

Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 11th March 2026.03/26.

Clerk to the Council, Andrea Evans, Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham, Worcs, WR11 8RW.
07591533557 email clerk@wickhamfordpc.co.uk website: www.wickhamfordpc.co.uk

Present: Councillors, T Hemming, R Gutteridge, J Neal and District Cllr E Simms.

Clerk, A. Evans.

1. **Apologies** –

CC Emma Kearsey, S Wride, M Emerson, T Cumberland and N Austin.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.**

1 member of the public attended to raise the ongoing issues of water backing up on Pitchers Hill and to ask for help with the matter from Cllr Kearsey. This has already been reported by clerk but resident has requested a site visit and asked if DEFRA and EA can also be involved as STW appear to only be dealing with single issues rather the whole picture. Details will be sent to Cllr Kearsey.

4. **The Minutes of the meeting** held on the 14th January 2026 were agreed, proposed by RG, seconded by TH with a unanimous vote in favour. Signed by JN.

5. **District / County Councillors Report**

Reports will be added to the minutes and website when provided.

Cllr E Kearsey:

Firstly council tax, I voted against a 9% council tax increase at WCC but sadly it went through as Reform voted for it and the Liberal Democrat's left the meeting to not vote. To be clear 9% council tax increase would not have been passed if the Liberal Democrat's had voted.

The good news is that in contrast, the council tax at Wychavon has been frozen, to include £5 million suite of measures to benefit all residents. The surprising thing was that the Liberal Democrat's voted against the freeze and £5million to benefit residents.

We will be communicating soon the different measures we will be implementing throughout WDC. We aim for it to be things that will benefit all residents, young and old and everyone in between, those living in towns and village and particularly my focus on the rural areas. This is in addition to the legacy projects that we are bringing forward.

The SWDPR is due to be adopted by the end of March but the concern is the latest review of the NPPF that the government have recently consulted on.

The closing date for the Local government reorganisation consultation is 26/3. Please if you haven't already have your say. The two unitary, north and south would be by far the best option for our district

and everyone within it. We don't want to be swallowed up by an enormous one Worcestershire unitary council where we lose our identity and see an even greater increase in council tax and the flood of housing numbers come down from the north.

If you are responding to the consultation feel free to respond as an individual and as an organisation as part of the pc.

In Wickhamford the drainage issue that has been reported by a resident, I have taken up with highways, Severn Trent, WRS and WDC drainage engineers.

As always anything you need and anything I haven't covered please just let me know.

Cllr E Sims:

- WDC have kept the council tax unchanged with a significant increase at WCC.
- The results of the current consultation on local authority changes will be in July 2026, this will prove an interesting result. It will undoubtedly increase the workload of PC's (clerk) going forward/
- WDC are putting £5 million into reserves for community projects, more details will follow.
- Cllr Sims will follow up with Rooftop regarding Manor Close.

6. Police Report:

Update from www.police.uk

7. Parish Council:

- a) Update on land transfer and planning of site-
There have been no further updates as the matter is still going through the probate process but will remain on the agenda until information is received
- b) Delivery of newsletter-
Newsletter has been successfully delivered for January 2026 although 2 councillors advised that they had not received one. This is a trial of 3 deliveries and then a final decision can be made.
- c) Village record of councillors past & present- No information has been forthcoming from the newsletter request.
- d) Summer event- Clerk has requested information and ideas from club. In the meantime, TH advised that there is an event being run in July 2026 which the PC could get involved in and assist with funding as a trial for a summer event. It was agreed to ask the organiser to contact the PC to provide details. The PC can then agree at May 2026 meeting and advertise on Newsletter.
- e) The following policies were noted and unanimously approved:
 - i. Grievance Policy.
 - ii. Health & Safety Policy.
 - iii. New IT Policy. (this is an update to policy already held to comply with assertion 10)
- f) BG records- JN and RG carried out a full audit of all entries in 2025 and confirmed that the records are correct.

8. Planning.

a. To consider/note the following applications:

a	<p>Case No: W/26/00124/OUT</p> <p>Location: Land at (OS 0729 4062) Pitchers Hill, Wickham ford</p> <p>Proposal: Outline planning application for the erection of up to 20 dwellings and associated works with all matters reserved for future determination apart from access.</p> <p>Parish Council Decision: Wickham ford Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:</p> <p>Is it necessary to have a block of semis up against 52 pitchers Hill and is it necessary to have a large detached property back to back with the cider shed, which is a licenced premises where some 200 villagers and local people like to congregate on a summers Friday evening and listen to live music. It will create the potential for unnecessary noise complaints.</p> <p>Based on Wychavon's rejection of W/25/02596/PIP we believe the parish council should fall in line with district council's view and object to this application, for the same reasons:</p> <p>The proposed development by reason of its location would conflict with the aims of the South Worcestershire Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework to reduce reliance on the private car as a means of transport. The proposal would fail to minimise the demand for travel.</p> <p>There is limited footway infrastructure in the vicinity and the area is without street lighting and would not provide a safe walking distance along the A44 a busy and fast flowing carriageway to access the nearest facilities.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposal would not be sustainable in terms of location and is contrary to Policies SWDP1, SWDP2 and SWDP4 of the South Worcestershire Development Plan and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework as a whole, and with particular regard to Chapter 9, that require development to minimise the demand for travel and offer genuinely sustainable travel choices.</p> <p>Furthermore, the proposal would undermine wider Government aims and objectives including Net Zero and Carbon emission targets.</p> <p>The proposal would introduce a new built up pattern of encroachment into the open countryside resulting in a form of domesticated development that would have a suburbanising effect on the character and appearance of the rural landscape failing to integrate with its surroundings and would be contrary to Polices SWDP21 and SWDP25 of the South Worcestershire Development Plan and SWDP2 that seeks to safeguard/enhance the open countryside and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework including Section 12 of the Framework which states that new development should be of high quality design and contribute positively to making places better.</p> <p>Accordingly, it is concluded that the location, land use and amount of the site is not suitable for residential development and that the proposal, considered holistically, fails to represent sustainable development.</p> <p>Furthermore, there have been 3 fatalities in 3 years, on the stretch of A44 in question, as well as an unreported hit and run on the bus shelter next to the access to the proposed site.</p> <p>Wychavon Decision:</p>
b	<p>Case No: W/26/00275/HP</p> <p>Location: The Finnick, 48 Pitchers Hill, Wickham ford</p> <p>Proposal: Proposed conversion of existing garage, to include new pitched roof and dormer, to create annex.</p>

Parish Council Decision: Wychavon Decision:
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b. To note the following decisions/appeal:

e	Case No:	W/25/02574/HP
	Location:	The Sheiling, Manor Road, Wickhamford
	Proposal:	Proposed ground floor front and rear extension, loft dormer alterations, façade alterations, erection of two car ports, and associated works.
	Parish Council Decision:	No objections
	Wychavon Decision:	Approved.

9. Finance:

- a. A list of payments to be drawn this month were approved and cheques already signed and ratified and the statement of balance of accounts 2025 approved as follows, proposed by RG, seconded by TH with a unanimous vote in favour:

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Treasurers

Statement Number	47	Bank Statement No.	47
Statement Opening Balance	£4,960.71	Opening Date	30/12/25
Statement Closing Balance	£3,732.02	Closing Date	29/01/26
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£3,732.02		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
30/12/25		Badsey PC	3.00	0.00	4,957.71
30/12/25		Andrea Evans	50.00	0.00	4,907.71
30/12/25		John Taylor	70.00	0.00	4,837.71
05/01/26		Andrea Evans	540.00	0.00	4,297.71
06/01/26		Screwfix	10.59	0.00	4,287.12
06/01/26	S/O	HMRC	135.00	0.00	4,152.12
07/01/26		Amazon	13.62	0.00	4,138.50
08/01/26		Andy Tyrrell	294.00	0.00	3,844.50
08/01/26		Andrea Evans	10.00	0.00	3,834.50
08/01/26		Andrea Evans	30.23	0.00	3,804.27
12/01/26		Just Memorials	0.00	270.00	4,074.27
12/01/26		Just Memorials	0.00	70.00	4,144.27
15/01/26		T & B Cumberland/Wayside Farm Shop	305.00	0.00	3,839.27
15/01/26		Wickhamford PCC	250.00	0.00	3,589.27
19/01/26		Lloyds Bank	4.25	0.00	3,585.02
20/01/26		Just Memorials	0.00	70.00	3,655.02
22/01/26		Andy Tyrrell	360.00	0.00	3,295.02
26/01/26		Wickhamford Sports Club	0.00	437.00	3,732.02

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Treasurers

Statement Number	48	Bank Statement No.	48
Statement Opening Balance	£3,732.02	Opening Date	30/01/26
Statement Closing Balance	£3,032.30	Closing Date	02/03/26
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£3,032.30		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
02/02/26		Andrea Evans	11.32	0.00	3,720.70
02/02/26		Andrea Evans	44.73	0.00	3,675.97
02/02/26		Badsey PC	3.00	0.00	3,672.97
05/02/26		Andrea Evans	540.00	0.00	3,132.97
06/02/26		HMRC	135.00	0.00	2,997.97
09/02/26		Andrea Evans	50.00	0.00	2,947.97
09/02/26		John Taylor	75.00	0.00	2,872.97
09/02/26		Andy Tyrrell	216.00	0.00	2,656.97
17/02/26		Amazon	19.95	0.00	2,637.02
17/02/26		Lloyds Bank	4.25	0.00	2,632.77
17/02/26		Bretforton Parish Council	0.00	6.65	2,639.42
17/02/26		Badsey & Aldington Parish Council	0.00	6.65	2,646.07
17/02/26		Martin Grinnell Funeral Services	0.00	300.00	2,946.07
17/02/26		Alexander Burn Funeral Services	0.00	275.00	3,221.07
17/02/26		Badsey & Aldington Parish Council	0.00	82.14	3,303.21
17/02/26		Bretforton Parish Council	0.00	54.76	3,357.97
19/02/26		Fire Protection Online	191.69	0.00	3,166.28
19/02/26		Theo Alsop	50.00	0.00	3,116.28
20/02/26		Badsey PC	3.00	0.00	3,113.28
20/02/26		John Taylor	75.00	0.00	3,038.28
20/02/26		Andrea Evans	50.00	0.00	2,988.28
23/02/26		Simply Stone	0.00	240.00	3,228.28
02/03/26		Andrea Evans	41.98	0.00	3,186.30
02/03/26		Andy Tyrrell	154.00	0.00	3,032.30

b. Assertion 10 on AGAR (annual Governance & Accountability Return)

Clerk advised councillors on the following:

Assertion 10 on AGAR as at 31st March 2026- Clerk advised of the changes to AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) which will need to be signed off as compliant as at 31st March 2026 on the end of year accounts. Cllrs unanimously voted to adopt these changes as at 11th March 2026.

Key changes are:

- Accessibility Statement to be on PC website and date adopted
- New generic email address for both PC and councillors, cllrs can no longer use personal email addresses for PC business. PC email address is: clerk@wickhamfordpc.co.uk
- Updated model publication scheme to be adopted and posted onto website.

- Continue to be GDPR compliant
- New privacy notice
- New IT policy to replace existing policy.
- FOI- Guide to information provided by parish councils under the model publication scheme.

10. Lengthsman:

Tasks required-

- Clerk has obtained a quote for new bus shelters at approx. £3500 each. It was suggested that funds be earmarked each year to replace them as they next need painting/repairing, this was agreed.
- Clerk has reported the red section of carriageway on Longdon Hill as the surface has broken up and there are huge potholes.

11. Items for the next Agenda

- Can a bollard be considered on path at end of Pitchers hill near to telephone box. Contact WCC.
- Tree planting on triangle

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th May 2026- Wickhamford Memorial Hall.

Items for the next Agenda must be received 7 days prior to the above date.

Andrea Evans

Clerk to Wickhamford Parish Council.
Meeting Closed at 8.05pm.

Signed.....Chairperson

Date.....