

Beckford Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th
September 2025 in Beckford Village Hall

Present

Alison Cort (Chair), Anne Worrall (Vice Chair), Jo Bell, Pam Bailey, Diane Colvin, Robert McCarthy and Dieter Cottrell.

In Attendance

David Roscoe (Parish Clerk, online) and Councillors A Hardman and B Hardman.

2072 Apologies for absence.

2072.1 No apologies were received.

2073 Declarations of interest.

2073.1 None Declared.

2074 Requests for Dispensation.

2074.1 None submitted.

2075 Minutes.

2075.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st July 2025 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

2076 County Councillor's Report

2076.1 Councillor A Hardman distributed his report (see below).

2077 District Councillor's Report

2077.1 Councillor B Hardman gave her report including the impact of unitary authorities, the role of mayors, and the challenges in planning and decision-making processes, including delays due to the need for additional information and the cautious approach of planning officers post-COVID. The discussion highlighted the slow progress in planning applications, the influence of national policies on local decisions, and the potential impact of the WDPR on current planning considerations.

2077.2 No decisions were required of the Parish Council.

2078 Clerk's Report

2078.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and updated.

2079 Finance

2079.1 The Financial Statement had been circulated by the Clerk and was approved. Proposed Councillor Cottrell, seconded Councillor McCarthy. Unanimous.

2079.2 The Bank Reconciliation & Receipts & payments information had been circulated by David Roscoe (RFO) and were accepted.

2055.3 **It was resolved that** the following payments be approved. Proposed Councillor Cottrell, seconded Councillor Worrall. Unanimous.

Date	Payee	Chq No	Amount incl VAT	VAT	Reason
22/05/2025	BCVH (2025-062)	OB517	28.00	0.00	Hall Hire
25/07/2025	BCVH (2025-068)	OB518	14.00	0.00	Hall Hire
25/07/2025	D Roscoe (NI Back Reimbursement)	DD	95.12	0.00	Employer NI reimbursement
12/08/2025	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	624.55	0.00	Clerks Salary
04/08/2025	MW Property & Garden Maintenance 050-2025	OB519	64.00	0.00	Speed Signs
04/08/2025	MW Property & Garden Maintenance 048-2025	OB520	239.00	0.00	Grass Cutting

04/08/2025	MW Property & Garden Maintenance 047-2025	OB521	249.00	0.00	Lengthsman
04/08/2025	D Roscoe (BackPay)	DD	92.96	0.00	Backpay
05/08/2025	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd (Inspection)	OB522	396.00	66.00	Playground Inspection
20/08/2025	D Roscoe (Contrib towards PC)	OB523	133.00	0.00	Contribution towards replacement PC
26/08/2025	MW Property & Garden Maintenance 050-2025	OB524	64.00	0.00	Speed Signs
26/08/2025	MW Property & Garden Maintenance 047-2025	OB525	64.00	0.00	Grass Cutting
26/08/2025	MW Property & Garden Maintenance 048-2025	OB526	53.00	0.00	Lengthsman
12/09/2025	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	624.55	0.00	Clerks Salary
01/09/2025	MW Property & Garden Maintenance 046-2025	OB527	48.00	0.00	Playground Maintenance

2079.4 The Clerks Expenses were reviewed and approved. Proposed Councillor McCarthy, seconded Councillor Worrell. Unanimous.

2079.5 The budget for 2025/26 was reviewed and approved.

2079.6 **It was resolved that** Councillor Cottrell be appointed as an additional bank signatory. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor McCarthy. Unanimous.

2079.7 **It was resolved that** the Chairman's Allowance of £100 be paid to Councillor Cort. Proposed Councillor McCarthy, seconded Councillor Worrell. Unanimous.

2080 Planning

2080.1 The following applications were considered.

Appl. Number	Application	Details	Result
W/25/01282/FUL	Middle Farm Grafton Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AT	Conversion of a redundant agricultural building to a holiday let with no extensions/demolishment	No comments made
W/25/01281/LB	Middle Farm Grafton Beckford Tewkesbury GL20 7AT	Conversion of a redundant agricultural building to a holiday let with no extensions/demolishment	No comments made

2081 To discuss resumption of the Neighbourhood Plan

2081.1 Councillor Cort reported that she had put out an appeal in the newsletter for an expressions of interest in pursuing a Neighbourhood Plan.

2082 To Review the Risk Register including Little Beckford Playground.

2082.1 No Issues reported from Little Beckford or Beckford,

2082.2 Councillor Cort confirmed that she had produced reports on the playground itself and circulated to Council members. A quote has been requested from Wicksteeds to do some repair work on the playground. Currently still awaiting a response.

2082.3 Bus shelter and bench seem fine and Councillor McCarthy Robert confirmed there were no issues in the areas of Beckford.

2083 To discuss location and access to sandbags and other PC assets at The Green in Little Beckford.

2083.1 Following Investigations with Highways and Wychavon, The conclusion was that nobody owns the entire strip round that edge of the green that covers the bus shelter, the bench, the parish notice boards.

2083.2 Claiming adverse possession was not an option as it was also being used to house a post box (Royal Mail) and general rubbish bin (Wychavon).

2083.3 **However it was agreed that** it would probably be okay to just put two sandbag bins at that location.

2083.4 It was agreed that Councillor Colvin would consult with Barry Barnes to request information about the appropriate bins.

2083.5 **It was resolved that** a budget of £1000 in principle be allocated to the purchase of bins. Proposed Jo Bell seconded Pam Bailey. Unanimous.

2084 To discuss the speed camera system.

2084.1 The Speedwatch camera system Information was circulated to members of the Parish Council.

- 2084.2 It's currently an initiative really only being promoted by Gloucestershire and the Gloucestershire police. This. They will look at a location to put up the speed watch system and the cameras, and they'll receive data from it so that they can write to offenders, the top 10 defenders on a regular basis. However, this initiative currently isn't working in Worcestershire.
- 2084.3 It was therefore agreed that due to the fact that resources would have to administer it, it may upset residents, it was not legally enforceable and the system was expensive, this project would be deferred.
- 2085 To discuss progress with supporting the SafeAvon initiative.**
- 2085.1 Councillor Worrall confirmed that she was still carrying out testing every week but there had been no improvements.
- 2085.2 It was agreed that this would no longer be an agenda item unless issues arose.
- 2086 To consider update to the "Quiet Lane" proposal for Court Farm Lane. 2008.1 A Hardman confirmed that the use of "Quiet Lane" was not official County policy and could therefore not be used. He did confirm that they would be reinforcing signage along Court Farm Lane.**
- 2086.1 Councillor A Hardman confirmed that Quiet Lane signage is not available for Court Farm Lane under WCC policy but he will ask Barry Barnes to come out and see what could be done. Ongoing
- 2087 To provide update regarding the erection of a deer sign on the Ashton Rd. (Councillor Hardman)**
- 2087.1 Councillor A Hardman confirmed that this issue was ongoing.
- 2088 To consider applications to the Rural Fund.**
- 2088.1 If the change to unitary authorities is made, The Rural Fund is unlikely to be around for much longer and the Chairman recommended that we should, if possible, be trying to think of anything that we can do that might qualify for next year's round, so that we are ready to put in an application, but also encouraging other entities who might be interested in doing so as well.
- 2088.2 The Chairman confirmed that she had submitted a grant application for the defibrillator and cabinets which we can apply as a parish council for up to 70% on a match funding basis. The deadline for this year's round ended 15/9/25 for the full applications which has been submitted in time.
- 2089 1To discuss repairs to the fence for the rented field in LB.**
- 2089.1 It was agreed that attempts will be made to obtain 3 quotations to repair the fencing but we need two separate quotes to do the two jobs, one for the playground fencing and one for the fencing next to the field. The cost of the latter would have to come out of S137 budget whereas the repairs to the playground fence was within statutory powers.
- 2089.2 **It was resolved that** a provisional budget of £1,000 be agreed for the field fence section replacement. Regarding the playground fencing, quotes supplied by contractors would identify the work that was required. Proposed Councillor Colvin, seconded Councillor McCarthy. Unanimous.
- 2089.3 Councillors to provide names of the three suggested contractors to undertake the work.
- 2090 To provide update regarding the defibrillators catastrophic bleed kit.**
- 2090.1 Councillor Cort has submitted an application to the Rural Fund and is awaiting their response.
- 2091 To discuss PR (including newsletter distribution)**
- 2091.1 Deferred until the next meeting.
- 2092 To discuss the Newsletter.**
- 2092.1 Councillor Cort requested that any entries for the newsletter be forwarded to her.
- 2092.2 It was noted that only 16 "hits" had been made to the Newsletter page of the website.
- 2093 To discuss Councillor vacancy.**
- 2093.1 The vacancy would continue be advertised on the noticeboards, the website and included in the newsletter.

The meeting closed at 9 pm
The date of the next meeting 17th November 2025 at 7:00 PM. This will also be a Budget Meeting.



Worcestershire County Report

Adrian Hardman

15/09/25

Just a brief report from me, which will deal with a few items! I am surprised that the Government Pensions Bill and its effect on Local Government is taking up so much time.

Reform. The County Council continues to be run by a minority administration and to be honest I'm slightly puzzled as to just exactly what Reform up are to. The leader seems to wait for instructions from on high before making a decision. We saw this over the issue of flags where her cabinet member took a different position from her eventual position which was; on the grounds of Rd safety he was against, she, on the grounds of national identity is in favour. We have seen this in the change of deputy leader which I understand was an argument over pay and rations over a paid post on Local Government Association board. I point out he gives up £500 for not being Deputy Leader but remains on the Cabinet. But the real problems in their group but lie under the surface.

Budget pressures. I am disappointed that reform has not done anything on the revenue budget so far because if I had taken control I would have been doing everything I could to try and get the overspend they inherited under control. This would have meant some very difficult decisions over, road maintenance, buses, economic development, libraries, and a retreat to our core statutory services. The people of Worcestershire did not expect the state to solve all their problems, but post C19 this has changed. The prevention agenda in partnership with health is the way forward. Reform have been making a great song and dance about the debt but being able to point to some rather ill-judged capital spend in the last Council in building footbridges but the majority of this debt has been built up for long term infrastructure projects such as the waste to energy plant, road building and building new schools. Looking at it in a national picture we are actually £500 per head under the national average for debt, but it interacts with the revenue budget at the time of rising PWLB interest rates. I agree with their approach. Real pressure is what are they going to do about the revenue budget. I see no answers whatsoever from Reform and hence the officers spending as they want! I'm certain with governments review of funding; the County will be losing £12 million of funding that we currently spend in social care because the government will expect us to up the Council tax and so it's back to John Prescott's resource equalisation agenda. Rich Tory shires pay up.

Reform of local government. Reform at the County Council are seeing this very clearly through a political lens. This will pose some issues since some of our group are still wedded to the savings that we could make from One big Unitary. Reform has clearly split on the issue where some think it would be in the political advantage to have two smaller units because they would run the northern one and they are less certain of that position in the South. We have a meeting to discuss this on Monday night which is where I am; but since this is a decision of the governments I struggle to see our role, and I am told the lines on the map are drawn, just for the record I favour a smaller two Unitary model, Clearly a developing issue.

Locally. I am pleased we have been able to sort a few road issues, but I am worried about the number of trees which are falling due to the drought. The work in Back Lane and the signs for the deer are in the system. I have talked to Barry about the white lining and hope it gets done soon. I still have to sort out the back lane verges with your clerk!

Basically if you want further details or amusing anecdotes call me.

Adrian