

Norton and Lenchwick Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting 3rd September 2026 at 7.30pm

In St.Egwin's Church, Norton.

Clerk to the Council, Wendy Cope 22, Heathfield Road Norton Evesham WR11 4TQ

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Present: Chairman Cllr Jacqui Dance, Cllr Paul Eardsey, Cllr Jasper Sealey-Wade, Cllr John Smale, Cllr Helen Cassidy, Cllr David Holden, Wendy Cope Parish Clerk, David Irons Lengthsman

1) **Not present** Cllr Satinder Bell,

2) **Apologies** Cllr Mark Funnell, Cllr Craig Reeves, Cllr Jessica Arthurs-Pitts

3) **Declaration of Interest** None.

4) **Public Session** one member of The Public attended, she was concerned about a bleed kit being available as there had been lot of broken glass in the bus shelters. Cllr Holden said that he knew the person who was giving these away free, and he would ask him for one, it was agreed that this could then be placed in the telephone kiosk with the defibrillator

5) **The Minutes** from The Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd of July 2026 were duly signed.

6) **District and County Councillors Reports.** Cllr Reeves sent his apologies, Cllr Bell did not attend

7) **Chairman's Report** First of all, I'd like to say I've tried twice to attend my Chair Training, but it's been cancelled on both occasions – so I'm here, ready and eager – but don't really know the full expectations of my role.

I'd like to start by thanking those involved in The Village Hall Committee, who have been working hard to rectify the situation with the wall collapse and getting events back to The Hall asap. Keeping the momentum and communication going is really key so we don't lose our community engagement.

A couple of weeks ago I met with Tanya and Rob, The Rangers for The Worcestershire County Council Nature Reserves in our Parish. We spent time discussing their plan for the land and making communication lines clear so in the future we will understand expectations. Jock's Wood Bench is all being organised so will be in place soon. On

Sunday I'll be leading a walk with The Valley Team, with over 60 people round the reserves and back to The Campsite – a great opportunity to showcase our Parish.

Wendy is showing amazing patience dealing with The Village Hall Land – we have had some issues with overages and covenants, but we are nearly there.

I feel it's time for a Newsletter and a great opportunity for us to advertise Christmas Events, Christmas Tree information and to include a survey for people to share their views on what their needs and wants are as residents of The Parish – some work on this over the coming weeks would be great. Another item to advertise would be The Police Engagement Meeting in February.

It's great to see some new faces on The Parish Council – welcome to you and thank you for your time and input this evening.

8) Field Path Officer Report The Field Path Officer had emailed The Clerk :

In relation to the upkeep of the paths there are no issues to report.

With regard to myself, the time has come for me to step down as a volunteer and let someone a good few years younger than me take it on!! Whilst I have enjoyed the challenge I'm finding it more and more difficult to fit in the time necessary to do the job properly, maybe something to do with five children and nine grandchildren!

I'm happy to do my best up until the end of the year, which hopefully gives you/Worcs.CC time to provide a replacement. I have all the equipment in good condition at my house which I can pass over when the time comes.

Also I have had to replace the trimmer starter recoil mechanism which broke a few weeks back - all working perfectly now - along with some fuel expenses, I just need to dig out the receipts and pass them over to you.

9) Lengthsman's Report David reported that he was now working as normal

10) Finance and Policy The Clerk appraised The Council of The Financial position: Balance of The Account £48,085.42 with £30141.56 being land money. The Clerk told The Council that she had discovered that Unity Bank gave grants for environmental projects, which could be useful in the future once the land had been purchased.

11) Community Outreach Reports Speed watch: Cllr Funnell did not attend, The Bursary no applications.

12) Progress Reports and New Items

- A) Speed limit on the A44 The speed limit has been changed.
- B) Speed limit Evesham Road B4088 is still an ongoing battle, with The Clerk, The Chairman and Cllr Reeves are trying to contact higher authorities. The Clerk reported that the grant application for a Vas machine had been turned down.
- C) The benches have now all been renovated.
- D) The Clerk reported that after initially saying that there wasn't an overage on The Land, Smith Wadley the sellers have now decided that should any houses be built, they would require an overage of £10,000 per unit. The Council concluded that this presented a problem because if houses were ever built on The Land they would be affordable homes i.e. they would be sold at 30% discount to people with a local connection. The Council decided to tell Smith Wadley that paying this premium wasn't an option especially as this would affect the value of The Land i.e. the price of £200,000 was already above the market value.
- E) Jock's Legacy Bench is being made by the rangers and will be installed ASAP.
- F) Ashmore's Farm nothing new as yet on planning.
- G) Harvington Lane Development nothing to report.
- H) Replacement Concrete Columns for £7500 for street lighting on hold.
- I) Footpath at Chadbury Cllr Bell did not attend.
- J) Responsibility for website, Cllr John Smale will take this over, after some training.
- K) The Clerk reported that the planter on Heathfield Road, had been damaged, a new one will cost £245+ Vat and £60+Vat The Council agreed to replace it.

13) **Correspondence received** No correspondence

14) **Planning** The Heath Evesham Road passed

15) **Invoices** to be approved as attached

16) **Date of next meeting** Thursday 5th November 2026

17) Meeting concluded at 9pm

Wendy Cope Clerk to The Parish of Norton and Lenchwick