



**Chairman** – Mr F Smethers

**Clerk** – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs S Roberts (Chair), B Hancy, G Madle, F Smethers, D Starmer, C Wallace

Also present – S Willis (Clerk), Parish Administrator, Cllr N Bess, Harlestone Manor Clerk and 1 Member of public

Meeting Start: 7pm

**282/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies received and accepted for Cllrs K Gardner.

**283/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

None to declare.

**284/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Member of the public had concerns about the Local plan and was interested in the council's view. Concern over contents, but also about scale of the document for regular people to understand and engage with.

**285/25 MINUTES**

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**286/25 NORTHAMPTON WEST SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSION**

Meeting is arranged for next week with Bloor to discuss properties in Harlestone Manor side and open space transfer. Port Road had been closed for works to roundabout that is to be installed. This has now reopened and will close again once Nobottle Road is reopened.

Sports facilities includes 4 pitches and a pavilion in Harlestone Manor, to be constructed before 850 houses. Bloor currently only have land for 430 and expect it will be 5 – 7 years before this is completed. It was asked if this area is prone to waterlogging. It was thought that nearby wetland has probably been designed to prevent this from occurring.

S106 for Davidsons is being negotiated and it is thought that this will be signed soon. We have been sent the schedule on Open Spaces and questions of confirmation have been asked.

**287/25 NORWOOD FARM SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION**

- a) Cllrs Smethers and Wallace and the clerk had met with planning heads to discuss breaches in the S106, in particular regarding open spaces, the school and the local centre. Whilst behind Vistry are engaging and have proposed dates for open space completion. Millers and Barwoods have not responded to West Northants. They are now aware and will follow up with enforcements. Whilst the S106 is legal and binding, they generally do not give hard enforcement if the developers are engaging. The question they ask is "what is the harm" that a trigger has been breached. It was thought that we need to be clearer with our message of what the harm is – especially on the country park on Larkhall Lane.

It was also asked what general monitoring is happening with regards to the build. Clerk to ask.

### 288/25 SPORTS PROVISION

- a) Need to have policy on how and who is going to run the facilities we will be taking on. This should be standard across all facilities. Clerk to look at models used by other councils and see what we would want to delegate and what we would want to keep control of. There may be an extra Committee meeting to consider this.
- b) Vistry have given an update on the pavilion plans and are suggesting that rather than plumbing into the local sewage system they want to install a septic tank. Council felt this was not acceptable. Clerk to check what the plans and S106 say about installation of utilities.

With regards to existing playing fields we are waiting to hear from the Charities Commission.

### 289/25 CONSULTATIONS

- a) Clerk had circulated summary of items from The Local Plan that would impact Harpole as a starter for conversation. Cllrs Smethers and Roberts had attended a meeting where there was a presentation by a WNC councillor. This will be circulated once received. Location of Employment, potential changing of boundaries, additional housing, infrastructure, green space nominations were all discussed. It was proposed that an EGM is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> March to allow councillors more time to look at the information and to give council time to discuss a full response.  
Clerk to advertise consultation to all via website / facebook / noticeboards highlighting the areas we would like to query. Once council has agreed a response this can be circulated asking everyone to comment in a similar way. Information could be left with local businesses to promote.
- b) Cllr Bess gave an update on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation. It is thought this is the “green” part of the Local Plan and is something that councils have been told they need to have by government. It was thought that this has little impact on the planning system. Clerk to ask if there is the possibility of an extension.
- c) Government are holding a consultation on Reducing the prevalence of Private Estate Management Arrangements (Management companies on new estates). It was proposed that the clerk respond saying we agree that these should be last resort options and there should be processes to make it easier for councils to take on the open space.

### 290/25 CIL

- a) Meeting of working group needs to be arranged. It was noted that WNC are looking to publish a list of historical CIL funding once a project to pull this together has been completed.

Harlestone Manor Clerk Leaves

### 291/25 FINANCE

- a) Payments for December and January

Supplier	Description	Amount
Staff Costs	staff costs	5,641.75
ID Mobile	New Mobile	89.00
Scribe	IT software	118.20
Salix	Loan repayment	3,505.20
Northants CALC	Training	55.20
Northants CALC	Training	63.60

SLCC	Training	160.20
SLCC	Training	160.20
Unity	Bank fees	12.90
Canva	IT Software	99.99
Gigaclear	Broadband	36.00
ID	Mobile	7.22
Shield Maintenance	Dog bins	171.60
		10,121.66

b)

Current Account	246,307.16
CCLA Savings	1,013,157.35
Metrobank savers	2,048.17
Credit card	-99.99
Outstanding payments	
Total	1,261,412.69

Opening Balance	1,030,434.22
Expenditure to date	123,566.68
Income to Date	345,545.15
Cashbook balance	1,261,412.69

c) It was approved that Bamboo reusable name badges are purchased

d) It was proposed that 20 Harpole Parish Council Hi-Vis jackets are purchased.

#### **231/25 SOCIAL MEDIA**

- a) Clerk advised that a new facebook page needed to be set up to allow full admin access to both members of staff. This was approved.
- b) It was approved to open an Instagram account.

#### **232/25 POLICIES**

- a) Dignity at Work Policy was approved.

#### **233/25 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

No added items at this time.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

Signed

Date