HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Mr F Smethers **Clerk** – Mrs S Willis

http://www.harpole-pc.gov.uk E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

All members of the Council are summoned to attend the Meeting of Harpole Parish Council at Harpole Methodist Chapel, School Lane, Harpole on **Monday 9th November 2026 at 7pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

Signed:

Sally Willis

Clerk & Proper Officer to Harpole Parish Council Date: 3rd November 2026

AGENDA

201/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

202/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Councillors are reminded that if they have either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other interest in any of the agenda items then they should declare that interest and withdraw from the debate or the meeting as appropriate.

203/26 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

To welcome the Unitary Councillor(s) to the meeting and provide an opportunity for them to update members and residents on matters of interest.

204/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are invited to address the Council. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with contributions lasting a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public should address their representations through the chairman of the meeting.

205/26 COUNCIL MINUTES

To receive and approve the minutes of Council Meeting dated 12th October 2026 and Extraordinary General Meeting dated 19th October 2026

206/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee held on 26th October 2026 and Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee held on 2nd November 2026 and Community Facilities Committee held on 19th October 2026

207/26 QUESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN RELATING TO RECEIVED MINUTES

208/26 COMMITTEE RECOMENDATIONS

To consider and approve recommendation from CIL working Party regarding ONH report

209/26 S106 FUNDING

To consider and approve offer from West Northants Council with regards to S106 funding from St Crispins development for Community facilities on Norwood Farm SUE

210/26 CONSULTATIONS

To consider and approve response to WNC Consultations

a) Northampton Area Transport strategy

b) Housing Strategy 2027-2032

c) Road Safety Strategy

d) Pre-submission Local Plan Regulation 19

211/26 FINANCE

To Consider and approve donation to Northampton Fire and Rescue for attending public meeting

212/26 POLICE

To consider if there are any projects that the immediate justice team could help with in the parish

213/26 WEBSITE

To consider and approve change of website provider

214/26 DATES FOR MEETINGS 2027-28

To consider and approve dates for meetings for next council year

215/26 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th January 2026 at 7pm

Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Monday 19th October 2026, in the Methodist Chapel at 7pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (Chair), N Bess, J Gibbins, I Haynes, C Nnadozie, D Starmer, G Taylor,
Also present – Clerk, 1 Member of the Public

Meeting start: 7pm

168/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies approved for Cllrs Wallace, Roberts and Philips.
Not present were Cllrs Gardner, Madle and Hancy

169/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Gibbins is a trustee of the Old School Hall

170/26 OLD SCHOOL HALL

Following the refusal of funding from Harpole Charities for works required to improve drainage at the Old School Hall, trustees had asked the Council to reconsider their offer and if they could contribute the full amount. Cllr Smethers wished to make a statement that trustees should fulfil maintenance and associated costs. Old School Trustees should try to recruit more trustees to help or think of other funding options moving forward.
There was a discussion about how much the Old School Hall and Pre-school were contributing to the works. They have done many improvements over the years, and making good after the works will be their responsibility. They have applied for many grants but often get refused.
It was proposed that the Parish Council contribute £20,000 of CIL monies for the works. All voted in favour. **Approved**

Meeting closed 7.17pm
Next meeting Monday 9th November.

Signed Date

DRAFT

Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 12th October 2026, in the Methodist Chapel at 7pm.

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

Also present – Clerk, WNC Cllr Bignell (part), 5 Members of the Public

Meeting start: 7pm

154/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies received for Cllrs Gardner, Hancy, Madle and Philips

155/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

None to declare

156/26 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Local Plan Regulation 19 is now open for Consultation.
Kier has been chased about works on Kislingbury roundabout to prevent flooding. There is a planned reprofile, just no timescale.
On 29th October there is a flooding exhibition van in Bugbrooke giving help and advice.
He has been to Nobottle Road and spoken to the land owners about their queries on the boundaries.
Winterfest is due in Northampton Market Square late November
Parish Councillors expressed their disappointment with the planning department and the Vistry situation and asked if he could chase on our behalf.

Cllr Bignell Leaves

157/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1 member of the public from Old School Hall. Following on from the item last month, the Charities have denied the request for funding so they are asking if the PC can reconsider their offer. This will be discussed in an EGM next week.
Another member of public was from Western Gate. Despite there being many dog bins there are still people who do not pick up after their dogs. Can the council put something in the newsletter to remind people?
Verges around the new bench near Kislingbury Roundabout is unkempt. Can this be tidied up? This is highways and clerk will contact. There was also comments about signage in the ditches. Clerk to follow up with maintenance contractor.

158/26 COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 14th September 2026 were approved and signed.

159/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee of 28th September 2026, Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 7th September 2026 and Community Facilities Committee of 21st September were received.

DRAFT

160/26 QUESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN RELATED TO RECEIVED MINUTES

Full Council meeting questions: It was asked if The Old School Hall query could be considered here as it was on last months agenda. Clerk advised that as the decision is different to the original it does need to be on another agenda with the appropriate timings.

CIL Working Party was due to meet to discuss Visioning Report. A date was agreed with those present.

There were no questions on the Committee minutes.

161/26 COMMITTEES RECOMENDATIONS

a) There was a discussion about whether the council should continue to collect data and information to make an application for 20mph zones in the parish. There was concern about the lack of response to the survey, and whether this would change driver behaviour if they are not abiding to 30mph. With Road Hill closed there are less cars in the village so more data needs to be collected when this is reopened. It was proposed that work will continue to get required information to make an application to Highways. **Approved.** Cllr Smethers requested his against vote was recorded.

2 members of the public

b) We are still awaiting definitive plans and pricing for a crossing by the school. It was proposed that the clerk chase for this information. **Approved**
Clerk to ask PCSO to be present at a school drop off / collection as there is some questionable parking.

Member of the public leaves

162/26 TECNOLOGY

It had been suggested that the clerk investigate technologies to allow recording or live-streaming of meetings. It was queried if this would encourage more public engagement. It was proposed that this is something to consider in the future when the council has its own room for meetings and fixed equipment can be purchased and installed.

163/26 NEWSLETTER

Currently the chair provides a council update in the newsletter and was asking for input from more councillors, such as a rota. No councillor was willing to produce a report but suggestions for other content was given. Clerk to remind all councillors when contributions are needed so items can be raised at the correct time. Other parishes have parish newsletters prepared by volunteers rather than the PC, though this brings other risks.

164/26 FINANCE

a) Accounts for October approved.

Supplier	Description	Amount
Staff	Wages & HMRC	5,547.95
Shield Maintenance	Dog bins	210.17
R&G Groundworks	Grass Cutting	169.96
Nickolls Landscaping	Maintenance	105.00
SLCC	Training	117.00
SLCC	Training	135.00
SLCC	Training	85.00

DRAFT

West Northants Council	Bin emptying	260.00
ID Mobile	Phone	5.00
Allotment plot holders	Key refunds	24.00
SLCC	Training	117.00
British Gas	Office Electric	55.49
Paul Thomas	Maintenance	346.60
Paul Thomas	Maintenance	346.60
Paul Thomas	Maintenance	492.59
Shield Maintenance	Bin emptying	210.17
Valda Energy	Street lighting	286.50
Unity Bank	Bank fees	10.75
PKF Littlejohn	Audit fees	840.00
Scribe	IT software	99.00
Northants CALC	Training	46.00

b) Budget for end of September was received.

Current Account	339,519.08
CCLA Savings	1,289,384.98
Metrobank savers	2,059.73
Credit card	-1,628.41
Unpresented payments	2,898.89
Unpresented receipts	1,628.41
Total	1,628,064.90

Opening Balance	1,260,370.70
Expenditure to date	113,046.63
Income to Date	480,740.83
Cashbook balance	1,628,064.90

165/26 AUDIT

External Audit had been received and circulated. There was a comment about incorrectly completing the form with regards to councils that are involved with charities. Clerk explained what had happened and that this had caught out other clerks who do not have responsibility for charities. Extra care will be taken next year.

166/26 PLANNING

Despite being advised that a legal pack would be sent to legal on 7th August this has still not happened. Planning are in conversations with Vistry.

It was proposed that WNC are asked for information by the end of the month or the council will consider our options. **Approved.**

It was proposed that the council reject Vistry's offer for the pavilion. **Approved.**

It was proposed that the clerk, chair and vice chair have the authority to seek further professional advice on possible next steps. Any costings related to this will be brought to the next meeting. **Approved**.

167/26 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Update on Norwood SUE and costings.

Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation

Suggestion from a member of public that the council purchase the Turnpike for use as a community centre will be added to SFPC agenda.

Meeting closed 9pm

DRAFT

Next meeting Monday 9th November.

Signed Date

DRAFT

Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 2nd November, 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 – Clerk, Cllr Bess, Harlestone Manor

Meeting Start: 7pm

190/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies received. Cllr Gardner absent.

191/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

No declarations made

192/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public.

193/26 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 7th September 2026.

194/26 NORTHAMPTON WEST SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSION

a) A meeting is arranged with Bloor on site to look at open space. It is thought a West Northants council officer will also be present. Aim of the meeting is to establish a timeline for handover. It may make sense for handover to Harpole and Harlestone Manor to happen at the same time, especially if we use the same contractor or want to share a solicitor.
Clerk and Chairman are having a meeting with Davidsons later this week to discuss plans submitted for the second phase of development.

195/26 NORWOOD FARM SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION

a) EIR letter has been sent to West Northants Council requesting information on breaches and discussions that have taken place with developers. There is a legal obligation for the council to respond. There may be a need for an EGM in December depending on the outcome.
There has been an S106 variation application to change definitions. Clerk to chase for information.

196/26 SPORTS PROVISION

a) There has been no change on the new pavilion and no work on new pitches. Last communication received was regarding negotiations on access to the site.
Transfer of playing fields still in progress.

DRAFT

197/26 EVIDENCE GATHERING

Proposal had been tabled regarding CCTV service which could help enforcement with HGV traffic and gather evidence on traffic flow. It was proposed that they are invited to the January meeting to present.

198/26 FINANCE

a) Payments for November

Supplier	Description	Amount
Staff Costs	staff costs	6,935.16
Amazon	Chairs	22.87
R&G Groundworks	Allotment Maintenance	169.96
Amazon	Allotment Maintenance	26.08
Autella Payroll Services	Payroll Services	73.31
Gigaclear	Broadband	30.00
Parish Online	Mapping Software	100.00
R&G Groundworks	Grass cutting	352.00
Northants Police	PCSO	8,020.84
R&G Groundworks	Grounds Maintenance	1,147.00
Vistaprint	Newsletters	200.99
Harpole Bowls Club	Room Hire	60.00
Old School Hall	Grant	20,000
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	32.50
Forde & McHugh Ltd	Street Light repair	160.00
Northants CALC	Training	81.00

b) Reconciliation had not been completed. Information to be shared once available.

c) It was approved that £250 be donated to St Johns Ambulance for the defibrillator training.

d) Draft budget was discussed and it was proposed that questions and suggestions are sent to the clerk for consideration at January Meeting.

199/26 COMMUNITY CENTRE

A resident had made the suggestion that the council consider purchasing The Turnpike to convert into a community facility for the village. It was noted that the building has now been sold to a company who has purchased many Beefeater restaurants.

200/26 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None.

Meeting closed 7.55pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th January 2027 at 7pm

Signed Date

DRAFT

Chairman – Mr F Smethers **Clerk** – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Community Facilities Committee meeting held on Monday 21st September 2026, in the Methodist Chapel at 7.15pm.

Present – Cllrs D Starmer (Chair), N Bess, F Smethers, G Taylor, J Douglas (HFC)
Also present – Clerk

Meeting start: 7.20pm

172/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies approved from Cllr Gibbins, G Mills of Football Club and P Brazier of Tennis Club.

173/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllrs Starmer and Smethers declared interests as trustees of playing field charity.

174/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public

175/26 MINUTES

Minutes of the committee meeting 21st September 2026 were approved and signed.

176/26 WORK PLAN

Clerk had compiled rough 30 year plan costings based on figures provided by Football club and playing fields committee. Bulk of income for Football club comes from hospitality (bar etc). They try to keep reserves in the bank account for emergencies. Are as self sufficient as they can be and are looking to make improvements to introduce community café at the pavilion. The football club have looked at becoming a charity but funding is better from FA if a not for profit group than a charity.
When new pitches are laid and ready for use, more of existing field will be opened up for general use.
Football club is aware of future proofing to ensure that there is not just 1 person that can do any job.

177/26 LEGAL AGREEMENTS

Heads of Terms had been suggested based on Bowls club lease. Football club ideally need 25 year lease to enable access to grants. Three yearly rent review based on index linking seemed appropriate. Repairing lease on Pavilion as at present and Right to use pitches. There was a discussion about whether timings should be included. It was proposed that the FA is approached to ensure the lease is appropriate to allow grants to be awarded.
Original constitution for playing fields states sport for all and the lease would need to ensure that this is still possible. Details of who is responsible for what maintenance etc needs to be agreed. Details of insurance also needs to be added, as does what options are available when there is expansion with new pavilion and pitches.
School and Tennis Club will also need some kind of right to use agreement.

178/26 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

DRAFT

More details for lease and other agreements.

Meeting closed 8.35pm
Signed Date

DRAFT

209/26 – S106 Funding

I have received an email from the S106 team regarding some S106 funding from a development on St Crispin and Norwood SUE is a priority for receiving the funding. This is for community facilities which can include open space and play areas. I need to confirm to WNC if we wish to take this funding before she offers it to Upton PC.

N/2018/0774	land west of St Crispin Drive Northampton Northamptonshire	Community Facilities	Community Facilities Contribution - means the sum of £13,924 (thirteen thousand nine hundred and twenty-four pounds) (being a contribution of £118 per Dwelling) plus Indexation **for the provision of and/or improvement of community facilities** in areas in the following order of priority: **1. Norwood Farm Sustainable Urban Extension** 2. Projects within Upton Parish to the north of the A4500 Weedon Road.	S3-6	£8,110.37 £8,110.37	£8,110.37 £8,110.37	13/08/2034 13/08/2034
				Total	**£16,220.74**	**£16,220.74**	

Local Plan

Regulation 19 is the final consultation stage before the Plan is submitted to the Planning Inspector for examination. **Comments should focus on whether the Plan is legally compliant and "sound".**

Suggested response:

The Parish Council recognises the importance of maintaining an up-to-date Local Plan and supports the principle of plan-led development. However, we have a number of concerns regarding the soundness of the Plan as it relates to Harpole and the Northampton Western Fringe.

1. Infrastructure Must Be Delivered Alongside Development

The Parish Council strongly believes that development should be infrastructure-led.

Whilst significant housing growth has been approved and is being delivered within Harpole Parish, there remains considerable uncertainty regarding the timely delivery of:

- Secondary school provision
- Healthcare facilities and GP capacity
- Highway improvements
- Public transport enhancements
- Walking and cycling infrastructure
- Community facilities and other supporting infrastructure

The Plan should provide greater certainty regarding the infrastructure necessary to support growth, including delivery mechanisms, funding sources and timescales. Where infrastructure is required to mitigate the impacts of development, occupation of new homes should be linked to its delivery.

2. Transport and Highway Impacts

The cumulative impact of development across the Northampton western area continues to place pressure on the strategic and local highway network.

Particular concern remains regarding:

- The A4500 corridor
- M1 Junction 16
- Local village roads used as alternative routes during congestion
- Connectivity between new developments and existing communities

The Parish Council is not satisfied that the Plan fully demonstrates how the cumulative impacts of committed and proposed development will be mitigated. Transport modelling should reflect all approved development within the area and identify any additional interventions required to ensure the network operates effectively throughout the Plan period.

3. Protection of Village Identity and Prevention of Coalescence

Harpole remains a distinct historic village with its own character and identity despite the scale of development occurring around it.

The Parish Council considers it essential that the Local Plan protects the physical and visual separation between Harpole and Northampton and ensures that future development does not result in the gradual erosion of the village's individual character.

The Plan should continue to support the retention of green buffers, important landscape features and open countryside that contributes to the setting of the village.

4. Active Travel and Sustainable Transport

The Parish Council supports the objective of reducing car dependency and encouraging sustainable travel.

However, there remain gaps in the provision of safe, direct and continuous walking and cycling routes linking:

- Harpole village
- New strategic housing developments
- Schools
- Employment areas
- Public transport services

The Plan should require active travel infrastructure to be delivered at an early stage and ensure that developments are connected to existing communities rather than functioning as isolated settlements.

5. Flood Risk and Surface Water Management

The Parish Council welcomes the strengthening of policies relating to flood risk and drainage.

Given the scale of development within and around the parish, the Council believes that particular attention should be given to cumulative impacts on surface water drainage and downstream flood risk.

Developers should be required to demonstrate that sustainable drainage systems will function effectively throughout the lifetime of a development and that robust arrangements exist for their long-term maintenance.

6. Status of Non-Allocated Sites

The Parish Council notes that a number of sites promoted through earlier stages of the Local Plan process have not been taken forward as allocations within the Regulation 19 Plan.

Whilst the Council accepts that landowners and developers may continue to discuss future development opportunities, the Local Plan should provide greater clarity regarding the status of sites which have been assessed and subsequently excluded.

Clear justification should be provided regarding why these sites have not been allocated and why the selected sites are considered more appropriate. This would provide greater certainty to communities, landowners and decision makers and strengthen confidence in the plan-led system.

Given the scale of growth already committed within Harpole Parish, the Council supports the exclusion of non-allocated sites and considers that the development strategy should remain focused on delivering existing commitments and allocations rather than promoting further speculative growth.

7. Alignment with Other Strategies

The Parish Council would welcome greater clarity regarding how the Local Plan aligns with other recently adopted or emerging strategies and policy documents, including transport, climate resilience, nature recovery and active travel plans.

Ensuring consistency between these strategies will help deliver sustainable development and provide confidence that growth can be supported by the necessary infrastructure and environmental enhancements.

Conclusion

Harpole Parish Council supports the principle of a plan-led approach to development. However, the Council considers that the Regulation 19 Local Plan should be strengthened by:

1. Ensuring infrastructure is delivered alongside development.
2. Addressing cumulative traffic impacts on the local and strategic road network.
3. Protecting Harpole's separate identity and preventing coalescence with Northampton.
4. Delivering high-quality active travel links between developments and existing communities.
5. Strengthening flood risk and drainage requirements.

6. Providing greater certainty regarding the status of non-allocated sites.
7. Demonstrating closer alignment with other adopted strategic policies and plans.

The Parish Council respectfully requests that these matters be examined further before the Local Plan is submitted for examination.

Housing Strategy

The draft strategy focuses on four themes:

- delivering the homes communities need,
- supporting independent living,
- strengthening the private rented sector
- being a high-performing landlord.

Suggested Response:

Harpole Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy 2027-2032.

The Parish Council supports the objective of ensuring that all residents have access to safe, suitable and affordable housing. We particularly support efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing, specialist accommodation and housing that enables older residents to remain independent within their communities.

However, the Council believes the strategy should place greater emphasis on the specific needs of rural communities. Villages such as Harpole face particular challenges relating to affordability, access to services and maintaining balanced and sustainable communities. Housing policies should support opportunities for local people to remain within their villages through the provision of genuinely affordable homes.

The Parish Council also considers that housing growth must be accompanied by the timely provision of supporting infrastructure. This includes highway improvements, road safety measures, healthcare provision, education capacity, public transport and community facilities. Without adequate infrastructure, further housing growth risks placing additional pressure on existing communities.

Whilst the need for new housing is recognised, development should be proportionate, sustainable and sensitive to local character. The strategy should continue to promote high-quality design, energy efficiency, biodiversity enhancement and the creation of attractive places that foster community wellbeing.

Harpole Parish Council welcomes the strategy's commitment to improving standards in the private rented sector and encourages West Northamptonshire Council to ensure that residents in rural areas have equal access to support and enforcement services.

Road Safety Consultation

The strategy specifically mentions tackling speeding, protecting vulnerable road users and working more closely with local communities.

Suggested response:

The Parish Council would particularly like the strategy to recognise the needs of rural communities and villages experiencing significant growth. Harpole has seen increased traffic associated with surrounding residential and employment development, and residents continue to express concerns regarding speeding, pedestrian safety, vehicle movements and the safety of vulnerable road users.

The Parish Council requests that the final strategy:

• Gives priority to speeding concerns in villages through enhanced monitoring, enforcement and traffic-calming measures where appropriate.

• Improves pedestrian safety, particularly on routes used by children travelling to school, people accessing bus stops and residents walking between different parts of the village.

• Provides safe and connected walking and cycling routes linking villages with nearby developments and services.

• Considers the impact of HGV and construction traffic on rural communities.

• Places greater emphasis on the safety of rural roads and junctions, where higher speeds can increase the severity of collisions.

• Ensures parish councils are engaged as local partners in identifying road safety concerns and developing solutions.

The Parish Council supports an evidence-based approach to road safety but encourages the Council to consider resident concerns, near misses and perceived risks alongside recorded collision data when determining future priorities.

Northampton Area Transport Strategy

Northampton Area Transport Strategy is West Northamptonshire Council's long-term transport plan for Northampton and the surrounding area, looking ahead to **2036 and beyond**. It has been prepared to support planned housing and employment growth, reduce congestion, improve connectivity and encourage more journeys by walking, cycling and public transport.

Suggested Response:

The Parish Council supports the overall aims of improving connectivity, reducing congestion, encouraging sustainable travel and ensuring that transport infrastructure keeps pace with future growth. We particularly welcome the emphasis on improving public transport, walking and cycling connections, and providing greater travel choice for residents.

However, Harpole Parish Council wishes to raise the following points for consideration:

1. Impact of Growth on the Western Approach to Northampton

Harpole sits on the western edge of Northampton and has already experienced significant impacts from major development in recent years. Further housing and employment growth across the Northampton area is likely to increase demand on transport infrastructure serving the western side of the town.

The Strategy should provide greater assurance that infrastructure improvements will be delivered alongside development and that existing communities are not adversely affected by increased traffic congestion.

2. Protection of Rural Communities from Traffic Displacement

Where traffic management measures, bus priority schemes or active travel interventions are introduced, careful consideration should be given to the potential for traffic to divert through surrounding villages.

Harpole Parish Council would not support measures which result in increased through-traffic using village roads as alternative routes. Ongoing monitoring should be undertaken and mitigation introduced where displacement occurs.

3. Improved Public Transport for Villages

If the Strategy is to achieve a meaningful modal shift away from private car use, reliable and attractive public transport options must be available to rural communities.

The Parish Council would support:

- Improved bus frequencies.

- Better evening and weekend services.
- Enhanced links to Northampton town centre, Northampton Railway Station and major employment areas.
- Integration between bus services and wider transport networks.

Without such improvements, residents of villages such as Harpole will remain heavily dependent on private vehicles.

4. Walking and Cycling Connections

The Parish Council supports the principle of improving active travel infrastructure and would welcome investment in safe and convenient walking and cycling routes linking Harpole with Northampton, Sixfields, Upton and key employment areas.

Particular attention should be given to:

- Safe crossing points where routes intersect with major roads.
- Continuous and accessible routes suitable for all users.
- Connections to schools, employment sites and public transport hubs.

5. Strategic Development and Cumulative Impacts

The Parish Council would encourage West Northamptonshire Council to consider the cumulative impact of planned growth across the area rather than assessing developments individually. Traffic generated by multiple sites can have a significant combined effect on surrounding communities and strategic routes.

Future transport modelling should demonstrate that proposed interventions will adequately address these cumulative impacts.

6. Ongoing Engagement with Parish Councils

Local parish councils have detailed knowledge of transport issues affecting their communities. Harpole Parish Council requests that parish councils continue to be engaged as proposals are developed, refined and prioritised.

Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 26th October 2026, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (chair), J Gibbins, C Nnadozie, S Phillips, G Taylor
Also present – Clerk

Meeting Start: 7.05pm

179/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
No apologies received. Cllrs Bess and Haynes not present.

180/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.
Cllrs Gibbins advised they have an allotment plot

181/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
No members of public present

182/26 MINUTES
Cllr Gibbins asked that item 149/26b be amended to say "most agreed" rather than "all agreed" With this small amendments councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of Planning, Highways & Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 28th September 2026.

183/26 PLANNING
a) It was **Approved** there were **no objections** to planning application 2026/3992/FULL - Construction of a 4-bedroom dwellinghouse in place of a consented Class Q dwellinghouse and associated works including landscape and biodiversity enhancement - Agricultural Buildings Upper High Street
b) planning application 2026/3915/TCA - Works to Conifer Trees and to fell Holly tree within a conservation area - 7 High Street was **Noted**

184/26 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

a) Clerk had received complaint about weeds growing near High Street Bus Stop. Highways had been contacted and they usually spray twice a year but have only sprayed in spring this year. Maintenance person has cleared. It was **Approved** that the maintenance person should add this to the list of regular items to look out for. Clerk to ask about sweeper lorry schedule.
b) Complainant of bench relocation was not happy with the response and has been sent information on how to make a formal complaint. She had been invited to a meeting to discuss but declined. It was **Approved** that there is no further action to take at this time.

c) Footpath between Garners Way and playing field had been missed off the plan for the grounds contractor. They have now cut and suggested a clearance for £120 to make it easier to cut in future. It was noted that some growth is coming from neighbours land. It was **approved** that the contractor should clear but the neighbour be made aware and advised that they should keep growth back in future to aid access.

d) Resident has cut back hedge obscuring 30mph sign on Sandy Lane.
Works have started on Sandy Lane with access to properties and South bound traffic.
A branch from a tree had come down with the wind and was in the road on Sandy Lane. This is in the ditch. Clerk to request this is cleared.

185/26 ALLOTMENTS

a) Anglian water have been out today to fix leak. Cllr Gibbins to check water is running on site.
More plots have been let this week. More may come available when invoices are sent out for next year but we do not have many plots left. Process for making more plots to be on next agenda.
It was noted that there are several tenants with chickens. Tenancy agreement should be updated to remind tenants the need to register poultry to APHA.

186/26 STREET FURNITURE

a) last 3 benches have been delivered.
Clerk to request check of salt bins.
Request to pick up after dogs is in next newsletter.
Painting of South View bus stop to be on next agenda.

187/26 FLOOD WARDEN REPORT

Two flood wardens have resigned but 2 more have had training. Flood team from WNC and clerk will meet with them mid November to walk area and show what needs to be done. This report to be higher on agenda in future.

188/26 CHURCH

No further updates. ONH report to be discussed at CIL working group meeting tomorrow.

189/26 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Some items mentioned above. Also moving of speed camera and budget for 2027-28.

Meeting closed 8.30pm

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

Signed: