



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025, in the Methodist Chapel at 7pm.

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

Also present – Clerk, WNC Cllr Bignell (part), and 3 members of public

Meeting start: 7pm

198/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies approved for Cllrs Roberts and Gardner. Cllr Madle was not present.

199/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Re 206/25 b) Cllr Gibbins as an allotment plot holder.

200/25 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bignell expressed disappointment with planning department for not responding to his request that planning application 2024/0672/MAO was deferred. He believes the maths is out and needs to be looked into further. It is the accepted norm that West Northants or Parish councils are offered open space first. There was a discussion about the government white paper regarding management companies.

At the council meeting on Tuesday there is a discussion about bringing social housing back in house.

Cllr Bignell leaves.

201/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wanted to speak.

202/25 COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 13th October 2025 was approved and signed.

203/25 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee of 27th October, Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 3rd November and Staffing Committee of 20th October 2025 were received.

204/25 QUESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN RELATED TO RECEIVED MINUTES

Re Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee it was asked about application for double yellow lines on Carrs Way, Manor Close corner. Who will police this? This had been discussed but it was hoped that this would prevent people from parking inconsiderately.

Management company on Western Gate was discussed and costings for legal counsel will be added to next agenda for consideration. There was also a discussion about Davidsons application where they have a preference for a management company and the white paper that is being discussed in government.

205/25 STAFFING

- a) There had been a proposal for a parish administrator role, either full time or 2 part time positions. Job description, person specification and payment scale was approved. Clerk to advertise position with aim to interview in January.
- 2 Members of the public leave

206/25 FINANCES

- a) Budget summary to end of October was received.

Current Account	280,352.40
CCLA Savings	999,795.72
Metrobank savers	2,042.31
Credit card	5.74
Outstanding payments	
Total	1,282,196.17

Opening Balance	1,030,434.22
Expenditure to date	83,631.55
Income to Date	335,393.50
Cashbook balance	1,282,196.17

- b) The proposal was that allotment rents are increased from £35 in 2026 to £45 in 2027. This was approved.

207/25 BOWLS CLUB LEASE

Bowls Club Solicitor had suggested some amendments to the lease. These were all approved with a minor amendment to a clause that had been added.

208/25 PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The council already had a Civic award policy to allow for a member of the public to be nominated a freeperson of the parish. This is to be forwarded to councillors for information and nominations asked for at the public meeting.

209/25 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Legal counsel for the management company and 2026/2027 budget.

Meeting closed 8.05m

Signed

Date