



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026, in the Methodist Chapel at 7pm.

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

Also present – Clerk, Parish Administrator, WNC Cllr Bignell (part)

Meeting start: 7pm

1/26 TO ELECT CHAIRMAN FOR 2026-7

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Smethers remains chair. Approved

2/26 TO ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2026-7

Cllrs Starmer and Wallace were proposed and seconded. After a vote it was approved that Cllr Wallace is Vice Chairman

3/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

4/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllrs Roberts and Smethers declared as trustees of The Combined Harpole Charitable Trust

5/26 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bignell advised he was aware there was talk on Facebook about the length of time that Nobottle Road is closed. This was always due to be closed until September for a footpath to be installed and sewerage under the road. He had pushed for traffic-light controlled traffic management but had been advised that this was not possible for the safety of the workers. There was a discussion about the lateness of the pavilion and playing fields from Norwood SUE. He was asked how parish councils could be more involved in the writing of the S106. Moving forward the local plan should make this possible. He was asked if he knew when CIL payments would be made, he would chase.

Cllr Bignell Leaves

6/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present

7/26 COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 13th April 2026 were approved and signed.

8/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee of 27th April 2026 were received.

9/26 QUESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN RELATED TO RECEIVED MINUTES

There were no questions

10/26 MEMBERSHIP TO COMMITTEES

- a) Terms of reference for committees was tabled and approved with no amendments
- b) It was proposed that membership for committees continues unchanged. Clerk noted that the Staffing committee has chair and vice chair as members and advised with change of vice chair the membership would change slightly.

It was proposed that a new committee is set up to manage new facilities that the council will be taking on. This will start with the playing fields and include any other buildings and open space we acquire from the development. Councillors approved to committee were Cllrs Gibbins, Roberts, Hancy, Smethers, Starmer, Bess and Taylor. There will also be other non-council members from users of the facilities such as football club, tennis club, school etc. Clerk to set up first meeting and draft terms of reference for approval.

11/26 MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE BODIES

It was approved the following councillors be representatives on the following bodies:

Old School House – Cllrs Gibbins and Smethers

Playing Fields – Cllrs Starmer, Smethers and Haynes

Youth Club – Cllrs Gardner and Nnadozie

Scarecrow Committee – Cllr Hancy

It was agreed that there should be regular updates to council from these members after meetings or quarterly at meetings.

12/26 INTERNAL CONTROLLER

It was approved that Cllr Gibbins remains internal controller

13/26 POLICY

- a) Standing Orders were approved unchanged
- b) Financial regulations were approved unchanged
- c) Code of conduct was approved unchanged
- d) Training and Development policy was approved unchanged.

There was a discussion about councillors taking courses available. Chairman advised he thought all on Finance committee should take Finance training. It would also be preferred that as many councillors as possible held the foundation level of Northants CALC Councillor Development framework.

14/26 DEFIBRILLATOR

Pricing and locations for 4 new defibrillators, boxes and bleed kits were approved. 2 extra bleed kits approved for existing boxes. New box for defibrillator outside the Shoe Shop was approved as the lock mechanism is broken. All to be purchased with CIL funding.

Administrator advised that once the school one has been repaired and a box purchased this will be attached to the gate on the outside so it will be available to anyone in need.

There will need to be a new budget line in future for ongoing maintenance and replacement of batteries and pads.

15/26 PLANNING

3 Councillors and the clerk attended a meeting last week with Vistry and the planning officer for Norwood SUE. Vistry advised that they would not be able to build the pavilion as the costs were too high and the S106 has a £550k cap. West Northants are looking into the legal

implications and what options are possible. The Parish Council need to be ready to push West Northants to enforce the S106 and ensure that the building is built.

There is an offer that Vistry will pass the obligation to the Parish Council for the £550k but they have admitted this is not enough to complete the project to the current approved specification.

16/26 CIL RECOMMENDATIONS

A report from a consultant on a land feasibility study was received and considered. It was proposed to engage with ONH consultants to get a better understanding of the councils options on land in the parish. Cllrs Smethers and Gibbins expressed an interest in attending the start up meeting.

17/26 SPEED MONITOR

The council purchased 2 new speed monitors. There are a number of approved locations but some are not suitable at the moment due to road closures. As such one was placed on a pole on the green on High Street. There has been some concern that this is not a good location as a protected green space. It was agreed that this is only temporary until a post is installed on Sandy Lane, or Road Hill is reopened. There needs to be a further discussion about whether the post can be removed. Chairman to raise at Parish Meeting and in the newsletter to gain views of residents.

18/26 BOWLS CLUB

Bowls Club had sent in a proposal for water connection to their building on its own meter. The proposal was approved.

19/26 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No further items to add at this time.

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Signed

Date