

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP

Held at the Church on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies- None

1. **Minutes-** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 29th 2025 were approved as true and correct, there were signed by Cllr Howarth
2. **Annual Report of Parish Council** presented by the Chairman.

The Council has met six times over the last year.

Thank you to Councillors, Gill Edwards, Dave Dickens, Steve Reeves and Duncan Turner for their support throughout the year.

We are also very grateful for the support of our County and District Councillor Linda Robinson who regularly attends our meetings and supports the village at District and County level.

Our thanks also go to Phil Pyne who has taken over the task of the internal audit of the Council's accounts.

I would particularly 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 and our lengthsman Paul Brewer does a good job clearing the roadside grips and drains.

VILLAGE

Thank you to Dave Hudson who regularly mows the village green and to the team organised by Dave Dickens who keep the churchyard mown and tidy.

HIGHWAYS

Thank you to Councillor Edwards and Councillor Dickens who regularly maintain and monitor the speed sign.

After the very wet winter there has been concern about the ruts at the side of the main street caused by heavy vehicles straying onto the verge to prevent collisions with oncoming vehicles. This is

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particularly noticeable on the east side of the village these ruts are hazardous for cyclists and walkers.

There were also deep ruts down Seaford Lane made by heavy vehicles exiting the stables these have now been filled in.

DONATIONS

An annual donation is made to the church for the use of the church for Parish Council meetings and also to help keep the churchyard tidy.

PLANNING

The Council have received two planning applications neither of which were opposed by the Parish Council. But the one application for the erection of two dwellings on the site of Claremont Farm was refused at appeal.

BT TELEPHONE BOX

The donation offered last year for repair of the Telephone Box was withdrawn by the Police. Councillor Dickens has investigated the cost of repairs and the Council has decided not to take over ownership of the Box but to continue to request that the present owners, the Police do take responsibility to maintain and repair the Telephone Box.

TRAVELLERS

For many years we have had visits from small groups of travellers with horses cropping the verges in North Piddle Lane. Increasingly rubbish has been left on the verge for the landowner and the District Council to remove. This year we have had two large groups in both Seaford Lane and North Piddle Lane. Both groups had dogs as well as horses and one resident was badly bitten by an untethered dog. The large group in North Piddle Lane regularly blocked the road with vehicles and tethered horses and also held noisy and disturbing parties with cars racing up and down the lane. This anti social behaviour caused considerable distress, particularly to residents in and near North Piddle Lane and indeed to all the village and was reported to the police.

It is hoped that the present uneven surface of the verge in North Piddle Lane will go some way to deter a recurrence of these unpleasant visitors this year.

FOOTPATH

Footpath 521 from Seaford Lane to the Piddle brook has been closed so that a repair can be made to the collapsed bridge over the ditch.

SMART WATER

Thanks to Councillor Edwards the village has enrolled enough residents to take up the offer of using Smart Water to safeguard their possessions and we shall have a village sign indicating that the village is protected by Smart Water.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE AND EMAIL DOMAIN

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As required by Government directive all Parish Council must at their own expense have a designated Parish Council Website and a gov.uk email address.

Thank you to Councillor Turner who has guided us through this procedure and employed a website designer. This will be up and running by the May deadline.

3. Parish Council Accounts

The Accounts for 2025/26 have finalised and the Internal audit completed by Mr Pyne the Annual Income for the year was £8,876.11 and the Annual Expenditure was £7,631.89.

4. County & District Councillors Annual Report

Naunton Beauchamp Parish Council continues to take a proactive and engaged approach, working closely with local organisations, charities and residents to represent local views and secure positive outcomes for your area. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to your Parish Councillors and Clerk for your continued cooperation, support and commitment to your community. This report provides a brief overview of key developments and activity during the year at both County and District level.

Local Government Reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation continues to be a significant issue for all councils across Worcestershire. Proposals have now been submitted to central government following extensive consultation. We are currently awaiting a formal decision on the outcome, which is likely to be either one or two unitary authorities, which will incorporate the current District Councils.

Worcestershire Community Services Directory

Looking for local health, wellbeing, or community support? The Community Services Directory is your go-to place for trusted, up-to-date information on groups, services, and activities across Worcestershire.

Whether you need advice, social activities, or specialist support, it connects you with local organisations ready to help. So, you can stay informed, healthy, and independent.

Are you part of a local service or community group? It's also a great opportunity to promote what you do and highlight the amazing work happening across our county.

Explore the directory or register your service at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/csd

Intelligently Green

Wychavon's intelligently green plan, which aims to meet the requirements of the climate change act 2008, has undergone a full review over the last year. The revised plan now includes references to the need to adapt to climate changed as well as having net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

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The proposed actions, relating to energy, low carbon travel, natural environment and planning new development, also have positive benefits in reducing pollution, protection against extreme weather, buildings that are cheaper to run and by encouraging more active lifestyles.

Local residents can join the sustainability campaign by logging into WYCHRewards, an online platform and app where you record your sustainable actions – like walking, Cycling, recycling and shopping sustainably. This will earn you Green Points and the top six green points earners each month with a £50 voucher. There is also a fun team competition where the district electoral ward which wins the most points over six months can nominate a charity to get a donation. You can sign up at www.wychrewards.co.uk

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

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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](#)

5-Year Housing Land Supply

The Inspectors confirmed as part of their findings on the recently adopted SWDPR that the Council has a 5 year housing land supply with a 5% buffer on adoption of the plan. The Planning team are now undertaking monitoring work for the 2025/26 period to provide an updated 5-year housing land supply calculation taking account of completions and changes in the supply of housing. This data will be published in early summer.

I regularly attend your Parish Council meetings and village events. I remain active on local social media to keep residents informed and engaged. Being visible and accessible within the community is important to me, and I am always happy to be contacted for help on any local or sensitive matter.

5. Reports submitted by community organisations:

a) Women's Institute- Gill Edwards

Naunton Beauchamp Women's Institute has enjoyed another year of fun, friendship and successes.

We have had an entertaining and interesting variety of talks and demonstrations throughout the year. To highlight just a few of these, we learnt the art of facial yoga, were given an insight into the world of antiques and the stories that they tell and were entertained by Frances Fry, a former West End actress who had us dancing in our chairs, singing and throwing snowballs at each other.

The local community were invited to join us for a talk and demonstration of CPR and the use of the defibrillator by the Hereford and Worcestershire First Responders. This was a really useful event and attendees agreed that, following this, they felt more confident to act appropriately in an emergency situation

Members of Naunton Beauchamp WI have gained a reputation for being the ones to beat in the County craft competition. Once again, we won the co operative class. A great achievement when

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there are over 100 clubs in Worcestershire. We were equally proud to win the individual preserves class and the photography class and to come second in the craft class.

Away from our monthly meetings, members also come together to enjoy craft club, walks and skittles matches. A new activity which a few of our hardier members have taken part in is open water swimming at the Lenches lake.

The opportunities open to WI members are many and varied. New members are always warmly welcomed.

b) Naunton Beauchamp Church- Gill Jubb

During 2025 we have continued to hold services and social events in the church.

In 2025 we had 16 services. Our Holy communion services were led by Rev Emma Goldby. Our harvest and carol services were led by our lay reader Delia Harding. Other services were lay led by authorised worship leaders from the village, Steve Reeves and Gill Jubb. It was good to welcome back Rev Julie James to take the Remembrance day service. Thank you to all those who have led, read, rung bells and participated in our services.

Our average attendance at the usual Sunday services is 6 (1 more than last year) with more for special services such as Harvest and Carol and Crib Services. The harvest service and lunch were held in the church and this was a successful event. We also had Carols on the green to take the church out into the community

The Village Social committee has continued to work well. This has allowed the social events to be organised separately from the PCC meeting and has brought 4 different ladies to assist with running the events. Any funds obtained from these events has continued to be used for the church.

Coffee and Chat has continued on the first Saturday of each month with between 5 and 16 attending. This is hosted on a Rota basis and continues to be an enjoyable way for members of the village to meet up. We have added a book swap which is being well used.

The Quiz evening in June had a good attendance from people of all ages and of course the usual Fish and Chips.

Alice and Duncan Turner again offered their garden at Naunton Court for a village garden party with afternoon tea and games. Although very hot this year, it was a true village event with a number of villagers attending who we have not seen before. They have offered to host a similar event this year.

We also hosted a successful Wreath making workshop in December and a Pub evening in November. These are all booked again for 2026.

Our service pattern will be the same in 2026 with a service on the second Sunday of each month. Every quarter this will be a communion service. Others will be Lay led. Delia will be taking our harvest and carol services.

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We have a rota for Cleaning and Flowers which works well and with the rota for Coffee and Chat this helps to spread the workload and encourages others to get involved.

For 2025, Dave Dickens offered to co-ordinate a rota for mowing and churchyard maintenance. This, with a couple of working parties, has kept the churchyard in very good order. Thank you to all those who help with these important tasks. The church has continued to pay for fuel and servicing for the mower and strimmer.

The church has remained both a worshipping presence and a community focus with the Christian values showing through in our social occasions as well.

c) Police

The Police no longer attend Annual Parish Meetings or send a report.

The best contact method to reach the team is via their email:

pershorerural.snt@westmercia.police.uk

6. Questions from members of the public- None

The meeting closed at 7:20pm

SIGNED..... Chairman

Date

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