



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

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

Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Monday 14th September 2026, in the Methodist Chapel at 7pm.

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

Also present – Clerk, Parish Administrator, WNC Cllr King (part), 1 Member of the Public

Meeting start: 7pm

123/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies received for Cllrs Gardner, Philips and Nnadozie

124/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Gibbins as trustee of Old School House

125/26 REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

Cllr King advised of current scheme being run by WNC – 30 ways in 30 days getting people ready for community emergencies.

She has asked for answers on traffic and roadworks that are affecting Harpole and Kislingbury and is awaiting an answer.

She was asked if she would help support the parish with regards to issues with the S106 on Norwood Farm development.

She was asked about footpath on Larkhall Lane, she will follow up.

Cllr Bignell had given apologies but sent written report. February 2027 as opening date for Nobottle Road seems realistic. Works are planned on Kislingbury roundabout to help improve drainage but has yet to commence. He is aware of the views of residents with regards to opening Road Hill.

Cllr King Leaves

There was a suggestion that portfolio holders are invited to future meetings to answer our questions.

126/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of the public was present to present proposal from Old School Hall in item 131/26. It was agreed to bring this item forward

131/26 OLD SCHOOL HALL

The old school hall is struggling for committee members to help run and fundraise. The main issue is a culvert that runs under the playground, and that this land is higher than the building, causing damp. Proper drainage needs installing which will cost approx. £20,000. She is looking to the Parish Council, Harpole Charities, Preschool and Old School hall to share the costs of this. After a discussion councillors are minded to work with Harpole Charities to pay this, if their constitution allows. At this point Cllr Smethers declared an interest as a trustee to the Charities. It was approved that the Parish Council pay half. Cllr Gibbins did not vote as a trustee of Old School hall

127/26 COUNCIL MINUTES

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

128/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee of 27th July 2026, and Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 6th July 2026 were received.

129/26 QUESTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN RELATED TO RECEIVED MINUTES

It was asked why Strategy, Finance and Policy minutes from 7th September were not included. This is due to them not being ready at the time of agenda being posted.

Item 96/26 stated that the council would write a letter of support for the football club. Clerk had asked Football Club for more information on who to address the letter to, this had not been received so no letter had been sent.

130/26 COMMITTEES RECOMENDATIONS

- a) Chair, Vice chair and Clerk met with officers at WNC on 7th August regarding S106 breaches on Norwood Farm SUE. They do have statutory powers to enforce. Despite saying information was going to be sent to legal imminently this still hasn't happened. It was approved that the council continue to work with WNC and urge for a stronger approach.
- b) An offer has been received from Vistry, it was approved that the council would not respond and await action by WNC. There is enough evidence for an injunction and this should be the first option.

131/26 OLD SCHOOL HALL

See above

132/26 POLICIES

There was a discussion about current issues and if this needs to be covered in the risk assessment but these are already covered. There is mention of risks relating to the clerk. It was proposed that this is changed to read staff now clerk is not the only employee. With this small amendment the risk assessment was approved.

133/26 VISIONING REPORT

Visioning Report had been received and circulated. It was proposed that CIL working group take a look at the proposals and make a recommendation to council on next steps.

134/26 ALLOTMENTS

A tenant had requested permission to grow flowers for her floristry work. There was much debate as to whether this was allowed following advice from the National Allotment Society. It was approved that she would be allowed to grow flowers and any further similar requests would be considered on their own merit.

135/26 STAFFING

- a) Clerk had requested change in working hours on meeting days. This was approved.
- b) New national pay scale award figures were noted for the clerk and administrator.

136/26 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Clerk to investigate if there is a current safe routes to school initiative.

Meeting closed 8.50pm
Next meeting Monday 12th October.

Signed

Date

DRAFT