



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

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Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025, in the Methodist Chapel at 7pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (Chair), N Bess, K Gardner, J Gibbins, B Hancy, I Haynes, S Philips, D Starmer, G Taylor,

Also present – Clerk, WNC Cllr Bignell (part), and 2 members of public

Meeting start: 7pm

153/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies approved for Cllrs Callaghan, Roberts, Wallace and Madle.

154/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Re 132/25 Cllrs Starmer, Smethers and Haynes as Trustees of the Playing Fields.

155/25 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bignell had enquired about a footpath on Larkhall Lane. There will be a path through the country park and crossing on Sandy Lane. which should be completed before 900 homes so should come about in the next couple of years. Parish Council believed that we were at a higher number of occupations than WNC had advised. There was also a query over where the country park is.

After comments about unsafe crossroads on Road to Nowhere and A4500 there is now extra signage.

There is a new Whatsapp function for Adult social care where you can get AI generated advice. Kislingbury Bridge recently had an investigation and has been given the OK for HGVs.

Cllr Bignell Leaves

156/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of the public had provided the clerk with information on dogs on the Playing fields by-law that could be passed to councillors.

157/25 COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 8th September 2025 was approved and signed.

158/25 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee of 29th September 2025 were received.

159/25 QUESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN RELATED TO RECEIVED MINUTES

Cllr Gibbins asked that the minutes of the 8th September are edited to show he voted against item 130/25.

160/25 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

a) Cllr Gardner wished to step down from Planning, Highways and Infrastructure. It was proposed that Cllr Haynes take this seat.

- b) Planning, Highways and Infrastructure requested spend from CIL funding for new dog bins on Western Gate. This was approved.
- c) Planning, Highways and Infrastructure requested that they could spend CIL funding on dog bins on new developments without having to refer back to Full Council. It was agreed to a budget of £2000 per year. It was suggested that there could be contact information on bins and more legislation notices regarding picking up after dogs is needed. Clerk also to add to the website that the Parish Council manage dog bins.

161/25 FINANCES

- a) Payments for October were approved

Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
SLCC	Training	90.00	18.00	108.00
SLCC	Training	400.00		400.00
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Fees	9.00		9.00
SLCC	subscriptions	360.00		360.00
Scribe	IT Software	99.00	19.80	118.80
Harpole Scarecrow Committee	Grant	1,000.00		1,000.00
Shield Maintenance Ltd	Bin Emptying	130.00	26.00	156.00
R&G Groundworks	grass cutting	322.00	64.40	386.40
R&G Groundworks	grass cutting	528.00	105.60	633.60
Gigaclear	Broadband	30.00	6.00	36.00
Paul Thomas	Village Handyman	406.20		406.20
John Gibbins	Allotment Maintenance	9.49		9.49
R&G Groundworks	grass cutting	352.00	70.40	422.40
R&G Groundworks	grass cutting	133.00	26.60	159.60
West Northants Council	Bin Emptying	247.00		247.00
Sally Willis	Laptop	410.77	82.15	492.92
Sally Willis	Laptop	-6.50		-6.50
ID Mobile	Mobile Phone	5.00	1.00	6.00
Tomato Energy	Street Light Electric	249.98	12.50	262.48
Northants CALC	Training	63.00	12.60	75.60
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Fees	0.80		0.80
Sally Willis	staff costs	2,736.33		2,736.33
HMRC	PAYE	1,172.28		1,172.28
Nest	Pension	248.80		248.80
Zephyr	flag	64.95	12.99	77.94
Zephyr	flag pole	35.00	7.00	42.00
Shield Maintenance Ltd	Bin Emptying	130.00	26.00	156.00
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Fees	8.55		8.55
Scribe	IT Software	99.00	19.80	118.80
Paul Thomas	Village Handyman	376.55		376.55
Nickolls Landscaping	Flagpole Green	100.00		100.00

9,810.20 510.84 10,321.04

- b) Budget summary to end of September was approved. A couple of items were queried for the clerk to check.

Current Account	290,356.22
CCLA Savings	999,795.72
Metrobank savers	2,040.88
Credit card	5.74
Outstanding payments	
Total	1,292,198.56

Opening Balance	1,030,434.22
Expenditure to date	73,615.73
Income to Date	335,380.07
Cashbook balance	1,292,198.56

162/25 BOWLS CLUB LEASE

Bowls Club Solicitor had suggested some amendments to the lease. There were some clauses that the council wanted to get extra information on to understand. It was proposed to seek advice and bring back to council.

163/25 PLAYING FIELDS

Cllr Wallace has been investigating options and believes there are 3 potential ways the land can be transferred to the Parish Council. It was proposed that he make the application directly to the Charity commission stating all 3 options to see which the Charity Commission would prefer. If the application is in before the end of the year a reply should be received before the end of the financial year.

164/25 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The clerk had completed the forms needed to apply for the Bronze level award and had forwarded information to the council. It was proposed that the information was correct and the application can be submitted.

165/25 PLANNING

- a) Vistry have asked the council about a fence that they will be installing. The council felt they did not have enough information to respond and a list of questions was compiled. It was proposed to get the information and to defer decision to the next meeting.
- b) The council approved the lighting scheme for Vistry Phase 2B
- c) Planning application 2024/0672/MAO had been considered at the strategic planning committee at WNC on 23rd September. Councillors had asked for the application to be deferred due to the recommendation being for a management company when the parish council had asked to take on open space to be consistent with the rest of the SUE area. Clerk, chair and a councillor had met with Davidsons and Planning officer today and discussed the viability and potential options. They are working on figures to take to November meeting. New legislation regarding Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) means that the council (if they take on the land) would be subject to legal and financial penalties if they do not comply with the 30 year plan approved. There was a discussion about this and whether the council should maintain the stance that they wish to take on all open space. Cllr Gibbins leaves
- d) Due to the meeting running over it was proposed that the item on press release policy be deferred to the next meeting.
- e) The Parish council had been asked to suggest a name for part of the Sandy Lane Relief Road. Part is in Harpole and part in Upton. It was thought that a name had already been suggested early on in the development of Watterings Way, which is the name of the

watercourse that runs parallel to, and under the road. It was proposed that the council would propose this name again.

166/25 PCSO

It was proposed that the officers are invited to the public meeting in November to advise residents of the program and to answer any questions.

167/25 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No items suggested.

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Signed

Date