



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 28th September 2026, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (chair), N Bess, J Gibbins, I Haynes (part), C Nnadozie, S Phillips, G Taylor

Also present – Clerk, and 9 members of public

Meeting Start: 7pm

143/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Late Apologies accepted for Cllr Haynes

144/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllrs Gibbins and Phillips advised they have an allotment plot

145/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of public as tenant of allotments for horses. They have heard rumours that this will be taken back for plots. They have been in the village decades. They were asking if tenants who are not from the village would be asked to leave first. This is currently hearsay and will be considered once we have a waiting list.

Another member of the public asked if the bowls club car park could be opened to relieve parking on Larkhall Lane at weekends. This would be between the football club and the bowls club.

Flood warden was present and gave an update on a meeting with Highways regarding flooding on South View and the roundabout. A potential solution was offered. Clerk advised that the landowner had also been made aware since the meeting. There was a discussion about whose responsibility works are when no-one is aware of their responsibilities.

Resident from 55 Garners Way asked if permanent barriers could be installed to replace the temporary ones. Clerk advised she thought that highways said this was not possible due to the width of the path but will chase following photos sent in.

Resident from Upper High Street was asking if Road Hill can remain permanently closed. It will become a rat run once opened up again. This is not a decision that the parish council could make. Council have been requesting mitigation to prevent rat runs.

1 member of public leaves

Cllr Haynes joins the meeting

146/26 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of Planning, Highways & Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 27th July 2026.

147/26 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a) Council had been approached regarding regarding project 508. It was proposed that the clerk provide whatever information we can.
- b) It was proposed that the clerk should look into whether it is possible to reinstate the verge on Larkhall Lane where it has become an unofficial layby and attracts fly-tipping
- c) Currently Road Hill has been reopened to allow traffic to the new Davidsons site. There are plans to open Nobottle Road towards Bringtons in October and the rest in February. Comments suggest that this has already increased traffic in the village. The committee discussed whether it would want to request that there is no opening until it is all open, or if it is left to open as scheduled. There are some that benefit from quieter roads when it is closed, but there are villagers who used to use this to get to work or visit family and it is costing to go the long way around. Ultimately the decision is with Highways. There is a 7.5t weight limit in the village so there should not be any construction traffic. Residents are urged to take photographs or videos of any that attempt to come through the village and send to the clerk who will report.
- d) A road safety survey was delivered to every house in the parish asking 3 key questions. 120 responses were received. All but a couple were from the village, showing an approximate 16% engagement. There was a discussion about how representative this would be.
It was proposed that it is recommended to Full Council that the council investigate a 20mph limit in the built up areas of the parish. All in favour except Cllr Smethers who asked for his vote to be recorded.
It was proposed that there is a recommendation to Full Council that the crossing at the school is chased and built with CIL funding.
As part of the survey other safety measures were considered and it was proposed that these are considered at a later date.
- e) WNC have a Highways Service Feedback Survey for the council to consider and respond to. It was proposed that the clerk is delegated authority to respond on behalf of the council.
- f) At the last meeting a speed roundel not visible due to overgrown hedges was reported. The address of the homeowner was advised. Clerk will contact.

4 members of the public leave

148/26 ALLOTMENTS

- a) Shed size policy was tabled. The current lease says that should a tenant wish to erect a shed / greenhouse / poly tunnel they are to request permission. It was proposed that the lease is updated to say that sheds / greenhouse of 3m x 3m would be permissible without request from the council. Only 25% of a plot can be used for buildings without consent of the council.

Cllr Smethers leaves the meeting

Cllr Gibbins takes the chair

- b) A tenant had made a request to house ducks on his plot. It was proposed that before permission is granted, a plan for the number of ducks and how they will be kept is to



be sent to the council and approved. It was proposed that any approval would be on a trial basis.

- c) Letter had been sent to tenants who looked like they has still not improved their plots. Some plots have been handed back and others have been cleared.

Cllr Smethers returns to the meeting

- d) Quotes had been received for removal of tyres. It was proposed to accept the cheapest. Quotes to remove other rubbish will commence once these have been removed.
- e) Following a report of a leak, one was found next to the meter at the entrance to the allotments. To prevent further water loss the water has been turned off and Anglian Water advised. Clerk awaiting information on when an engineer will visit. Fires have been temporarily banned whilst there is no method of control.

149/26 STREET FURNITURE

- a) Most of the village sign looks OK. Clerk to investigate costings to renovate and reinstall.
- b) An email had been received following the slight relocation of the bench on Carrs Way. The main reason for moving was to ensure it was not directly looking into a property (as it was before) and away from a low hanging branch on the tree. All agreed the current location was OK and response to be sent.
- c) 3 benches have been replaced and we are awaiting delivery of the other 3.

150/26 OFFICE

Options were put forward for an outside storage box to house the gazebo and other items when not in use. It was proposed that there was a budget of £500 to purchase a metal lock box, padlocks and items needed to make a secure base.

151/26 CHURCH

Chair and clerk met with new reverend of the church. Current situation is they are looking to expand the ashes internment area. There are some burial plots but these are running out. Due to the sheep remains the church would not consecrate the land suggested behind the current burial land. However, there is no reason the council could not take it on as an consecrated burial land if deemed suitable otherwise.

152/26 CONTRACTORS

R&G Groundworks are about to start their last year of the 3 year contract. Some items of note were discussed to pass on as feedback for the final year.

153/26 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No items for the next agenda.

Meeting closed 9pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 26th October 2026 at 7pm

Signed:

DRAFT