



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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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.

Apoloiges 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 Bloor's 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 highway 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