



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 5th January 2025, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs S Roberts (Chair), K Gardner, B Hancy, F Smethers, C Wallace

Also present – S Willis (Clerk), Cllr J Gibbins, Harlestone Manor Clerk and 2 Members of public

Meeting Start: 7pm

220/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies received and accepted for Cllrs D Starmer, G Madle. Apologies also accepted for C Nnadozie

221/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

None to declare.

222/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Gibbins in support of PCSO

Members of the public present to give update on Scarecrow Festival. Numbers this year were down and expenditure was greater than revenue, as such donations to charities was lower. Meeting this week to start planning this years event.

2 members of the public leave.

223/25 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 3rd November 2025.

224/25 NORTHAMPTON WEST SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSION

- a) Clerk had asked school for street names but had not yet received a response. The application has not yet been approved. Clerk to advise we will give names when approval has been given.
- b) Clerk, chair and Cllr Wallace had a meeting with Planning officer and representatives of Davidsons following them withdrawing the application. Davidsons are happy to pass open space to the Parish Council with a commuted sum but affordable housing will reduce. There will be no contribution to a road or pavement down Road Hill.
There have been queries from Bloor development about opening of play area. It is hoped this will open around Easter time to allow grass to grow and for safety checks to be undertaken. There are approximately 20 occupations and sales on Harlestone Manor side. There are works to open spaces that needed to be done before sign off.

225/25 NORWOOD FARM SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION

- a) Council approved the plans for lighting on phases 2 and 1b as long as the specification matches that in other areas already approved.
- b) All open space has an option to be passed to the parish council except the Country Park. We are aware that West Northants Council are not looking to take on any new open space assets and

are looking to pass them to parishes to manage. There was a discussion about the safety concerns, but this would be subject to a procedural sign off to ensure it was up to spec first. It was proposed that it is recommended to Full Council that an expression of interest in taking on this area is made.

- c) Residents on Western Gate in particular are still confused about whether there is a management company. It was proposed that there is a short flyer added to the next newsletter for the new housing to explain the situation at the present time.
- d) Vistry first phase is almost complete but there is no sign of open space being ready to be passed to us. Whilst there is verbal communication that this will happen there is still nothing in writing. Clerk to arrange meeting with WNC planning to start enforcement of S106.

Due to recent cold weather there has been comment that there are no grit bins. Clerk to investigate.

Bridleway is not yet open, but there have been works.

With the closure of Nobottle Road there is concern that Harpole could be stranded if there is an accident or flooding on A4500. Clerk to ask Vistry if there would be a possibility to temporarily open the link road in these situations.

Harlestone Clerk Leaves.

226/25 SPORTS PROVISION

- a) Application to Charity Commission will be sent next week. Playing Fields Association are aware of the plan and are on board.
New pavilion plans are nearly in place with some details on materials being confirmed. Plans are that it will be ready for 2027 football season. We now need to work with Football Club on lease and management.

227/25 CONSULTATIONS

- a) Response to Supplementary Planning Document on Development Contributions was approved.
- b) Response to Active travel strategy, mobility hub and rail actions plans was approved.

228/25 CIL

- a) Meeting of working group needs to be arranged

229/25 PCSO

Police gave a presentation at the public meeting and it seems there was support from most present. Members were split on whether this was a good use of public funding or not. Council need to agree what we would like to achieve and see if this is the best solution. Clerk to ask clerks at Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford for experiences and to confirm details of contract regarding length of contract agreement and what happens if one of the others pull out. It was felt more information was needed and that this should be a vote at full council.

230/25 FINANCE

- a) Payments for December and January

Supplier	Description	Amount
Sally Willis	staff costs	2,736.33
HMRC	PAYE	1,172.28
Nest	Pension	248.80
Cloudy IT	Training	40.00
Northants CALC	Training	46.00
SLCC	Training	99.00

SLCC	Training	51.00
Harpole Methodist Chapel	Room Hire	150.00
West Northants Council	Election Costs	101.00
ID Mobile	Mobile Phone	5.00
Viking	Stationary	38.88
Viking	Stationary	17.48
Paul Thomas	Village Handyman	358.57
Paul Thomas	Village Handyman	464.96
Anglian Water (Wave)	water rates	222.23
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Fees	8.55
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Fees	8.25
Northants CALC	Training	92.00
Borneo Martell Turner Coulston	Legal Fees	525.00
Scribe	IT Software	99.00
Gigaclear	Broadband	30.00
R&G Groundworks	Grounds Maintenance	213.00
Shield Maintenance Ltd	Bin Emptying	143.00
ID Mobile	Mobile Phone	5.00
Autella Payroll Services	Payroll Services	107.30
Harpole Bowls Club	Room Hire	50.00
Sally Willis	staff costs	2,736.33
HMRC	PAYE	1,172.28
Nest	Pension	248.79
Northants CALC	Training	35.00
NALC	Training	35.00
Sarah Eason	Poppy Wreath	29.50
British Gas	Office Electric	37.30
Valda Energy	Street Light Electric	358.44
Glasdon	Bins	704.68
		12,389.95

b)

Current Account	267,045.23
CCLA Savings	1,006,515.94
Metrobank savers	2,045.21
Credit card	5.74
Outstanding payments	
Total	1,275,612.12

Opening Balance	1,030,434.22
Expenditure to date	98,409.44
Income to Date	343,587.34
Cashbook balance	1,275,612.12

c) It was approved that the clerk can purchase new edition of Charles Arnold Baker

d) It was proposed that rather than increase hours, maintenance person to bill for any owed hours in March, so each April is started afresh.

e) There was a question over whether interest from CIL money needs to be classified as CIL or can be general reserves. Clerk to investigate for full council meeting. This will impact amount requested in precept. Draft budget was discussed and some lines amended. It was proposed that 2 budget versions are presented to council – 1 with and 1 without PCSO costing. Precept recommendation will depend on response to CIL interest.

231/25 STAFFING

2 people are being interviewed this week. Recommendation to full council next week.

232/25 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

No added items at this time.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 2nd March at 7pm

Signed

Date

DRAFT