2023)
- 64% satisfied with how Wychavon District Council runs things (72% in 2024, 64% in 2023)
- 51% agree we provide value for money (55% in 2024, 51% in 2023)
- 60% agree we act on concerns of residents (64% in 2024, 61% in 2023)
- 72% agree we keep residents informed about our services (75% in 2024, 69% in 2023)
- 56% rate us as good or very good (little change compared to 2024 and 2023)

- 88% feel safe in local area during the day and 62% after dark (both down on 2024, but slightly up on 2023)
- Satisfaction with services used or experienced in the last year
- 93% waste and recycling
- 91% parks and open spaces
- 89% Wychavon run sports and leisure facilities
- 86% public toilets
- 84% Wychavon car parks (first time of asking)
  - 76% community safety
- 72% Council Tax and housing benefits
  - 72% customer contact centres
- 71% Worcestershire Regulatory Services (up from 67% in 2024)
  - 67% street cleaning (down from 75% in 2024 and 2023)
  - 60% dealing with fly-tipping (down from 65% in 2024)
  - 60% housing support services (based on 259 responses)
  - 36% planning and building control (down from 45% in 2024)

Wychavon Council are currently analysing the free text responses, including the reasons respondents gave for being dissatisfied with services. There are a significant number of comments expressing dissatisfaction with the level of new development within the district and a perception that planning decisions don't take account of residents' concerns.

The survey results will be published on Wychavon Council website this month. The results of the recent round of the Local Government Association's resident satisfaction telephone polling will be shared when it is published to provide some wider context about perceptions of local councils across the country.

## 6. HIGHWAYS

Nothing to report.

## 7. LENGTHSMAN

Cllr Howarth requested the Clerk contact the lengthsman and request the drain is cleared on the corner of North Piddle Lane and in front of the area. W3W-emulating.foiled.electrode

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. W3W- unwell.expiring.ends

## 8. PLANNING

No planning to discuss.

## 9. FINANCE

- a) The following payments below were approved and cheques were signed

Paul Brewer	Lengthsman November	£160.00	Cheque 100758
Lisa Cope	Postage/ Stationery/ Expenses	£58.29	Cheque 100759
HMRC	Tax	£144.60	Cheque 100760
Lisa Cope	Staffing costs	£579.00	Cheque 100761
Paul Brewer	Lengthsman December	£120.00	Cheque 100762

- b) Clerk now has access to online banking access and will send off the documentation to add Cllr Turner. Cllr Edwards has applied and is awaiting a pin and card reader. Plans to use internet banking from March.

- c) Cllrs discussed the proposed budget as circulated by the Clerk before the meeting and approved a budget of £6040 for 2026/27 which is a 5.93% increase on last year and would be £69.92 on a band D property- Clerk to submit requirement to Wychavon.

**10. PHONE BOX & DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr Dickens had researched the costs of taking ownership of telephone boxes which proved very expensive in the long term with refurbishment costs, disconnection from the electricity etc was very costly if ever required and all Cllrs agreed that as a small parish this would not be viable.

Cllrs requested the Clerk write to the Police stating that the Parish Council no longer wish to take ownership but state that currently the Phone Box is in a dangerous state and the door does require fixing.

**11. 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 and have a gov.uk email address for the Clerk.

Cllr Turner has been liaising with Parish Council websites who have provided a competitive cost, should Cllr Turner help build the actual website. The Clerk enquired who would backfill the contents of the old website to the new one as 6 years data is required and whether Parish Council websites do this within their fee.

Cllr Turner to contact them again to confirm costs and start the process as a gov.uk email address is required from April/ May.

**12. SMART WATER**

Cllr Edwards shared that 39 Smart Water kits need to be registered in order for the village to get the signage and so far 23 properties are registered, which is a great start. Cllr Howarth thanked Cllr Edwards for the efforts so far to get so many kits registered quickly.

Cllr Edwards said she would try emailing some households directly first to get the remaining 16 sign ups and if that does not prove successful maybe an event could be organised in the Spring for residents to attend and collect a kit.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**14. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Cllr Dickens wanted to follow up on residents' concerns following issues with travellers in 2025. He acknowledged that a few traditional travellers have visited the area over many years. However, in 2025 a significant number of travellers camped on access roads to the village and residents reported inappropriate and, in some cases, threatening behaviour. The Parish Council is making further enquiries of the Police and the Local Authority to obtain relevant contact details for immediate assistance should the need arise in the future.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 starting at 7.30pm in the Church.

Signed ..... Dated.....