



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 7th April 2025, in the Old School Hall at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (Chair), N Bess, S Roberts, D Starmer, C Wallace

Also present – S Willis (Clerk), Cllr M Callaghan, Paul Thomas (Clerk to Harlestone PC and Harlestone Manor PC), 1 Member of the public

Meeting Start: 7pm

355/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Hancy, Gardner and Gibbins.

356/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

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

357/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of the public attended to ask the council if they could cut back brambles in the allotments that are coming over the fence into his garden. Clerk to obtain quotes and add to Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

358/24 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 3rd March 2025.

359/24 NORTHAMPTON WEST SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION

- a) Planning application 2025/1210/MAR was considered. This is for access roads to the school site. There was a query about parking requirements but it was thought this would become clear when planning application for the school will submitted. It was proposed that there were no objections but the council would like to know more information about planned timescales for the school.
- b) Another meeting to be set up with Bloors early June. Clerk to chase for proposed timescales for land transfer. The commercial centre is the responsibility of the legal owners to promote. Council are not aware of any promotion as yet.

360/24 NORWOOD FARM SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION

- a) Planning application 2024/5662/S73 was considered. This is a request to change a condition on the S106 due to works having been superseded by Smart Motorway works. It was agreed that the council noted this request
- b) Residents along Sandy Lane have commented to the parish council that there is an occasional sewage smell coming from the site. Clerk has notified Vistry. It appears that times and potency is inconsistent. Clerk to follow up.
There was a discussion that new residents on both sites are being charged a management fee, even though the management of the land will be passed to the parish

council. It was agreed that the clerk write to both developers asking them to clarify the situation and to reconfirm our intentions.

There has also been some pile driving on Vistry site, and although residents were notified this time there has still been some damage.

361/24 DEVELOPMENT RELATED ROADWORKS

- a) Cllr Brown confirmed that works to the Sandy Lane Relief Road are on schedule.
- b) Clerk had queried S106 commitments of the Panattoni development. A contribution for works to the Kislingbury roundabout was received by WNC in 2020 and they have 10 years to complete the works. With regards to commitments to footpaths / Cyclepaths. WNC believe the works have been completed. The report shows works to be completed “locally” which has been read as local to the site and access, not along A4500 to Upton as suggested elsewhere in the document.
- c) North West Relief Road is due to be opened in June 2025.

Paul Thomas leaves the meeting

362/24 SPORTS PROVISION

- a) Vistry will be building the pavilion and associated works. At present they are working on technical plans and costings. Clerk and chair met with them and another meeting is scheduled. It is agreed that there will be regular meetings throughout the process to keep the council up to date and to allow us to make any necessary decisions.
- b) Cllr Claude Wallace was delegated authority to speak to third parties (such as, but not limited to, the Charity Commission) to further investigate the best way to transfer the playing fields to the parish council.
- c) It was noted that a current valuation of the playing fields is needed. Clerk to find surveyor to complete the works.
- d) It was noted that parking for football is still bad, despite the extra car parking spaces on site. This is to be discussed at next PHI committee.

363/24 CIL

List was reviewed. Updates to projects needs to be updated.

364/24 WEST NORTHANTS CONSULTATION

WNC are consulting on a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) relating to car cruising to cover the whole of the West Northants area. Council were in support of the proposals.

365/24 PAYMENTS

- a) Scaffolding was needed for the clock renovation and the church had asked to share the scaffold for works to the church roof. Church have paid the invoice and are asking for the council to pay. It was agreed that the council would pay half of the invoice.

b)

Payee	Amount	VAT	Power used
Paul Thomas	389.50	0	LGA 1972 S111
Unity Bank	7.40	0	LGA 1972 S111
NCALC	90.00	15.00	LGA 1972 S111
Westcotec	18.00	3.00	LGA 1972 S111
Raybell	547.20	91.20	Small Holdings and Allotments Act

			1908 s23
Shield Maintenance	91.00	15.17	Litter Act 1983 s5
Autella Payroll Services	156.24	26.04	LGA 1972 S111
NCALC	60.00	10.00	LGA 1972 S111
British Gas	87.45	4.16	LGA 1972 S33
Viking	23.06	3.84	LGA 1972 S111
Tomato	14.76	0.70	Highways Act 1980 s3
Microsoft	669.60	111.60	LGA 1972 S111
Microsoft	138.24	23.04	LGA 1972 S111
Shield Maintenance	91.00	15.17	Litter Act 1983 s5
R&G Maintenance	1,152.00	192.00	Highways Act 1980 S96
ID Mobile	6.00	1.00	LGA 1972 S111
WW Spokes & Son	300.00	50.00	Highways Act 1980 S96
Old School Hall	80.00	0	LGA 1972 S111
Scribe	118.80	19.80	LGA 1972 S111

Income

Payer	Amount
CCLA	3,409.21
Metrobank	1.32

Payments approved.

366/24 FINANCIAL REPORTS

a)

Current Account	170,696.97
CCLA Savings	857,703.62
Metrobank savers	2,033.63
Old Bank	-1.01
Outstanding payments	0
Total	1,030,433.21

Opening Balance	663,090.19
Expenditure to date	260,237.12
Income to Date	627,580.13
Cashbook balance	1,030,433.21

367/24 CONTRACTS

Quotations had been received for new electricity contract for the parish office. The current contract expires in July. It was proposed to go with the cheaper quote of Tomato energy. The switch will happen in July when the current contract expires.

368/24 COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter deadline is this week for delivery by end of the month.

Noticeboards to be installed in new developments. Approval has been given but location needs to be agreed.

Walkie Talkies may be a good idea for the emergency plan team in case of an emergency.

Councillors to find the location of the ones used for scarecrow festival and if these could be used if needed.

369/24 MAY MEETING

Due to the timing of the elections SFP usual meeting time cannot be used. It was agreed that there would be no SFP meeting in May.

370/24 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Potential job description for additional staff member.

Meeting closed 8.55pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 2nd June at 7pm

Signed

Date