



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 23rd February 2026, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (chair), J Gibbins, I Haynes, S Philips

Also present – Clerk, Clement Nnadozie, Sonja Roberts (part) and 1 member of public

Meeting Start: 7pm

272/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies accepted for Cllr Taylor. Cllr Bess was not present

273/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Gibbins advised he has an allotment plot

Cllr Smethers advised one of the planning applications backs onto his property.

274/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of the public asked if we had considered the impact of future development at the top of Road Hill, and if there will be any traffic calming measures put in place. This has not been discussed at Council as there has been no application submitted. We had objected to the application North of Nobottle Road on traffic grounds. It was noted that West Northants Council does not seem to have any joined up thinking when it comes to larger applications and look at them on a case-by-case basis.

Cllr Roberts wanted to express concerns over access to the planning application in item 276/25b. Neighbourhood plan allows for infill but she felt that the access to these plots was not sufficient.

275/25 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of Planning, Highways & Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 26th January 2026.

276/25 PLANNING

- a) There were no objections to planning application 2026/0544/FULL – single storey rear extension – 5 School Lane. However it was noted that this is in the conservation area and the comments of Heritage team should be considered.
- b) There was a discussion regarding planning application 2026/0355/FULL – erection of two dwellings and associated access on land to the rear – 63 High Street. There is already permission for a bungalow here and applications for 2 houses have been rejected in the past. There is concern about access onto what has become a busy road with many parked cars on Sunday now the Baptist Chapel has reopened. It was proposed there were no objections but that we suggest Highways do another review of the area as traffic volumes are different to 2022.



277/25 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a) An email had been received from a resident who lives on Upper High Street asking if it was possible to make Road Hill a one way street south bound to prevent the village becoming a rat run when Nobottle Road reopens and the new housing is built. The email had also been sent to West Northants Council and Highways had made several comments as to why this would not be a good idea. The parish council agreed with these comments and felt that the majority of the village would not be in favour of this suggestion.
- b) It was agreed that a Spring litterpick is needed, but this needs good turnout from councillors to organise on the day. It was proposed that equipment is hired for 21st March and is promoted accordingly.
- c) There is flytipping on Road Hill, which is currently closed, but maybe no more than normal. There is not much that can be done other than to report this when noticed.
- d) There had been a request that there is a No U Turn sign installed on the A4500 at the junction onto Northampton Road. This has been requested in the past and highways had rejected the request. It was proposed that the question is asked again.
- e) Highways will not install grit bins to areas that are not adopted. Vistry will not install bins as they do not want the liability. Clerk to ask Vistry if the parish council can install a bin.
- f) Clerk had met with Highways and a sharp bend sign will be installed coming into the village between the Strawberry field and the sharp bend on Upper High Street. It was noted that there is a long line of parked cars on High Street, some on the footpaths, on a Sunday morning near the Baptist Chapel. Clerk to contact the chapel and ask that they ask the congregation to park responsibly.

278/25 ALLOTMENTS

- a) A report had been tabled with ideas to encourage plot holders to get more involved in the running of the allotments. It was proposed that the parish council facilitate a first meeting to see if there are enough tenants that want to set up a committee. Lots of good ideas but not all are the responsibility of the council.
- b) Wood has been found to make markers for the plots. Quotes had been found for metal numbers. It was thought that other options should be considered. Plot holders should be advised before the posts are installed and advised that they must not move them.
- c) A resident on Carrs Way has complained that the contractor has damaged his garden house roof when cutting the hedge. This has been passed to the contractors insurance company. The contractor does not admit any fault. It was noted that the school have removed some of the conifer hedge on the corner. There will be wooden fencing installed here in time.

279/25 STREET FURNITURE

- a) Various options for benches had been circulated. It was thought that metal benches would be the best option for replacements. Some are on concrete slabs to reinstatement could be costly. It was proposed that those on Glassthorpe Lane are changed first. Options of metal benches to be brought to next meeting. Cllr Haynes offered to measure current benches so we can find something similar.



It was asked about benches on Western Gate. This is something the parish council will look into once the land has been transferred.

- b) Speed Monitors still need to be installed. Member of the public asked if there was a possibility of one on Upper High Street, or Road Hill when it reopens.

280/25 CHURCH

- a) Church had been asked for more information on the ashes internment area. They also asked the council to reconsider the 50/50 split of funding this project. It was proposed that it is recommended to Full Council that this project be fully funded by the Parish using CIL funding.
- b) No further updates on new burial ground. There was a discussion about whether the village wanted land that was not consecrated.

281/25 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No items at this time

Meeting closed 9.15pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th March 2026 at 7pm

Signed:

DRAFT