



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

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

Minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 7th September, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs S Roberts (Chair), K Gardner, B Hancy, F Smethers, G Madle, C Wallace

Also Present – Clerk, Cllr Bess, Administrator, Harlestone Manor Clerk and 3 Members of the public

Meeting Start: 7pm

110/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies approved for Cllr Starmer.

111/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Gardner for item 118/26 c and Cllr Hancy for item 118/26 e as members of the associations applying for grants.

Cllrs Smethers and Roberts re 115/26 b as trustees to Harpole Charities

112/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three members of the public were present. No members of the public decided to speak.

113/26 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee of 6th July 2026.

114/26 PLANNING

a) There were no objections to 2026/2706/HH– 7 Sandy Lane

b) Whilst the parish council did not have any objections to the application 2026/3203/HH – 27 Upper High Street, they understood the concerns of the conservation officer. It was resolved that the council made comments to say they had no objection if amendments were made to remedy the conservation officers concerns as the proposals were providing off road parking.

c) Application 2026/2994/RM relates to reserved matters for the next phase of Norwood Farm. Members of the council are concerned that a developer with outstanding s106 obligations should not be granted permission for more development on the same site. Clerk to work with Cllr Wallace for a response.

115/26 NORTHAMPTON WEST SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSION

a) Davidsons have given information to say that Road Hill will be temporarily open for Scarecrow weekend and will then close again. A couple of weeks later they will open from village to the development only for access to the show home. In October they can open it for access towards Nobottle only, with access to Duston opening in February. There is a lot of concern that this will encourage a rat run. It was resolved that the clerk contact Davidsons and WNC regarding these concerns to see if this can remain closed until the whole road is open.

b) Land owners on Nobottle Road are concerned that Davidsons are building their footpath on their land and have not been compensated for it. Whilst this is a civil dispute between land owner and developer the council would support the parishioners.

c) Bloors are hoping to meet with WNC regarding Open Space sign off in October, Council will be updated when a date has been arranged. A meeting is also being scheduled for the end of September.

The PCSO has been asked to visit the park on Harlestone Park as there were concerns from residents regarding youths on the park after dark. This seems to have reduced since the schools started back. Clerk to chase if the primary school here is still being built.

116/26 NORWOOD FARM SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION

- a) There are many breaches to the S106 and a legal pack has been compiled to start enforcement proceedings against the relevant parties. It was proposed that it is recommended to full council that the council work with WNC and other parties to pursue legal action and potentially an injunction to stop work on site.
- b) There was a suggestion that the council may wish to look into putting a 7.5t limit on Underborough Way and Sandy Lane. This could not happen until adopted but clerk to investigate costs.
- c) Whilst we wait for the country park and the pedestrian access to the village it was proposed that the council contact the landowners of the fields either side of Larkhall Lane to see if we can do some temporary work to make pedestrian access safer.
- d) The clerk and 3 councillors are meeting with the adoptions officer at Vistry on Western Gate to determine works still needed to bring the Open Space up to spec. It had been noted that there are no 30mph signs going into Western Gate. Highways have confirmed that there should be and will chase the developer.

117/26 SPORTS PROVISION

- a) There has been no change on the new pavilion. This is part of the legal pack discussed above. The recommendation to council will be to wait for WNC enforcement.
- b) Vistry have suggested that the sports pitches will be laid this autumn. Clerk to chase. Clerk advised that the application for access has been withdrawn so access to do this will not be through Larkhall Lane.
There are no further updates on transfer of the playing fields.

118/26 FINANCE

- a) Payments for August and September

Supplier	Description	Amount
Staff Costs	staff costs	10,900.30
SLCC	Training	168.00
Northants CALC	Training	42.00
Scribe	IT	118.80
Unity Trust Bank	Fees	11.20
Methodist Chapel	Room Hire	360
Gardeners Dream	Allotment Maintenance	85.00
R&G Groundworks	Grass cutting	1,249.20
ID Mobile	Phone	6.00
Gigaclear	Broadband	36.00
National Allotment Society	Subscriptions	84.00
Information Commissioner	Subscriptions	47.00
ID Mobile	Phone	6.00
British Gas	Office Electric	61.02

Valda Energy	Street Light Electric	191.71
Amazon	Allotment Maintenance	35.25
Land Registry	Professional Services	14.00
Abel Skip Hire	Allotment Maintenance	96.00
NALC	Training	42.00
SLCC	Training	140.40
Scribe	IT	118.80
Unity trust Bank	Fees	10.45
Salix	Loan	3,505.20
Ben Security	Allotment Lock	353.70
Shield Maintenance	Bin emptying	252.20
R&G Maintenance	Grass Cutting	1,408.80
Gigaclear	Broadband	36.00
Id mobile	Phone	6.00
ONH Planning for Good	Consultation	6,780.00
Cloudy IT	Training	48.00
Blade services	Fence repair	380.00
ID Mobile	Phone	6.00
Valda Energy	Street Light Electric	206.20
Valda Energy	Street Light Electric	6,902.84
Vistaprint	Newsletter	281.48
Rock Awnings	Gazebo	1,061.93
James Smith Fencing	Allotment Maintenance	285.00
NALC	Training	42.00
ID Mobile	Phone	6.00
Valda Energy	Street Light Electric	248.63

b) Reconciled to 30th August 2026

Current Account	257,778.54
CCLA Savings	1,285,184.04
Metrobank savers	2,058.29
Credit Card	-398.25
Unpresented payments	5,567.61
Unpresented receipts	398.25
Total	1,539,453.26

Opening Balance	1,260,370.70
Expenditure to date	97,447.64
Income to Date	376,530.20
Cashbook balance	1,539,453.26

- c) Grant for £1000 was awarded to Harpole Youth Club for ongoing costs (Cllr Gardner did not vote)
- d) Grant for £1,405 was awarded to Harpole Bowls Club to purchase defibrillator, cabinet and bleed kit
- e) Grant for £1000 was awarded to Scarecrow Committee towards insurance for the weekend (Cllr Hancy did not vote)
- f) 2 insurance quotes had been received. It was resolved to continue with Zurich for a 3 year term

119/26 POLICIES

- Privacy Notice received and approved.
- Accessibility Statement received and approved.
- Press and Media Policy received and approved.
- Investments Policy received and approved.
- Reserves Policy received and approved.

120/26 ACTION PLAN

Action plan for 2026-27 was received and approved.

121/26 SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Details of management of the Parish Council stall over the weekend was confirmed.

122/26 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 2nd November at 7pm

Signed

Date