



Clerk: Ms. Fiona Young, 32 Holdenby Road, Spratton, Northampton. NN6 8JD

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, Held on Thursday November 21st, 2024.
at 7pm Parsons Meade Community Centre**

Members Present: Councillors Linda Hook (Chairman), David Garrett, Carl Squires, Jacqui Cripps and Kathryn Barker.

Also, present– Fiona Young (Clerk), 2 members of the public, WNC Cllrs Andre Gonzalez de Savage and Pinder Chauhan

Nicola Tomms, CEO of Northants Acre

Item no	
24/177	<p>To receive and approve any apologies for absence.</p> <p>It was Resolved to approve the apologies received from Cllrs Spink, Phillip and Wilmshurst.</p>
24/178	<p>To receive any pecuniary and non-pecuniary Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda</p> <p>None received.</p>
24/179	<p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on October 17th 2024.</p> <p>The minutes were circulated before the meeting, it was Resolved to approve and sign the minutes.</p>
24/180	<p>Public Session</p> <p>Nicola Tomms, the new CEO of Northants Acre, introduced herself to the meeting and outlined her vision for Nacre. The councillors welcomed the offer of a tour of the site at Hunsbury Hill Centre.</p> <p>A member of the public spoke about the very poor condition of Green Lane and about how it is now virtually impassable in places. It was agreed that WNC Cllr Chauhan would arrange a meeting with the resident to look at areas of concern on Green Lane.</p> <p>A member of the public said that he was concerned about the streetlights on his road that have been changed to LED lights, the new lights seem a lot dimmer. West Northants Council have changed the lights to try and reduce their running cost and carbon footprint. The new lights will be rolled out across the parish. Unfortunately, the new lights do seem dimmer, and residents are really concerned about security at night.</p>

24/181	<p>To Receive Reports from</p> <p>a) Police Representative. The clerk circulated the Police report, there was one burglary on a commercial premises. The council have concerns about the lack of visibility of the Police in the area. The Clerk was asked to invite the Police to attend a council meeting.</p> <p>b) West Northants Councillors. WNC Cllr Andre Gozalez de Savage reported that today was International Mens Day and there were various events taking place in the area. WNC Cllr Pinder Chauhan reported that meetings had taken place with the flood management team at West Northants Council regarding the flooding of the parish council fireworks event, also raised at this meeting were concerns about the fencing that is between parkland and the Travis Perkins site, this is mentioned later in the agenda. WNC Cllr Carl Squires reported on the issues currently facing Northamptonshire Partnership Homes, the WNC Climate Strategy has been approved and there is still a lot of pressure on funds.</p>
24/182	<p>To receive Clerks report and brief reports from Councillors or Clerk attending outside meetings. The Clerk attended a training course called ‘AI for Councils’ run by Ncalc.</p> <p>The Chair reported that she and the Clerk attended the inaugural meeting of a new Parish Cooperation group consisting of representatives from several nearby councils including Harpole, Kislingbury, Duston and East Hunsbury. There will be further meetings and the opportunity for other councillors to attend.</p> <p>The Chairman also attended a zoom session on Emergency Planning. It was agreed that this will be on the next agenda.</p>
24/183	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes, for report only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk confirmed that as per the October meeting, the agreed statement was sent to West Northants Council regarding accessibility and the maintenance of footpaths. • The Clerk confirmed that she emailed West Northants council and ask where the liability lies if a pedestrian is injured due to the position of a refuse bin. The response received was that any claims of injury would be investigated on an individual case basis. • As requested the Clerk checked that the council is subscribed to the relevant WNC updates and newsletters and also contacted the parish liaison regarding the drop in events arranged by WNC and Kier. • To confirm that the new defibrillator has been installed and is now registered on The Circuit. The Chairman thanked Mr David Stone for producing a poster that gives location information for the defibrillators and bleed kits in the parish.

24/184

Finance

- 1. Resolution to approve the payments listed below for November plus any invoices that arrive before the meeting date.

Payable to	Details	Amount £
Clerk	Salary inc back pay to April 1 st	1147.78
HMRC	Tax and Ni	414.37
Welford Christmas Tree	Christmas tree and installation	702.00
ASL Andec Solutions	Defibrillator installation	390.00

It was **Resolved** the approve the above payments.

- 2. Resolution to approve the bank reconciliation statement for 31st October 2024

Bank Balance at 1st April 2024 £3090.48 + £35803.59

Plus, Receipts £34,147.58

Less Payments £19,811.39

Total £53,230.26

Bank Balance on 31st October 2024 = £53,230.26

The bank reconciliation was noted.

- 3. To confirm that the monthly internal controls checks have been completed.

Cllr Squires completed the internal controls checks.

- 4. To approve the purchase and installation of a new double rubbish bin as requested by The Friends of West Hunsbury Parks. Location - beside the now closed pedestrian railway crossing near Hawkridge (off Hunsbury Hill Road) Single bin £355 plus fixings, double bin £610

Following some discussion, it was agreed that this would be deferred to the next meeting so that Councillors had time to look at the exact location of the proposed bin.

- 5. To agree to the cleaning of the bus shelters and noticeboards, last done in 2021.

It was **Resolved** to have the bus shelters cleaned but not the noticeboards. Clerk to action.

24/185

Budget and Precept 2025

To begin discussions regarding the budget and corresponding precept for the financial year 2025-2026. The clerk circulated a comprehensive budget report prior to the meeting. The final figures will be confirmed at the December meeting.

The Clerk produced a working document showing the budget figures for this year, expenditure to date and a draft budget showing the best estimates for the coming financial year. Councillors went through each budget line, and it was agreed to discuss it further and confirm the final figures at the next meeting.

24/186	<p>Planning</p> <p>1. New applications</p> <p>2024/4740/FULL 15 Bakewell Close Northampton NN4 9YY Alterations and erection of first floor side extension. It was Resolved to submit no comments.</p> <p>2024/5237/FULL 17 Blackwell Hill, Northampton, NN4 9YB</p> <p>Proposed rear & side two storey extensions & demolishing of existing garage. It was Resolved to submit no comments.</p> <p>2. Decisions</p> <p>2024/4391/FULL 10 Icknield Drive Northampton NN4 9YS</p> <p>Change of use from dwelling house (Use Class C3) to small care home (Use Class C2) to offer families short term and time limited respite care for two to three individuals in a domestic setting Approved. This was noted.</p>
24/187	<p>Firework event flooding and issues with field boundary fence</p> <p>Cllr Hook reported that she met with WNC Cllr Pinder Chauhan and officers from the flood management team. After a site visit and a zoom meeting it was established that the firework field flooded because of unusually high levels of rainfall in early November 2023 which resulted in the field flooding as it is part of the flood plain. It was agreed that this issue is now resolved.</p> <p>There was also a discussion about the condition of the border fencing between Ladybridge Park and the Travis Perkins site. WNC established that the fence is the responsibility of Travis Perkins to maintain and WNC will be getting in touch with Travis Perkins to discuss the fence issues with a view to them addressing the repairing or replacing of the fencing.</p>
24/188	<p>Youth Club Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive an update following contact with Camphill Community Centre, to receive and discuss costings and to make a resolution as required. <p>Cllr Hook updated council on the possibility of running a youth club at the CampHill Community Centre.</p> <p>The following were covered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A taster session could be offered at a cost of £123.00, this will be arranged early in 2025. • It is thought that one age group would be better than trying to do two, focusing on school years 4/5/6 and 7. • If the taster session is successful the new youth club would be held on a Friday evening, this is the only evening that the centre is free. • Northampton Association of Youth Clubs would provide 2 key workers, the sessions would run from 6pm-7.15pm for 44 weeks of the year, the session does not operate in the summer school holidays. • The parish council would need to find a volunteer or a team of volunteers who would be prepared to work in each session. The PC would also make sure each volunteer had a DBS check.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In summary, including the hire of the hall and membership to the youth club association, the cost would be approx. £4310.00 per year. <p>It was Resolved to put £4500 in the budget for 2025/2026 for a new youth club.</p>
24/189	<p>Highways and Green Lane</p> <p>1. Resolution to ask that the leaves are cleared from our paths asap by the maintenance team. Requested by Cllr Barker</p> <p>The Clerk explained that she has contacted WNC and has been told that the leaves will be cleaned up as part of the winter maintenance schedule in mid-December. No further action was required.</p> <p>2. Resolution to ask for gully cleaning. Requested by Cllr Barker</p> <p>The Clerk explained that she has contacted WNC and has been told that the gulleys will be cleaned up as part of the winter maintenance schedule in mid-December. If there are specific drains that are blocked and need the bigger drain cleaner that needs to be reported on Fix my Street. No further action required.</p> <p>3. To consider putting an amount in the forthcoming budget for one off work on Green Lane, for example, cutting back the brambles in the pinch point area. Requested by Cllr Squires.</p> <p>After some discussion it was agreed that the parish council would not be funding any work on Green Lane as this is solely the responsibility of West Northants Council. No further action required.</p>
24/190	<p>Resolution to consider forming a working party to work with the Local Nature Recovery Plan – Requested by Cllr Squires.</p> <p>It was agreed to Defer this to the December meeting.</p>
24/191	<p>Parish Plan - to receive an update</p> <p>There was nothing to report under this item.</p>
24/192	<p>Community Events – To receive an update</p> <p>The chairman explained that there was nothing to report about the community events, there is a lot of events coming up in December, the Christmas tree will be installed and there is a Christmas Tree festival in Str Benedicts Church. Events will be published on the parish council website and social media when information of times available.</p>
24/193	<p>Footpath Working Party – Cllr Barker.</p> <p>1.To accept the report and its findings.</p> <p>Cllr Barker had circulated a report written by the Footpath Working Party. There were numerous questions with regards to this report. The Chairman asked Cllr Barker to confirm who was in the Footpath Working party, at the annual council meeting in May it was minuted that Cllr Barker, Cllr Matthews and Cllr Squires were in the working party. However, as Cllr Matthews has now left the area, this has now changed. Cllr Barker explained that 3 residents of the parish had joined the working party along with Cllr Spink. Cllr Squires was no longer in the working party.</p>

	<p>There had been two meetings in the last couple of months, the Clerk asked she is informed of any future meetings.</p> <p>There was a lot of concerns regarding the report, and it was agreed that the report needed to be looked over in greater detail by full council before a decision is made on further actions.</p> <p>It was Resolved to bring this back to the December meeting.</p> <p>2. Clerk to use the Parish Online mapping and their report creating system to create a section of the full report. Deferred.</p> <p>3. To call a meeting with all our representatives of WNC plus the Cllr responsible for Disability and Mental health, to present the report. Explain the findings and discuss moving forward. Deferred.</p> <p>4. Clerk to send copies of finalised full report (written & Parish Online info) to WNC, Highways, Balfour Beaty, WNLAf and Other agencies connected to maintaining our parish Pathways. Deferred.</p>
24/194	<p>Correspondence and actions when needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ncalc Training Newsletter • Resident letter regarding a business operating on Stuart Close – cannot reply as email does not work and no other contact information. • Ncalc Wellbeing Survey – councillors to complete survey • Resident letter requesting that money from the council tax is used to mow the park areas for often – Clerk responded. • Resident letter thanking WNC Cllrs for the work that they did in starting the new bus service, plus support for the service to continue. • Remote meeting consultation – deadline to submit is December 19th, to agree whether councillors should respond individually or as a council.
24/195	<p>Next meeting December 19th, 2024, Confirmation of Christmas holiday period - The office will close on December 20th and will reopen on January 2nd 2025.</p>