

NORTH CLAINES PARISH COUNCIL (NCPC)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on Monday July 6th 2026
Held in Okeys Lane Baptist Church Hall at 19:30 hrs

PRESENT

Cllr Farmer (MF)
Cllr Harris (AH)
Cllr Tubby (MT)
Cllr V Nelms (VN)
Cllr S Challoner (SC)
Cllr M Challoner (MC)
Cllr B Allen (BA)
Cllr E Johnstone (EJ)

Dst Cllr Nicolas Wright (NW)
Cty Cllr S James (SJ)
Dst Cllr D Birch (DB)
Patrick Connelly Wychavon

1. **To receive apologies for absence** and to approve reasons for absence.
Cllr R Whitgrove (RW)
2. **Declarations of Interest and Council vacancies**
 - a) Register of interests; Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 - b) To declare any other Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
 - c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
 - d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.

Councillors who have declared an interest must leave the room for the relevant items as per the code of conduct and the North Claines Parish Council standing orders.

Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may be a criminal offence.
3. **Minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council**
 - 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2026 were signed as a correct record
 - 3.2 Progress reports from the previous minutes and any matters arising for information were considered within the meeting and documented accordingly.
4. **Public Question Time**

This is an opportunity for members of the public to ask any questions of the Parish Council, time to be at the Chairman's discretion.

Residents attended to discuss objection to plans – Goodwood Drive and Station Road in NCPC and the proposed Cornmeadow development which is in Worcester City.

A parishioner noted issues with a neighbour's dogs and Dst Cllr DB to follow this up.

5 Finance.

- 5.1 Invoices for consideration and payment at the Council meeting were approved as follows.

Clerk salary, NI/Tax/Pension for May and June 2026	Confidential
Gill Lungley Internal Audit for 2025-26	£204.20
Ocean Blue printing of the summer Parish Focus	£446
Andrew Healey Entertainer for Fun on the Brum	£275
Wychavon DC emptying of bins x9	£1201.44
Wychavon DC emptying of bins x4	£360.43
Green Self Storage Rent for June and July 2026 @ £99	£198
Top Cut mowing services May, June and July 2026	@£3861.60
Top Cut mowing services other May 2026	£1173.60
National Grid makesafe to lamp The Grange, Danes Green	£550.88
Vodafone. May June and July 2026	@£21.80
Droitwich Spa CVS Rent July to Sept incl 26	£1065
J Wyton Work in May and June 2026	£495
BBC inflatables for Fun on the Brum	£1608
Nature sign design Bull Meadow sign costs	£276
Amazon dinosaur costume for Fun on the Brum	£25.73
Amazon Electricity converter for Fun on the Brum	£62.97
A Harris items for Bull Meadow – to include concrete for sign installation	£111.78

5.2 Receipts

WCC reimbursement of PL costs April 2026	£75
HMRC VTR 2024-2025	£18,469
Memorial bench payment JH	£1500
HSBC Gross Interest to 4 June 2026 from savings account	£161.86

- 5.3 The next finance meeting is to be held before the next meeting of the Parish Council in September 2026

- 5.4 Internal audit arrangements for 2026-27. The Parish Council examined the documents regarding a new internal auditor, and approved R Jeffries as internal auditor for 2026-2027.

- 5.5 Bank reconciliation to the end of June. £120,960.99

6 Public areas in North Claines Parish.

- 6.1 The Brum Recreation ground

- Update on play area restoration. 3 companies have visited to quote for the redevelopment of the Play area and quotes are awaited.
- New play shelter quotes. There was only one shelter quote available (at just under £12K) and the Council approved a new shelter in principle, but more quotes would be preferred. P Connelly from Wychavon to supply more stockists to MF.

- Update on electrical lighting. Lights complete and working, although it is reported that the shelter ones are not functioning.
- Update on the overgrown gardens adjoining The Brum owned by Platform Housing. Platform housing has installed a new fence, and Top Cut is to tidy the related debris.

6.2 Bull Meadow

- Query from RW re strimming the path. The Council noted that Bull Meadow did not need to have a park-like appearance and grass strimmed onto the path did not need removal.
- Discussion on the path re-instatement. AH showed the Council the suggested path matting (used by Hanbury Hall) and will arrange for specialist quotes and specifications for supply and installation by approved suppliers for the Council to consider.
- Final information board update. The final information board, which will be about the history of the field is to be organised and will have the CIL Wychavon logo on.
- New memory bench update. Two new benches (memorial benches) have been purchased and will be installed soon. These were at a cost of £1500 charged to the parishioners.
- Area - bottom left-hand corner. It has become overgrown by willow trees and bramble. A previous quote received in late 2024 by a local tree surgeon - to pollard some of the trees and clear some of the overcrowded ones had been £1,000. Once cleared, this area, which is naturally damp, would be perfect for planting celandines, wild garlic and other appropriate plants. The Council approved this proposal and quotes were awaited.

6.3 Events run by the Parish Council update.

Fun on the Brum - Cllr MF noted that Fun on The Brum was to go ahead on 18th July with the pop-up café, cake etc and many stalls. The inflatables would be supplied and manned by BBC inflatables and there were other events booked as well. The entertainers were all approved by the Council. Cllr AH is to provide a risk assessment and event management plan for the day. Any proceeds from the day are to go to St Richards Hospice and Air ambulance. Cllrs MF and AH to count the donations and will report back to the Council regarding this.

Fernhill Heath in Bloom– MF noted that 24 gardens are to be included in this event and maps will be available. Donations for maps will go towards Bull meadow.

Scarecrow event – Planned for October 2026.

6.4 Opportunity for Councillors to raise matters regarding other open recreation areas in the Parish. Nothing to note.

6.5 Walton Homes area of land at Agatha gardens and the conifer trees - update. The Parish Council note that they are happy to take over the small strip of land on Agatha Gardens that is owned by Walton Homes, but that Walton Homes must attend to the removal or making safe of the conifer trees first as the Council does not wish to cover this initial cost.

7. **Highways, Footpaths and Lighting.**

7.1 Update from Highways/lengthsman Councillor.

- Dilmore lane gap is to be completed in the next few weeks. Concern was raised re the grass verge matching the pavements in the area.

- Bus shelter repair/replacement – please see quote from J Wyton to repair. It was noted that there is a possibility that this bus shelter would have to be moved after the location of a pedestrian crossing arranged (re Lioncourt phase 2 application). The Council agreed that whilst this shelter needed eventual demolition and replacement, that Jamie Wyton should repair the bench and related woodwork and clean graffiti as a temporary measure until further details re location was confirmed.
- 7.2 Lighting problems in the Parish. Nothing reported.
- 7.3 Update from the Councillor re the Parish contractor.
- 7.4 Trees and Hedges update.
 - Tree next to 1 Teasel Drive and LadyBank on Danes Green– update. Clerk has asked J Grove Tree surgeon to visit the trees and assess their safety.
 - Bramble bush on Agatha Gardens. A resident approached the Clerk to ask if they could cut back/remove the brambles and the Clerk has agreed to this.
 - The public footpath on Sling Lane is becoming very overgrown and impassible; the fence is overgrown with brambles and collapsing. The owners have started clearing it but stopped halfway due to the nesting birds act. They are to complete the work in September 2026.

8. Correspondence.

The Council are to raise any matters regarding correspondence as per the correspondence list.

9 Planning

9.1 Planning applications for consideration.

W/26/ 01044/CLPU

Location. 7 Goodwood Close Fernhill Heath WR3 7UZ Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed change of use from dwelling to House of Multiple Occupancy with 6 rental rooms.

North Claines Parish Council has objected to this application as the number of flats will present a parking issue at this location as parking is already very limited. It is suggested that this be a full planning application and not just a CLPU.

Application Number: W/26/01367/OUT

Location: Land At, Station Road, Fernhill Heath

Description of Proposal: An outline planning application for up to 140 new homes with all matters reserved (except for access) on Land at Station Road, Fernhill Heath (the application site).

The Planning Committee will notify the Clerk of their decision on this application.

9.2 Planning applications approved by Wychavon.

W/26/01120/HP and associated Ref: W/25/01129/HP

7A Station Road Fernhill Heath Worcester WR3 7UD

Proposal: Proposed first floor front extension, porch and single storey front

extension, single storey rear extension, installation of render to part of existing and other external alterations. Variation of condition 2.

W/25/01129/HP.

Location: 7A Station Road, Fernhill Heath, Worcester, WR3 7UD

9.3 North Claines neighbourhood plan review update.

The Clerk has registered an expression of interest to Wychavon for the £10k fund available and Dst Cllr NW is to speak to the officer to see if the Council can engage Pete the Planner prior to obtaining the grant.

9.4 Other planning information.

The planning application for Lioncourt (phase 2) has gone quiet.

10 Report from County and District Councillors.

10.1 Report from S James

The anaerobic digester in Court Farm, Hindlip lane was approved, although a permit to operate will still be needed.

SJ noted that River School also available and keen to help on local projects in the community.

10.2 Report from N Wright/D Birch.

It is anticipated that the decision between 2 or 1 centre unitary approach will be agreed at Govt level.

It was noted that Wychavon has their 5-year land supply plus 20% and Wychavon is strongly disputing the "Planning special measures – formal designation" which allows planners to go direct to the planning inspectorate for planning approval.

NW is to speak with a planner re the alternative for a storage container on Bull Meadow.

DB noted the free swimming for certain age groups and car park in Wychavon.

DB to meet with Station Road residents to discuss the 140-house planning proposal.

Patrick Connolly from Wychavon noted that he was available to help in all matters re community engagement including direct assistance with teenagers in the area.

11 Newsletter and social media

The newsletter has gone out and been well received. The next edition will be at the end of September.

12 Councillors additional items for consideration or for matters to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. Nothing to report.

13 Date of the next Parish Council meetings.

7th September 2026 (finance meeting at 6pm prior to this meeting)

5th October 2026

2nd November 2026

7th December 2026

No meeting in January 2027

Actions from July 2026

Red – actions

Blue – updates

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- 6.6 The Brum Recreation ground
- play area restoration. 3 companies quotes are awaited. **MF**
 - New play shelter quotes. There was only one shelter quote available (at just under £12K) and the Council approved a new shelter in principle, but more quotes would be preferred. **P Connolly** from Wychavon to supply more stockists **to MF**.
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 - Final information board update. The final information board, which will be about the history of the field is to be organised and will have the CIL Wychavon logo on. **MF/AH**
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- 6.8 Area - bottom left-hand corner. It has become overgrown by willow trees and bramble. A quote to pollard some of the trees and clear some of the overcrowded ones to be arranged by **CLlr MF**.

7. Highways, Footpaths and Lighting.

Bus shelter – **JW** to mend bench

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DB to meet with Station Road residents to discuss the 140 house planning proposal.

Actions outstanding

- 7 SC in communication with Highways regarding another VAS pole.
VAS new locations BB from WCC has list of possible sites – TBC Clerk emailed BB for update
- 12.1 Parishioner asked for dog bn on Firlands Close at April meeting of NCPC. The Council agreed to this, and MF will visit the area and send a location to the Clerk. To be confirmed
- 15.1 Report from S James
SJ met with MF, SC and B Barnes and discussed the following highways issues around the Parish.
- Overgrown hedges
 - Dilmore Lane – Laurel hedge on highways boundary.
 - Tapenhall Road (at the bottom) “ramp” See reply from BB
 - Siding out on Station Road needs doing and Top Cut is to action this.
 - Potholes outside Hindlip School to be fixed. Highways From February 2026
- 6.6 The Brum Recreation ground
- LEAP money from the Dilmore Lane development (Lioncourt) should be used to replace the play equipment as required. To be followed up.
 - It was also noted that a grant from Severn Trent community fund may Also be available for use for replacement play areas. Clerk to investigate. Awaiting response from RB
 - It was noted that dedication plaques needed to be affixed to the benches on Bull Meadow. Cllr MF to arrange.