

HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

<http://www.harpole-pc.gov.uk>

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

All members of the Council are summoned to attend the Meeting of Harpole Parish Council at Harpole Methodist Chapel, School Lane, Harpole on **Monday 14th July 2025 at 7pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

Signed:

Sally Willis

Clerk & Proper Officer to Harpole Parish Council

Date: 4th July 2025

AGENDA

82/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

83/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Councillors are reminded that if they have either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other interest in any of the agenda items then they should declare that interest and withdraw from the debate or the meeting as appropriate.

84/25 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

To welcome the Unitary Councillor(s) to the meeting and provide an opportunity for them to update members and residents on matters of interest.

85/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are invited to address the Council. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with contributions lasting a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public should address their representations through the chairman of the meeting.

86/25 COUNCIL MINUTES

To receive and approve the minutes of Council Meeting dated Monday 12th May 2025 and Extraordinary Meeting of 25th June 2025

87/25 COMMITTEE MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee held on 27th May and 30th June, the and Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee held on 2nd June and Staffing Committee held on 3rd July.

88/25 QUESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN RELATING TO RECEIVED MINUTES

89/25 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) To consider and approve the Business Plan for 2025 – 2029
- b) To receive and approve recommendations from the staffing committee

HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

90/25 FINANCES

- a) To approve payments for July
- b) To receive budget summary to end of June
- c) To consider chairs allowance
- d) To consider and approve change of mandate for CCLA bank account

91/25 PLANNING

To consider a response to the following planning applications:

- a) [2025/2236/MAR](#) - Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale) for 233 residential dwellings, associated infrastructure and landscaping at Phase 2A, Land at Norwood Farm, Sandy Lane, Harpole, pursuant to Hybrid Planning Permission S/2016/1324/EIA
- b) [2025/2249/FULL](#) – Part demolition of existing wall and outbuilding and provision of new entrance to the land – land adjacent to 9a Upper High Street

92/25 CONSULTATION

To consider a response to West Northamptonshire Council consultation on Draft Statement of Community Involvement (CSI) for WNC planning Service

93/25 LETTER OF SUPPORT

Harpole Baptist Church are asking for a letter of support with regards to the sale of the manse.

94/25 BOWLS CLUB LEASE

To consider solicitor response to request regarding adding of Parish Council office and to approve response

95/25 CLIMATE AND NATURE CHAMPION SCHEME

To consider and appoint a Climate & Nature Champion to represent the council in matters relating to the climate, nature, and the environment via NCALC scheme

96/25 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday 8th September 2025 at 7pm



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd May, in the Old School Hall at 7pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (Chair), N Bess, K Gardner, J Gibbins, B Hancy, D Starmer, C Wilkinson

Also present – S Willis (Clerk), WNC Cllr Adam Brown and 5 Members of Public.

Meeting start: 7pm

1/24 ELECT CHAIRMAN FOR 2024/25

It was approved that Cllr Smethers is chairman for the year. Cllr Gibbins abstained.

2/24 ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2024/25

It was approved that Cllr Starmer is Vice Chairman for the year. Cllr Gibbins abstained.

3/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S Roberts and G Madle
Cllrs G Orr and M Orr were absent. The absence was not approved.

4/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Re 12/14 Cllr Smethers is being nominated as trustee to Combined Harpole Charitable Trust

5/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public wished to speak.

6/24 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Brown believes that all is still on track for the Sandy Lane Relief Road to be completed in its entirety by the end of the year and the link road back to Sandy Lane should be completed in the next few weeks. He will keep us updated if this changes. Chairman asked if the “warts and all” analysis of the issues with SLRR is shared with the parish council.

The Childrens Trust has started to stabilise financially which helps the finances of the rest of the council.

There is significant capital investment in Highways and locally Junction 16 roundabout and the A4500 are on the works list. He was asked if West Northants received any funds from HS2 fund. They were advised they would, but numbers and dates had not been mentioned and was subject to a spending review at government. We now await the result of the election in July to see if this will still happen.

Grants for voluntary organisations has been relaunched.

As Leader, Cllr Brown has made some changes to cabinet.

He was asked about building on proposed site at top of Road Hill before SLRR is complete. This application has not yet got a committee date so it is not known when permission will be given.

If SLRR is on time for end of year it is unlikely that there will be houses occupied before then.

Other members of the public expressed concern about reports in the application, specifically

on wildlife and roads. There are statutory consultees that will give their professional opinion of the reports.

7/24 COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of annual parish council meeting 11th March 2024 were **APPROVED** and signed.

8/24 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee held on Monday 25th March and Monday 29th April and the and Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee held on Tuesday 2nd April and Tuesday 7th May were received.

9/24 QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN RELATING TO RECEIVED MINUTES

It was noted that the new fence has been installed at the allotments and seems to have been well received. Locks still need to be attached to prevent loss.
There were no questions for Strategy Finance and Strategy.

Cllr Brown Leaves.

10/24 PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

List of councillor attendance at meetings had been circulated. Cllr Gibbins questioned one meeting, clerk to check.

A councillor disqualifies him/herself when not attending for 6 months, however it does need noting in minutes that the absence has not been approved. It was noted that councillors whose attendance is low should be approached to see if they still want to be on the council.

11/24 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- a) Strategy, Finance and Policy – Cllrs Bess, Gardner, Gibbins, Hancy, Smethers, Starmer, Wilkinson
Planning Highways and Infrastructure – Cllrs Bess, Gardner, Gibbins, Smethers, Wilkinson
Membership approved as above.
Clerk to follow up with councillors not present this evening.
- b) Terms of Reference has been circulated and was approved unchanged.

12/24 MEMBERSHIP OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Frank Smethers 4 year term of office with Combined Harpole Charitable Trust ends this year and council approved for him to take another 4 year term.

Other memberships confirmed as follows:

Old School Hall – Cllrs Gibbins and Wilkinson

Playing Fields Association – Cllrs Smethers and Starmer

Scarecrow Festival – Cllr Smethers

Allotment Association – Cllr Gibbins

13/24 POLICIES

- a) Standing orders were approved unchanged.
- b) Financial regulations have recently been updated and new version was approved with limits same as before.

- c) There was a query over Bowls club, but the building belongs to the club and the land is under the allotment land allocation. Location of Bus stop needs amending. Asset Register approved.

14/24 MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE

It was approved that the contract be awarded to Paul Thomas. Councillors to advise works that need completing. To be reviewed after 6 months.

15/24 PLANNING EXECUTIVE

Planning Executive left the council last month after being on a retainer for most of last year. It was approved that a £100 Amazon voucher and flowers be sent as a token of appreciation. Cllr Gibbins objected.

16/24 AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

- a) Section 1 of the External Audit – governance review – was read out and it was approved that the council could say yes to all statements. Chair and Clerk signed.
- b) Section 2 of the External Audit – Financial Statement – was tabled and approved. Chair signed.
- c) Internal Audit report was good. The only improvement suggested was that the internal control officer should report to the appropriate meeting following the review. This will be done this year.

17/24 INTERNAL CONTROL OFFICER

Previous internal control officer left the council recently. It was approved that Cllr Hancy is new Internal Control Officer.

18/24 CO-OPTION

Following advertisement of vacancies Stephen Phillips introduced himself and his interest in joining the council. It was approved that Stephen Phillips be co-opted to the council.

19/24 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

There were no known items for the next agenda.

Meeting closed 8.20pm

Signed

Date



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 20th June, in the Old School Hall at 7pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (Chair), N Bess, K Gardner, J Gibbins, B Hancy, G Madle, S Phillips, D Starmer, C Wilkinson

Also present – S Willis (Clerk), 3 Members of Public.

Meeting start: 7pm

50/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Orr
Cllrs M Orr and S Roberts were absent. The absence was not approved.

51/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Re 53/14 Cllr Smethers and Cllr Starmer advised they are members of the Playing Field Committee.

52/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Vice Chairman of Playing Fields Committee was present when some contractors visited the site and he felt they were all very professional. He suggests that entrances to the car park need goal post barriers to prevent unwanted vehicles on site.
Another member of the public was also a playing fields committee member who had pulled the initial scope together and was happy to answer any technical questions.

53/24 CAR PARK AT PLAYING FIELDS

Specification had been added to Contract Finder for an extension to the Playing Fields Car Park. 16 companies had responded with a quotation. Clerk had summarised the submissions and Cllr Hancy had added a weighting to rank the submissions. Thanks were given to Cllr Hancy for this work.
Quotations had been more than initial budget, but the council felt this was needed for the village and that the project should go ahead, and if possible during the school summer holidays to reduce disruption to the school drop off / pick up times.
Some companies had met with the council and had suggested tarmac as an alternative to the grid system in specification. There was a discussion about which surface the council would prefer.
It was agreed that it was not just about price but the right company for the work. It was also noted that there may be extra costs as ground may need testing before being taken away. There may also be options for cost savings if we do not need to remove all the top soil off site. It was agreed that tarmac would be preferred if price is not much different. As only a couple had given a tarmac price it was proposed that the clerk contact the others asking if they wanted to quote for tarmac pricing giving a deadline to allow the quotes to be considered at the next full council meeting.

Meeting closed 8.15pm
Signed

Date



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 3rd July 2025, in the Parish Council Office, Larkhall Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (chair), N Bess, J Gibbins, B Hancy

Also present – Clerk

Meeting Start: 7pm

77/25 TO ELECT CHAIRMAN FOR 2025/26

It was agreed that Cllr Smethers be the chairman of the committee

78/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and approved for Cllr Roberts

79/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

None to declare

80/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present

81/25 STAFFING NEEDS

Councillors and clerk discussed potential need for more staffing at the council. Budget has been put in place for this year to allow recruitment.

It was agreed that there would need to be an advisor / short term contract role to monitor the build of the new pavilion and to ensure that the building is fit for purpose when handed over. This could be someone from the village with the relevant expertise on an as needed basis during the project.

There was a discussion regarding office administration help with the clerk advising of regular tasks that could be passed to someone such as finance, allotments, chasing of suppliers and communications. This would free up time for projects. It was proposed that this could potentially be covered by an apprenticeship position. Cllr Smethers agreed to follow up with NCALC for any advice on the subject.

These 2 items to be recommended to Full Council.

It was also noted that the Parish Maintenance role should be reviewed to ensure that hours are appropriate and to see if there are other items that could be included in the specification. Clerk to meet with the contractor.

Meeting closed 8.10pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

It was agreed the committee should meet quarterly, next date to be confirmed.

Signed



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 27th May 2025, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (chair), N Bess, M Callaghan, K Gardner (Part), J Gibbins (part), S Philips, G Taylor

Also present – Clerk, 6 Members of the public

Meeting Start: 7pm

As chair and vice chair were not present, councillors voted for Cllr Smethers to chair this meeting.

21/25 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR 2025/26

Cllr Gardner was elected Chairman in her absence.

22/25 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2025/26

Cllr Bess was elected Vice Chairman.

23/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr Gardner had sent apologies and they were approved.

24/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were no declarations of interest

25/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1 member of public wanting to input into item 31/25 as resident near barriers. He doesn't feel it is safe to remove them and a more permanent solution is needed. He advised of a Road Safety community fund that is available.

Another member of public is interested in item 37/25. She thought a big problem with the bridge was the Heygates lorries and wondered if there was an alternative for them. Another member of the public wanted communication on the football pitches and Country park that will become part of the parish as part of the new development. She asked if there had been a consultation. There are some things that are set in planning but other things will be communicated as we know more.

Cllr Gibbins Joins the meeting.

There have been plans at public meetings and minutes are published on the website. There was a discussion about the definition and location of the country park. There has been much discussion in the village about an all weather pitch, a lot of this is hearsay and the parish council have not made any agreements with anyone about this. Cllr Gardner joins the meeting.

There will be ample opportunity for feedback on any plans.



2 members of the public leave.

26/25 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of Planning, Highways & Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 28th April 2025.

27/25 CO-OPTION OF NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBER

Clement Nnadozie had expressed an interest in joining the committee. Although he was not present it was resolved to co-opt him as an advisory member of the committee.

28/25 PLANNING

Committee considered planning application 2025/1713/FULL – Dormer to rear and single storey rear extension, solar panels and roof lights to front elevation together with minor internal changes – 33 South View. There were no objections to the application.

29/25 EMERGENCY PLANNING

There is no update on the outlet points on the river mentioned at the last meeting. Clerk to chase West Northants emergency planning officer for a meeting. Another meeting of the group is needed. Clerk to arrange. There was a discussion about the blocked drain on the playing fields. It was thought that this had been fixed but Cllr Smethers will check with trustees at next meeting.

30/25 STREET LIGHTING

Clerk to obtain quotes for another post at dark spot on Northampton Road. Light on A4500 that had been knocked down has been replaced. It was thought the light on School Lane was no longer leaning. Clerk to check. There has been no complaints about the dark spot near The Bull and location is difficult due to land ownership. The contractor that had installed the new lighting in the village and there was a warranty with has gone into administration. Another contractor will need to be found for any further works. It was noted that it is dark at the entrance to Western Gate on Sandy Lane. It is thought that there will be lighting added as part of the S278 works here.

Member of the public leaves.

31/25 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a) A walkability survey had been drafted and was discussed. It was thought that is needed to be amended to give more information that could be used. Street name or postcode to be added and scale of agreement rather than yes / no. The survey needs to show why we are seeking the views of the public. Cllr Gardner to redesign the form.
- b) Plastic barriers on Upper High Street and Garners Way were a temporary solution to a problem that was caused by extra cars in the village when Sandy Lane was closed. They have been there for 2 years and need a more permanent solution. This may be barriers like outside the school or bollards. Whilst this is an area that has issues there are similar issues throughout the village where the road has been resurfaced meaning there is not much of a kerb.



Clerk to Contact Highways to see options available but to also investigate a transportation survey.

There was also the suggestion of Speedwatch. Clerk to investigate.

- c) Clerk to update new unitary councillors on concerns on Larkhall Lane.
Clerk to chase updated speed signs on Sandy Lane.

Member of the public leaves.

32/25 ALLOTMENTS

- a) Tenants are concerned that non plotholders are accessing the allotments down the side of the gates. Clerk to contact contractor for a quote to have fencing into the hedges.
- b) Clerk had asked the contractor to cut back the brambles as residents on Carrs Lane had complained they were growing over their fences. Clerk had been waiting for a quotation for the work and had not given the go ahead for a full cut back. This was discussed in the meeting and it was thought that a full cut back was not a bad thing. Clerk to pay for the works but to remind the contractor that all extra works will need a Purchase order in future.
- c) Clerk advised of a tenant that has just taken on a plot that has a shed full of car parts. It was agreed this has been there for years. If tenant can move rubbish to location near entrance a skip will be arranged.

It was now past 9pm. It was agreed to continue the meeting.

33/25 STREET FURNITURE

- a) 2 Quotes had been received for a new flagpole. One was based in Northamptonshire and the other not. Committee was reminded that the Scarecrow group wanted to make a donation to a refurbished flagpole. It was resolved to accept quote of Northamptonshire company with full price pole rather than reduced price seconds pole offered.
- b) No further updates.

34/25 CHURCH

- a) No updates on burial ground.
- b) 2 quotations had been received for cleaning of the war memorial. It was resolved to accept the cheaper quote. Clerk to obtain insurance details before work starts.
- c) It was resolved to pay half the price for scaffolding and security costs related to works on the clock and tower.

Cllr Philips Leaves

35/25 CHRISTMAS TREE

It was agreed to move this to the next agenda for discussion.

36/25 CLIMATE CHANGE

It was agreed to move this to the next agenda for discussion.



37/25 CORRESPONDENCE

Communication received about safety of Kislingbury Bridge and space for passing cars. It was proposed that the clerk ask Highways for options and for a discussion to be opened with Kislingbury PC.

38/25 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

No further items to add above those moved from this agenda.

Meeting closed 9.25pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th June at 7pm

Signed



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2025, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs S Roberts (Chair), K Gardner, B Hancy, G Madle, F Smethers, D Starmer,
Also present – S Willis (Clerk), Cllr M Callaghan, Paul Thomas (Clerk to Harlestone PC and Harlestone Manor PC), Caroline Holgate (Cllr at Harlestone Manor PC) and Clement Nnadozie

Meeting Start: 7pm

39/25 TO ELECT CHAIRMAN FOR 2025/26

Cllrs Smethers and Roberts both received nominations. It was resolved that Cllr Roberts take the chair.

40/25 TO ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2025/26

It was resolved that Cllr Smethers is Vice Chairman.

41/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Wallace.

42/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllrs Smethers and Starmer declared an interest as trustees of the playing field.

Cllr Smethers is on the payments list.

Cllr Hancy's daughter is Deputy manager at nursery for planning application in 46/25.

43/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments from the public.

44/25 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 7th April 2025.

45/25 CO-OPTION OF NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBER

Clement Nnadozie had expressed an interest in joining the committee as an advisory member. It was resolved that he join as a non councillor, non voting member.

46/25 PLANNING

Planning application 2025/1914/FULL – Demolition of dilapidated garage. Siting of a new modular building to provide additional classroom space at the rear of Harpole Day Nursery, 47 Carrs Way was considered. There were no objections to the application but there was concern that increased capacity would increase parking issues which are already considered an issue at drop off and pick up times.

47/25 NORTHAMPTON WEST SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION

Next meeting with Bloor likely to be in July with a site visit. Many Harpole Councillors would like to attend but later in the day to make it easier for those that work. If this cannot be with main contact maybe this can be with someone else.

Plans for open space will be forwarded soon.

It was noted that travellers had accessed the site but the Police were quick to move on and Bloors have added a fence to prevent in future.

North Relief Road should be open June.

Barwoods proposal may go to committee in autumn. There is lots of reaction to comments made at first consultation.

48/25 NORWOOD FARM SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION

a) Lighting scheme for phases 1 and 2b were considered. It was thought that the scheme looked OK and would be adopted. Clerk to check specification matches current lights in Harpole and that they can be dimmed in early hours.

b) Vistry's third phase was approved at WNC planning committee last week.

49/25 DEVELOPMENT RELATED ROADWORKS

a) Sandy Lane is almost complete and safety checks have started. It is expected to be open mid June.

b) Davidsons have advised they will start work on the roundabout at the top of Road Hill. As this is largely offset works will be mostly within site without disruption to Nobottle Road until the autumn. Timings of this to be agreed with Highways.

S278 works for Sandy Lane now likely in September due to other highways works.

50/25 SPORTS PROVISION

a) Vistry had provided a specification of the proposed pavilion with technical details. An EGM is to be held to discuss council's options moving forward.

b) A valuation of the playing field is needed for the proposed transfer. It was proposed to accept the quotation of £2250 +VAT for a charity commission compliant survey.

c) Cllr Wallace recommended being a member of the Facilities scheme. This is part of due diligence to show to Charity commission. It was agreed to the years membership at £48.

d) No further updates.

51/25 CIL

List was reviewed and some amendments made. All councillors to give the items on the list a priority to help focus which projects to work on.

52/25 COMMUNICATIONS

It was proposed that the council hold councillor surgeries. Pros and cons were discussed.

There are various forms of communications that we use and these should be used better.

Councillors did not feel a surgery was needed.

It was agreed to have an introduction to the councillors in the next newsletter with

councillors providing a photo and short biography so that members of the public know who they are.

Caroline Holgate and Cllr Callaghan leave.

53/25 COUNCIL DIRECTION

1 year work plan and 4 year business plan had been tabled. Some amendments were made. Councillors were offered to give other amendments before the next meeting.

54/25 CONTRACTS

Electric contract for the office is due to expire in July. Council had previously agreed to move to Tomato, however they are not taking on new accounts. It is now proposed to stay with British Gas on a new 3 year contract. This was agreed.

55/25 FINANCE

a) To approve payments for May and June

Supplier	Activity	Amount	VAT
Unity Bank	Bank Fees	9.90	-
Paul Thomas	Parish Maintenance	528.07	-
R&G Groundworks	Grass Cutting	1,694.40	252.40
Nickolls Landscaping	Flagpole maintenance	100.00	-
Northants CALC	Subscription & Internal Audit	1,335.65	90.60
Shield Maintenance	Bin emptying	91.00	15.17
Scribe	Account set up	658.80	109.80
Old School Hall	Room hire	120.00	-
Benn Security	Allotment Keys	127.80	21.30
British Gas	Office Electric	68.43	3.26
Parish Online	Website hosting	396.00	77.00
Northants CALC	Training	117.60	19.60
Resident	Key deposit return	12.00	-
Gigaclear	Broadband	36.00	6.00
Scribe	Subscription	118.80	19.80
Tomato Energy	Street light electric	412.55	68.76
Staff Costs	May Costs	4,017.05	-
Metrobank	Credit card payment	310.98	-
ID mobile	Phone	6.00	1.00
Tomato Energy	Street light electric	7.90	0.38
R&G Groundworks	Grass Cutting	973.20	162.20
Rialtas	Subscription	30.49	5.08
Rialtas	Subscription	33.83	5.64
Viking	Stationery	30.43	5.07
Wave	Water	241.45	-
British Gas	Office Electric	68.43	3.73
Old School Hall	Room hire	80.00	-
Harpole Bowls Club	Room hire	50.00	-
Nickolls Landscaping	Flagpole maintenance	100.00	-
Frank Smethers	Microsoft subscription	286.56	-
zephyr	Flagpole and installation	1,583.94	263.99
Northants CALC	Training	60.00	10.00
All Saints Church	Scaffolding and Security	2,470.80	-
Paul Thomas	Parish Maintenance	483.82	-

Scribe	Subscription	118.80	19.80
Shield Maintenance	Bin emptying	91.00	15.17
Methodist Chapel	Room hire	67.50	-
Staff Costs June	June Costs	TBA	

Income

Supplier	Activity	Amount
West Northants Council	CIL	122,026.09
Various	Allotment rent	94.00
Metrobank	interest	1.42
CCLA	interest	3,276.84

Payments approved.

- b) Defibrillator on Magnus Shoes was initially donated to the village by the Old School Hall. The Parish Council had been asked to purchase a new battery. It was proposed to do this. It was also resolved that the council would take on ongoing costs of the defibrillator.

56/25 GRANTS

Old School Hall had applied for £3000 towards purchase of anti-flood barrier door protection & replacement of close board fencing to eastern boundary. It was resolved to grant the request.

57/25 CORRESPONDENCE

The son of the chair of the former History group had asked the council if they would be interested in taking paperwork collected over the years. It was agreed to take the information and discuss the potential of a parish museum.

58/25 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None at this time.

Meeting closed 9.05pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 1st September at 7pm

Signed

Date



“Working to secure the future for everyone in Harpole”

Business Plan 2024-2029

Objectives

We will support local activities, organisations and events.

We will foster the community spirit and a sense of belonging for all residents

We will work with others to make improvements that benefit our residents

What is a Parish Council Business Plan?

The Parish Council Business Plan sets out the Parish Council's vision for the Parish, its purpose, objectives and key priorities for the next 4 years (term of current council).

By creating a Business Plan the Parish Council has created a framework which will enable the Council and its committees to work in a consistent and co-ordinated way. The Business Plan will help the Council to become proactive rather than reactive in its decision making and will help our residents to have a better understanding of what the Parish Council does.

The Business Plan will be a "live" document continuously reviewed and updated with progress against the Council's priorities and will be monitored by the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee.

Harpole Parish Council – An overview

There are currently two tiers of local government in Northamptonshire. Harpole Parish Council is the first and most local tier, so it represents the interests of residents and supports the work of community groups. With the planned development, the parish will grow considerably over the next ten years, and it is important that the Parish Council plans for those changes as it moves forward.

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is the second tier, formed 4 years ago from the amalgamation of Daventry District Council, South Northamptonshire Council and Northampton Borough Council along with Northamptonshire County Council. This new Unitary Authority is responsible for environmental services, housing and planning, highways which includes both roads and pavements, education, health, public rights of way and libraries. A new countywide trust has been established for Child and Adult Social Services.

Residents elect thirteen parish councillors every four years. The Parish Council elects a Chairman annually at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. The Council reports to residents at the Annual Meeting of the Parish held between March and June. Parish Councillors are holders of public office but are unpaid. They commit time to make Harpole the best it can be by protecting what is great about our area and working either directly or with others to make improvements. The next elections will be held in May 2029.

The Parish Council owns land at the allotments and Bowls Club, along with some smaller areas, has assets including litter bins, dog waste bins, notice boards

and bus shelters and is also responsible for many of the street lights within the parish. The Parish Office is in Larkhall Lane, at the site of Harpole Bowls Club.

Currently, the full Council meets on the second Monday of every month in the Methodist Chapel. Strategy, Finance and Policy committee meets on the first Monday of each “odd number” month, and the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meets on the last Monday of each month. All meetings are open to the public with a period set aside for members of the public to address the Council. Residents are not permitted to take part in discussion at the meetings other than during the public time.

The Council works to its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which lay down the rules by which it operates and conducts its business. These two documents are, in effect, the Council’s constitution. Councillors are also expected to abide by the Code of Conduct which governs standards of behavior. The Council employs a full time Clerk who works both from home and in the Parish Office. The Clerk administers the Council affairs and carries out all the functions required by law. The Clerk is responsible for administration of the Council’s financial affairs and advises the Council on governance and procedural matters.

Financial Information

The residents of Harpole fund the Parish Council via the “precept”. The precept is the local tax levied by the Parish Council and collected on behalf of the parish by West Northamptonshire Council.

The main items of expenditure are office administration and maintenance of the various areas of land and the highway verges. The Council plans its budget each year through its committees and any activities or projects which have not been budgeted for must either replace an existing budget item, be paid for from our reserves or through a planned increase in precept.

Our general reserve is the money the Council holds in case there is a major problem which affect the Council’s business
The council also holds CIL monies from development in the parish that has some limitations on spend.

Parish Council Governance Objectives

The Parish Council endeavours to be professional, competent and caring, to be open and accountable in all it does and to ensure sound financial

management. The Parish Council has adopted policies to demonstrate its commitment to ensuring openness, transparency and good governance. All documents are available in full on our website www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council aims to:

- Be well-informed about the needs of our residents
- Improve our councillor's and staff skills by undertaking training

- Be aware of opportunities and policy requirements
- Promote public participation at meetings and wider community events
- Deal with enquiries speedily and efficiently in line with its adopted policy
- Manage the new areas and associated budgets in the most efficient way to benefit the whole community
- Take on board all feedback either negative or positive and respond to providers

Key themes

The Parish Council has identified key themes which we wish to concentrate on during the next three years. These priorities form the basis for the development of Annual Work Plans and future budgets and will enable us to fulfil our plans.

Focus	Proposed Action	Effect
Administration		
To review staffing levels and recruitment to accommodate future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To realistically assess the Council's needs and put in place a sustainable team of officers 	Council will be able to meet all opportunities and needs pro-actively.
To continually review our ways of working and office practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to operate and review our policies and procedures. 	Already included in working practices
To liaise with and improve relations with residents, stakeholders, and neighbouring parishes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase our profile within community by holding regular resident liaison and consultation events • Encourage resident attendance at Parish Council meetings through increased use of noticeboards, website & social media. 	Attendance may be outside normal working hours. Councillors & Officers to be proactive.

To regularly review Parish Council legal powers and consider any new opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain dialogue with unitary council 	Councillors and Officers to be up to date with legislation changes
To utilise money available from budget to deliver on budget proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review levels of spending throughout the year and ensure funds are utilised as per budget allocation. 	To ensure review/monitoring/reporting mechanism is in place
To encourage training of staff and councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses available to be circulated • Councillors encouraged to follow courses required for Foundation level of councillor development framework 	To ensure councillors and staff have up to date knowledge of relevant parts of the sector.

Supporting Our Community	Proposed Action	Effect
Support for voluntary groups etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise Grant Aid schemes • Work with organisations to publicise activities and events • Work with bowls club on lease arrangements 	Proactive use of noticeboards, website, social media, meetings etc.
Review the provision of street furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review adequacy and location of bins/dog bins/benches/noticeboards • Budget for replacements where necessary • Organise/support litter picks 	Budget implications Rolling replacement programme for seats/benches
Protect trees & open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all significant trees are recorded and, where appropriate, have TPO's in place • Undertake surveys of trees on land we own and maintain as needed 	Councillors & Officers to be proactive
Liaise with Police on reducing crime within the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider contributing to costs of a PCSO for Harpole and/or in conjunction with neighbouring parishes • Invite local officers to council meetings 	Enhance awareness/perception of security.
Manage the allotments as a community asset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the arrangements for management by the Parish Council • Access any future funding available through s106 agreements 	To have well managed and maintained allotment site.
Future Allotment provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To access s106 funding for allotment provision to enhance the existing site or to provide a further site 	To continue to meet local need.

<p>Improve efficiency and work towards reducing our carbon footprint</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to take responsibility for lights on new developments and operate efficiently • Consider green energy supplier 	<p>Reduce energy usage, costs and carbon footprint Budget implications in medium term.</p>
<p>Promote health & well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage walking, cycling & the importance of open green space 	<p>Councillors & Officers to be proactive</p>

Welcome new residents to the parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare welcome packs for distribution via Sales Offices and to all new residents 	To foster community spirit within the parish.
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to consultations in the best interests of our residents. • Continue to engage in WNC Joint Core Strategy consultations 	Maintain a community that we all want to live in.
Neighbourhood Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review in 2025/6 in line with new Planning legislation and New Local Plan 	To maintain status of 'made' plan
Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with playing field committee / Charity Commission to transfer land to the parish council 	To enable sport for all in the village
New Pavilion and sports pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with developer to ensure best build possible and fittings are fit for purpose. 	To provide a facility for the community.
Community Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with developers in early stages of designing community facilities on new developments 	To provide a facility that is beneficial to the community and their needs.
CIL Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find and provide CIL projects that CIL Funding can be used on 	To improve parish facilities
Street Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review street lighting and consider new posts when appropriate 	To ensure parish is safe for all

Securing Our Future	Proposed Action	Effect
Securing open space in new developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with appointed Solicitor • Continue liaising with WNC/ Developers 	Ensure all open spaces are in PC ownership
Determine future management arrangements for open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider options and cost implications • Consider break clauses in any contracts 	Secure long-term viability
Sports facilities - work with users to determine appropriate level of provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with potential users • Set up Working Party/Project Team 	Secure long-term viability
Determine future management arrangements for sports provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine options and most appropriate provision • Consider break clauses in any contracts 	Secure long-term viability
Community buildings/ village Hall - Determine future management arrangements for community buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider options via SWOT and cost benefit analysis • Consider break clauses in any contracts 	Secure long-term viability
Encourage all local volunteer organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer opportunity to advertise on parish website • Support through grant opportunities 	Budget/time implications
Work with organisers of events to try to bring the whole community together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual organised Parish Council event?? 	Budget/time implications
Involve the community in all parish council initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve and consult the community • Be open and accessible to the community 	Councillors & Officers to be proactive
Strengthen relationships with education providers within the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work co-operatively with providers on new and existing provision. 	Ensure education provision within the parish is well supported
Working towards adequate burial space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with PCC and Peterborough Diocese • Consult the parish on options 	Secure future burial provision for all of the parish.
Looking for potential land that the council could purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider working with landowners to see if there is land available for the parish council to purchase for use 	To secure land that could be used for burial / community facilities / parks etc

	by the community	
Finances for future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all S106 monies due to the council come to the PC in a timely manner • Investment and management of S106 funding 	To ensure financial security of future councils with extra assets being received.

Harpole Parish Council
Summary of Receipts and Payments
All Cost Centres and Codes

4 July 2025 (2025-2026)

Allotments

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
6	Allotment Rents	3,000.00	318.30	-2,681.70		187.00	-187.00	-2,868.70 (-95%)
8	Water Contributions	1,000.00		-1,000.00				-1,000.00 (-100%)
42	Maintenance allotments				1,000.00	873.16	126.84	126.84 (12%)
53	Water Charges				1,000.00	241.45	758.55	758.55 (75%)
54	Grass Cutting allotment				800.00	483.00	317.00	317.00 (39%)
SUB TOTAL		4,000.00	318.30	-3,681.70	2,800.00	1,784.61	1,015.39	-2,666.31 (-39%)

Churchyard

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
9	Burial Fees							(N/A)
10	All Saints Maintenance Contribut							(N/A)
43	Maintenance churchyard				2,000.00	528.00	1,472.00	1,472.00 (73%)
45	Parish Clock							(N/A)
SUB TOTAL					2,000.00	528.00	1,472.00	1,472.00 (73%)

CIL Income

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
3	CIL Income		122,026.09	122,026.09				122,026.09 (N/A)
SUB TOTAL			122,026.09	122,026.09				122,026.09 (N/A)

CIL Spend

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
60	CIL Spend					2,326.47	-2,326.47	-2,326.47 (N/A)
SUB TOTAL						2,326.47	-2,326.47	-2,326.47 (N/A)

General Income

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
2	Precept	185,200.00	92,600.00	-92,600.00				-92,600.00 (-50%)
4	Interest Received		6,437.14	6,437.14				6,437.14 (N/A)
5	Grant and Donations Received							(N/A)
7	Bowls Club Rent	800.00		-800.00				-800.00 (-100%)
11	Grass Cutting Contribution	950.00	951.71	1.71				1.71 (0%)
12	Other Income		6,382.43	6,382.43				6,382.43 (N/A)

Harpole Parish Council
Summary of Receipts and Payments
All Cost Centres and Codes

4 July 2025 (2025-2026)

SUB TOTAL	186,950.00	106,371.28	-80,578.72		-80,578.72 (-43%)
------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--	--------------------------

Outside Spaces

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
41	Maintenance				7,000.00	4,496.78	2,503.22	2,503.22 (35%)
47	Benches							(N/A)
48	Sand Bins							(N/A)
49	Dog bins				1,000.00	379.15	620.85	620.85 (62%)
50	Noticeboards							(N/A)
51	Flagpole				800.00	1,519.95	-719.95	-719.95 (-89%)
52	Hghways							(N/A)
55	Grass Cutting				4,000.00	3,374.00	626.00	626.00 (15%)
56	Trees				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00 (100%)
58	Playing Fields				10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00 (100%)
SUB TOTAL					23,800.00	9,769.88	14,030.12	14,030.12 (58%)

Parish Council Admin Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
17	Payroll Services				500.00	130.20	369.80	369.80 (73%)
18	Staff Mileage and Benefits				300.00		300.00	300.00 (100%)
19	Staff Other expenses							(N/A)
20	Training				1,200.00	543.00	657.00	657.00 (54%)
21	Bank Charges				150.00	29.55	120.45	120.45 (80%)
22	Audit Fees				1,800.00	441.00	1,359.00	1,359.00 (75%)
23	Professional Fees				5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00 (100%)
24	Subscription and Memberships				1,200.00	1,747.61	-547.61	-547.61 (-45%)
25	Insurance				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00 (100%)
26	Stationery				200.00	44.58	155.42	155.42 (77%)
27	Postage				50.00		50.00	50.00 (100%)
29	Website				400.00		400.00	400.00 (100%)
30	IT				3,000.00	1,130.60	1,869.40	1,869.40 (62%)
31	Buildings							(N/A)
34	Newsletter				1,200.00	138.12	1,061.88	1,061.88 (88%)
35	Meetings / Room Hire				1,200.00	397.50	802.50	802.50 (66%)
36	grants paid				5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00 (40%)
37	section 137 Expenditure					129.99	-129.99	-129.99 (N/A)
38	Election Costs				400.00		400.00	400.00 (100%)
39	Rates							(N/A)
40	Loan Repayment				7,020.00		7,020.00	7,020.00 (100%)
57	Sundries					258.00	-258.00	-258.00 (N/A)
SUB TOTAL					29,620.00	7,990.15	21,629.85	21,629.85 (73%)

Parish Office Running Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend

Harpole Parish Council

Summary of Receipts and Payments

4 July 2025 (2025-2026)

All Cost Centres and Codes

28 Telephone and Broadband	500.00	105.00	395.00	395.00 (79%)
32 Office Electric	1,000.00	283.52	716.48	716.48 (71%)
SUB TOTAL	1,500.00	388.52	1,111.48	1,111.48 (74%)

Staff Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
14	Staff Salary	85,000.00	7,966.58	77,033.42	77,033.42	(90%)	77,033.42 (90%)	
15	NI and Tax E'rs and EE's	30,000.00	3,363.16	26,636.84	26,636.84	(88%)	26,636.84 (88%)	
16	Pension E'rs and EE's	7,500.00	721.41	6,778.59	6,778.59	(90%)	6,778.59 (90%)	
SUB TOTAL		122,500.00	12,051.15	110,448.85	110,448.85	(90%)	110,448.85 (90%)	

Street Lighting Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
33	Street Light Electric	3,000.00	1,076.69	1,923.31	1,923.31	(64%)	1,923.31 (64%)	
46	New Lights					(N/A)	(N/A)	
SUB TOTAL		3,000.00	1,076.69	1,923.31	1,923.31	(64%)	1,923.31 (64%)	

VAT Data

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
1	VAT on Receipts						(N/A)	
13	VAT on payments						(N/A)	
SUB TOTAL							(N/A)	

Summary

NET TOTAL	190,950.00	228,715.67	37,765.67	185,220.00	35,915.47	149,304.53	187,070.20 (49%)
V.A.T.					2,336.91		
GROSS TOTAL		228,715.67			38,252.38		

Harpole Parish Council

4 July 2025 (2025-2026)

PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
61	Flagpole	29/05/2025		Unity Trust		Flagpole Green	Zephyr	S	1,319.95	263.99	1,583.94
63	grants paid	04/06/2025		Unity Trust		Grant	Old School Hall	X	3,000.00		3,000.00
64	Sundries	04/06/2025		Unity Trust		Defib Battery	Simon Drinkwater	X	258.00		258.00
66	Telephone and Broadband	05/06/2025		Unity Trust		Broadband	Gigaclear	S	30.00	6.00	36.00
71	Training	13/06/2025		Unity Trust		Training	Northants CALC	S	70.00	14.00	84.00
70	Newsletter	13/06/2025		Metrobank Credit Ca		newsletter	Vistaprint	S	138.12	27.62	165.74
69	Grass Cutting	13/06/2025		Unity Trust		grass cutting	R&G Groundworks	S	528.00	105.60	633.60
69	Maintenance allotments	13/06/2025		Unity Trust		grass cutting	R&G Groundworks	S	228.00	45.60	273.60
69	Maintenance churchyard	13/06/2025		Unity Trust		grass cutting	R&G Groundworks	S	352.00	70.40	422.40
69	Grass Cutting allotment	13/06/2025		Unity Trust		grass cutting	R&G Groundworks	S	322.00	64.40	386.40
73	Training	17/06/2025		Unity Trust		Training	NALC	S	35.00	7.00	42.00
74	Office Electric	18/06/2025		Unity Trust		Office Electric	British Gas	L	60.51	3.03	63.54
72	Street Light Electric	20/06/2025		Unity Trust		Street Light Electric	Tomato Energy	S	355.17	71.03	426.20
68	Telephone and Broadband	21/06/2025		Unity Trust		Mobile Phone	ID Mobile	S	5.00	1.00	6.00
78	Street Light Electric	24/06/2025		Unity Trust		Street Light Electric	Tomato Energy	L	7.52	0.38	7.90
77	Staff Salary	25/06/2025		Unity Trust		staff costs	Sally Willis	X	2,655.46		2,655.46
76	NI and Tax E's and EE's	25/06/2025		Unity Trust		PAYE	HMRC	X	1,121.12		1,121.12
75	Pension E's and EE's	25/06/2025		Unity Trust		Pension	Nest	X	240.47		240.47
82	Training	27/06/2025		Unity Trust		Training	Northants CALC	S	165.00	33.00	198.00
80	Maintenance	27/06/2025		Unity Trust		Village Handyman	Paul Thomas	X	359.59		359.59
81	Dog bins	27/06/2025		Unity Trust		Bin Emptying	Shield Maintenance Ltd	S	75.83	15.17	91.00
79	Bank Charges	30/06/2025		Unity Trust		Bank Fees	Unity Trust Bank	X	0.30		0.30
67	Bank Charges	30/06/2025		Unity Trust		Bank Fees	Unity Trust Bank	X	9.75		9.75
Total									11,336.79	728.22	12,065.01

Hello Sally

Things have moved on since we last communicated and so our request to the Parish Council is to support our claim that the Chapel and the Manse belong to the village, as they were paid for by village residents, and since we have now have a thriving congregation, ideally we need both properties. Unfortunately the Baptist Union Corporation (BUC) have now put the Manse (36, Upper High Street) up for sale and according to the Taylors web site it is now sold subject to contract. Legally they have the right to sell the property so we may not be able to stop that, but we do have a claim on the proceeds of the sale for the refurbishment of the chapel. Phil Bignall has written a supportive email, as has Sarah Boon our MP, so an email from the Parish Council should add some weight.

I have written a draft email below as a suggestion to be sent to the BUC and the Charity Commission;

Ref Harpole Baptist Chapel and Manse;

Dear Sirs,

At our recent public parish meeting we requested a report on the status of the village churches, including the Baptist Church. We consider that the churches in the village have an important part to play in the social life of our rapidly expanding village, and we wish to express our support for the churches. The chapel has not been used for many years, but there is now a thriving Baptist congregation meeting in Harpole who wish to use it. Since this property is already registered as an asset of community value, we request that the congregation is given permission to use this property as soon as possible for the benefit of the congregation and for general community use of our village.

As regards the Manse which was built in 1916, this was paid for by sacrificial giving on the part of members of the Baptist Chapel and other generous donors in our village during the first world war. It is therefore a building of historical significance, and we consider that this property should be retained in village ownership and made available to the Baptist congregation for a minister since this is the charitable purpose of the property. We understand however that the congregation have reluctantly agreed to the sale of the Manse because of the urgent need to gain use of the chapel, and should the sale goes through we consider that funds from the proceeds of the Manse sale should be made available for the complete refurbishment of the chapel.

Regards