



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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

Minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 5th May 2026, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs S Roberts (Chair), K Gardner, B Hancy, F Smethers, D Starmer, C Wallace (part)

Also present – S Willis (Clerk)

Meeting Start: 7pm

344/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr Wallace advised he would be late. There were no apologies received from Cllr Madle

345/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Gardner declared an interest in item 35/26 c as school governor

346/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present

347/25 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 2nd March 2026

348/25 NORTHAMPTON WEST SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSION

Play park on Harlestone Park opened on 1st May with grand opening. Clerk attended. There was a good turnout from residents. This is in Harlestone Manor, but just over the boundary. It is thought that Bloor are looking for open space sign off in June. Clerk to chase.

Davidsons have been chased regarding the status of the closed road and if they are on track. They have been invited to the June meeting to give an update. Council would like to know if there will be provisions made for the Strawberry Fields and Scarecrow weekend.

It is thought that the primary school on Bloor's site has started the process of handing the land to WNC. Works taking place are archeological.

349/25 NORWOOD FARM SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION

- a) WNC have asked for Street names for Phases 2a and 2c. It was suggested names to mark the Anglo Saxon finds would be appropriate. Cllr Gardner to research and make suggestions.
- b) It was agreed to defer this item until Cllr Wallace had joined the meeting.

350/25 SPORTS PROVISION

- a) The new pavilion will not be built this year. Vestry have financial viability issues with the current model. The Clerk and Chair are meeting with them and WNC planning on Friday to discuss options. 2 other councillors may attend also. The issues of this already breaching the S106 were discussed
- b) Council need to have a plan for managing of the playing fields when they are transferred to us. Clerk to draft. It was proposed that a Community Facilities Committee will be needed and membership approved. Council will also need to look at existing leases and agreements.

351/25 CIL

The working party had proposed the following:

- Play equipment specification to be drafted for approval at next meeting
- Spend to be approved for noticeboards as needed
- Clerk to chase on costings for crossing by school
- Land feasibility study to be investigated – on next full council agenda
- Do we need to contract a S106 specialist?
- Look for upgrading bus shelter opposite church on High Street

352/25 FINANCE

a) Payments for May

Supplier	Description	Amount
Staff Costs	staff costs	5352.35
Northants CALC	Training	92.00
Unity trust	Bank Fees	10.90
Scribe	IT software	99.00
Northants CALC	Subscriptions	937.92
Microsoft	IT Software	558.00
Parish Online	Website	385.00
Amazon	Office Equipment	11.59
Gigaclear	Broadband	30.00
British Gas	Office Electric	49.15
R&G Groundworks	Grass cutting	1,282.00
Shield Maintenance	Dog bins	143.00
Valda Energy	Street lighting electric	1,179.34
Forde and McHugh	Street light repair	250.00
SLCC	Training	3,000
		14,013.81

b)

Current Account	
CCLA Savings	
Metrobank savers	
Credit card	
Outstanding payments	
Total	

Opening Balance	
Expenditure to date	
Income to Date	
Cashbook balance	

c) It was agreed that a grant of £980 was granted to the school to allow them to repair the defibrillator and replace pads and battery

d) First Responders offer a service to check defibrillators on our behalf for a donation. It was proposed that we ask them to do this at a donation of £250 for the year. This can be reviewed when more defibs are added.

CLlr Wallace joined the meeting.

231/25 POLICIES

- a) Fire Risk Assessment, Fire Safety Management Plan and Fire Emergency Plan were received and approved.

232/25 VILLAGE

There had been a request for a clothes bank to be installed in the village. The council were supportive in principle, but an appropriate site needed to be found. There was concern that there are regular collections at the school and this may impact that. Cllr Gardner to see if this initiative could be opened up to the village and not just school community.

233/25 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

No added items at this time.

- 349/25 b)** As Cllr Wallace had now joined this item was discussed. There was a discussion about the enforcement of S106, particularly on Norwood Farm SUE. This may put a strain on the relationship between the Parish Council and Vistry, but WNC need to know that we are aware of the breaches and that we want to ensure that these do not slip to much further. WNC have written to Millers and Barwoods but we are not aware of any response. There is an issue if these developers are not engaging with the planning authority. Parish Council needs to get WNC on side and see what enforcement they are willing to take. There was a discussion about the parish council getting legal advise to push this. At the moment we are information gathering and this may be an option but it is WNC responsibility. It was suggested a regular list of know breaches is sent to WNC for comment.

Meeting closed 9.10pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 6th July at 7pm

Signed

Date