



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 29th September 2025, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs N Bess (chair), J Gibbins, F Smethers, G Taylor

Also present – Clerk, Clement Nnadozie, Cllr Haynes and 6 members of the public

Meeting Start: 7pm

141/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were approved for Councillors Gardner, Callaghan and Phillips.

142/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Gibbins advised he has an allotment plot

143/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of the public advised security at the allotments is much improved with extension of fencing, but there is an issue of fly tipping at the allotments, which he believes may be from plot holders who have left and not handed back their key. There was concern about the extension at the nursery as parking is currently bad and will get worse with extra children attending. Council were asked if they would consider double yellow lines. To be added to next agenda.

Another member of the public wanted the council to be aware of a report they had undertaken under their properties to ensure the culvert was clear. They wished to know who was responsible for the culvert behind their property.

A member of the public enquired about potential new development on Road Hill, it was explained that this is still very early days and there will be opportunity for comment once the developer had submitted an application.

144/25 MINUTES

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

145/25 PLANNING

West Northants Council have a consultation on planning application requirements, this is formalising current processes as part of a review. The council did not feel there were any comments to make.

146/25 EMERGENCY PLANNING

a) S19 Flood Report for flooding in Harpole in September and November 2024 has been published and was received. Actions required by the council are already being worked on – Flood defences, Awareness of what WNC are doing, Recruiting a flood warden, producing an emergency plan.

Any blocked drains should be reported on Fix my Street. Regularly cleaning should happen yearly, but this may not be enough and this will prompt WNC. There was a



query on the report that the council will refer back to WNC. Homeowners also asked how they would know if landowners were fulfilling their responsibilities.

Clerk will produce map with sandbag locations and codes

- b) Working party is arranging meeting with Emergency team at WNC to discuss emergency plan and other actions.

147/25 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a) There had been concerns about parking on the verge at the bottom of Carrs Way, making it difficult for drivers to see oncoming traffic when turning into Northampton Road. There is nothing the Parish Council can do but clerk will contact Highways.
- b) West Northants Council were consulting on their Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan. A proposed response had been tabled by Cllr Gardner. It was proposed this is sent with a small amendment to add a crossing on Sandy Lane at Larkhall Lane.
- c) There are temporary barriers on Upper High Street to prevent drivers driving on the footpath to pass parked cars. It was proposed to ask Highways that they add a more permanent barrier / fencing in this area as part of 2026/27 budget
- d) West Northants Council are promoting an initiative to increase off road EV charging points. It was felt that Harpole was not suited to having charging points on the road but more information is needed, such as the potential costings, if this is suitable for the playing fields / bowls club car parks and how long the initiative is running for. It was noted that the council should request charging points in all new public facilities.

3 members of the public leave

- e) Speed signage needs to be updated on Sandy Lane, clerk advised she believed this was the responsibility of Vistry and was waiting for their roadworks to be completed before chasing.
It was also noted that whilst the pedestrian crossing signs are now on the A4500, the one on the Eastbound carriageway is obscured by a tree.

1 member of the public leaves.

148/25 ALLOTMENTS

- a) After the walkaround with councillors it was suggested a strategy is needed to agree what the council will do to keep the site clean and tidy. There is tenancy agreement to give obligations to the plot holders but there should be something similar for the council. Many items were discussed such as maintaining unlet plots, increase key deposit, change of lock type, CCTV, allotment wardens. Resource will be needed, and this can be discussed at the next Staffing Committee.
- b) Clerk had revamped the tenancy agreement with added clauses. There were a couple of items to rewrite and bring back to next meeting.
Clerk to produce list of holders that have not returned keys, to bring to next meeting.
- c) No further updates



149/25 STREET FURNITURE

- a) Draft of village map was approved.
- b) There are several places a dog bin would be beneficial on Western Gate. Cllr Taylor to produce proposal for Full Council meeting due to proposed use of CIL funding.
- c) Bench on High Street Green is not easily raisable. It was suggested that all other non memorial benches are replaced with CIL funding.

150/25 CONTRACTS

Path edges still need work. Cllr Gibbins to forward specification used previously. Current specification to be circulated to councillors. There was also a query about whether the use of a ride on mower is appropriate in the churchyard.

151/25 CHURCH

There is no update on Burial Ground. There is a potential option, but this still needs investigating.

152/25 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Budget for 2026/27.

Meeting closed 9pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 27th October at 7pm

Signed