**WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON CALC**

**Minutes of the AGM and Quarterly Meeting of the Wychavon Area of the Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils held via Zoom conferencing on Tuesday 30th June 2026.**

**Present:-** Cllr Margaret Rowley (Tibberton Parish Council); Cllr Ian Graham (Offenham Parish Council), Cllr Julie Tucker (Evesham Town Council); Cllr Gillian Smith (Harvington Parish Council); Cllr Judith Mellor (Honeybourne PC); Wendy Cope (Norton, Lenchwick & Charlton PC); Cllr Matt Jones (Evesham Town Council); Cllr Graham Boocock (Bishampton & Throckmorton PC); Cllr Robbie Hazelhurst (Tibberton PC); Sue Morris (Sedgeberrow PC); Linda Stanton (Honeybourne PC); Cllr John Clatworthy (Evesham Town Council); Cllr Sue Howarth (Dodderhill PC); Cllr Judy Goodman (Ombersley PC); Tom Peach; Sam Faulkner (Norton-Juxta-Kempsey PC); Nicolas Wright (Elmbridge PC).

I**n Attendance:-** Christopher Wayman, Chief Executive Officer, Worcestershire CALC; Kaye Angus, Wychavon Area Clerk; Andrew Ford, Wychavon Planning Officer; Wendy Trimble, Wychavon Planning Officer.

1. **Apologies**
   Apologies were received from Cllr Ruth Dawson-Jones (Crowle Parish Council).

2. **Speakers & Presentation: Andrew Ford, Principal Planning Officer and Wendy Trimble, Planning Officer, (Policy) Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils.**
   Andrew Ford gave a comprehensive presentation to members on the SWDPR 2021-2041. The Inspector's final report was received in early March 2026 and was adopted by the three Local Planning Authorities on 26 March 2026. The new Local Plan now has full weight and provides a 5 year housing land supply and the 5 year housing land supply figure has been updated for July 2026. The Plan delivers 18,852 dwellings and 313 ha of employment land over the plan period. There are three strategic sites - Wychavon Town, Rushwick and Milton with Throckmorton discounted currently. There were housing allocations at Worcester, the main towns and Category 1-2 villages and policies to make decisions on planning applications and deliver infrastructure. Community Infrastructure Levy charges have been increased with a mechanism in place to bid for funds to support community projects.

   Andrew Ford continued his presentation by explaining that Neighbourhood Plans that are already adopted still have weight but now have the opportunity to review

with the new SWDPR in place. Council grants of up to £10,000 are available to support new Neighbourhood Plans or review existing plans.

The Government plans to introduce a new plan making system aimed to speed up the delivery of housing and other development. The three South Worcestershire Councils will begin work on the 30 month process this summer. There will be an inspection process but it will have a 'light touch' approach and last only 4-5 weeks.

There will also be a new National Planning Policy Framework introduced this summer. New local plans will be expected to contain fewer topic based plans and follow the NPPF.

There followed a Question and Answer Session.

Gillian Smith questioned the consequences of the special measures imposed on the Council because of the 0.7% miss on target for refusal at planning appeals. She wanted to know if the inspectorate would honour the boundary of the villages. Andrew said they would look at the local plan and will make decisions based on the policies. The Council is appealing against the Special Measures which will be due for a review in March 2027.

Ian Graham from Offenham said they had three allocated sites and wanted to know if more development was going to be added as they needed to be sure that the neighbourhood plan is aligned with the SWDP Plan. Andrew Ford explained that the new local plan will include a call for sites.

Christopher Wayman posed the question that if central government came back with a single unitary, how would Andrew see the timetable changing? The response was that if Worcestershire is a single authority after 2029 it would work on a new Worcestershire wide plan that would be adopted in the early part of the next decade.

Graham Boocock asked if the slides could be distributed and this was agreed.

Margaret Rowley thanked both Andrew and Wendy for a very valuable and informative presentation.

3. **AGM**
    a. **Election of Chairman**

    Robbie Hazelhurst proposed Margaret Rowley as Chairman and this was seconded by Christopher Wayman. There were no further nominations and Margaret Rowley will continue as Chairman .

    b. **Election of Vice Chairman**

Margaret Rowley proposed Ruth Dawson-Jones as Vice Chairman and this was seconded by Robbie Hazelhurst and agreed.

**c. Appointments to Worcestershire CALC Exec: Three representatives:-**

The following appointments were agreed:-

Margaret Rowley
Robbie Hazelhurst

4. T**o Consider the Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 26 March 2026.**

   The minutes were approved and it was agreed that Christopher Wayman would re-circulate both the minutes and the slides.

5. **Matters Arising**

   There were no matters arising

6. **Report from Worcestershire CALC**

   Christopher Wayman advised the members that a decision was still to be made regarding local government reorganisation but hopefully it will be resolved before the summer recess.

   He advised that on the 15th September CALC would be holding a meeting at Worcestershire Cricket Club on Local Government Reorganisation.

   He also advised that NALC would be attending and that the County Council and District Council CEOs and committed to attend and would be looking at how to engage with your Unitary Councillor and how it would affect parishes at all levels.

   Christopher advised that he had been meeting with Worcester City Council regarding becoming a Parish Council to be set up for May next year. He advised that they are currently looking at different parish options.

7. **Items For Discussion at Future Meetings**

   It was agreed that a talk by Severn Trent Water would be extremely useful.

   Margaret Rowley would pursue this.

8. **Dates of Future Meetings**

   To be arranged.