



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025, in the Old School Hall at 7pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (Chair), N Bess, M Callaghan, J Gibbins, B Hancy, G Madle, S Philips,
D Starmer, C Wallace, C Wilkinson

Also present – S Willis (Clerk), WNC Cllr Brown (part) and 5 members of public

Meeting start: 7pm

329/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies received and accepted for Cllrs Roberts.

330/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllrs Starmer and Smethers as trustees of playing field.

331/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2 members of the public present from the Scarecrow festival committee to update council on the figures from 2024 and the plans for 2025. Overall 14 charities received a share of £27,000 from last years profits. In 2025 the festival will be slightly earlier (30 / 31 Aug) and will be centred around the playing field with route along main roads for scarecrows.

332/24 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Brown was not yet present so it was agreed to move this to later in the meeting when he arrived.

333/24 COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of Parish council meeting 13th January 2025 were **APPROVED** and signed.

334/24 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee held on 27th January and 24th February and the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee held 3rd February and 3rd March 2025 were received.

335/24 QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN RELATING TO RECEIVED MINUTES

Planning, Highways and Infrastructure – A question was asked about the location of land that Harpole Charities had offered for new burial land. This was confirmed, clerk awaiting information regarding a survey to assess suitability.

Strategy, Finance and Policy – It was confirmed that as far as we are aware the Sandy Lane Relief Road is being constructed and is on target.

336/24 CLIMATE SUMMIT

Cllr Callaghan had attended the summit being run by Northampton Town Council. Parish Councils should raise the profile of Climate Change and be a source of information and education. The council should be looking to raise awareness, but a strategy on how and what is needed. To be added to PHI Committee agenda for further discussion.

Cllr Adam Brown joined the meeting during the above discussion.

337/24 REPORT FROM UNITARY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Brown gave West Northants Council update. Annual budget has been approved and council tax demands are on their way. WNC is aware of changes to the planning system that could impact what applications go to committee. Final government guidance is being awaited. SLRR is on target to complete in May. There have been some queries about the need for bus stops being closed and the length of A4500 closure which are being discussed. Several new policies have been adopted including the Transport Plan, Climate Change Strategy and Economic Growth Strategy.

Cllr Brown was asked about connectivity of the new developments to the village as new residents are walking on the road. He offered to come and take a look to see what help he can offer.

A question was asked about devolution. Currently WNC is part of a Midlands group, 2 of which did not want Northamptonshire to be part of a mayoral ward. MPs are involved to move this forward for future discussions.

Cllr Brown leaves.

274/24 PLAYING FIELDS

The Charity Commission had come back to our solicitors suggesting that the Council should take on the role of sole trustee of the playing fields charity rather than taking on the assets. Cllr Wallace had done a lot of research and believed that the council could still take the original route of the charity dissolving and passing assets, but there is a set process that needs to be followed. Meeting to be set up with PC and Playing Fields Association to discuss this process and how to move forward.

1 Member of the public leaves.

338/24 BOWLS CLUB LEASE

First draft of lease had been received. Council proposed that this is passed to the Bowls club for comment, giving them 28 days to reply.

339/24 INTERNAL CONTROLLER

With Cllr Hancy being added to the bank mandate, he is no longer able to be the internal controller. It was proposed that this is added to the May agenda for after the election, but Cllr Gibbins offered to be a temporary internal controller to sign off final quarter of 2024/25 before the audit.

340/24 ELECTIONS

Clerk advised that Parish Council elections take place on 1st May. Nominations open 17th March and closed 2nd April. Forms will need to be submitted in person at WNC offices at set times.

341/24 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

It was asked that 20mph zone and Christmas tree is kept on agendas.

Meeting closed 8.45pm
Signed

Date