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**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, Held on Thursday January 16th 2025
at 7pm Parsons Meade Community Centre**

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

Also, present– Fiona Young (Clerk)

Three members of the public.

Item no	
25/001	<p>To receive and approve any apologies for absence.</p> <p>Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Wilmshurst and Cllr Phillips.</p>
25/002	<p>To receive any pecuniary and non-pecuniary Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda</p> <p>None given.</p>
25/003	<p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on December 20th 2024. The minutes were circulated before the meeting, it was Resolved to approve and sign the minutes.</p>
25/004	<p>Public Session</p> <p>Two members of the public wished to speak about the planning application for 21 Whitegates, West Hunsbury. Concerns raised included the size, scale and mass of the additions to the original property, the impact on neighbouring properties, privacy concerns from neighbouring properties and whether the proposal would have a negative impact on the existing street scene.</p> <p>One member of the public spoke to the council about the continuing poor condition of Green Lane.</p>

25/05	<p>To Receive Reports from</p> <p>1. Police Representative. The Clerk circulated the December crime report to councillors. There were 28 crimes recorded in total.</p> <p>2. West Northants Councillors. WNC Cllr Carl Squires reported that WNC had voted to start initial discussions with neighbouring areas about Central Government plans for devolution, it is thought that West and North Northants would form a mayoral state with Luton, Bedford and Milton Keynes but the issue at the moment is that none of those councils particularly want to work with Northamptonshire. Cllr Squires explained that he had attended a meeting with Vistry about the Collingtree Park Western Expansion, it is hoped that there will be improvements made to several roundabouts as part of the infrastructure contributions. West Northants will have a new fleet of electric buses this year.</p> <p>Cllr Squires also explained that he had sent a letter regarding some suggestions for improving the new number 13 bus service, the response was that the bus service is already optimised and no changes will be made to the route or to the timings. The route is covering 50% of its costs which is quite positive.</p> <p>Cllr Squires also reported that it had been announced that West Northants Council would not be selling the land of Teal Close that is described as ‘green space’. This is the plot of land that the developers Bellway were intending to purchase from WNC and use as an access route into the development site at the back of Teal Close and Heronsford. The planning application for this site has not yet been submitted.</p>									
25/06	<p>To receive Clerks report and brief reports from Councillors or Clerk attending outside meetings. There was no Clerks report this month.</p>									
25/07	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes, for report only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk confirms that the precept demand was sent in • Clerk asked for confirmation that a new bin in the position agreed last meeting would be routinely emptied. 									
25/08	<p>Finance</p> <p>Resolution to approve the payments listed below for January plus any invoices that arrive before the meeting date.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 1731 1406 1859"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payable to</th> <th>Details</th> <th>Amount £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary January</td> <td>928.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax and NI</td> <td>286.87</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was Resolved to approve the payments listed above.</p> <p>2. Resolution to approve the bank reconciliation statement for 31st December 2024</p>	Payable to	Details	Amount £	Clerk	Salary January	928.11	HMRC	Tax and NI	286.87
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	<p>Bank Balance at 1st April 2024 £3090.48 + £35803.59</p> <p>Plus Receipts £34,263.68</p> <p>Less Payments £23,795.31</p> <p>Total £49,362.44</p> <p>Bank Balance at 31st December 2024 = £49,362.44</p> <p>The bank reconciliation statement was approved.</p> <p>3. To confirm that the monthly internal controls checks have been completed.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the monthly payment checks had been completed by Cllr Squires and there were no concerns.</p>
25/009	<p>Planning</p> <p>1.New applications</p> <p>2024/4019/FULL , 21 Whitegates, Northampton, NN4 9XA Single storey rear extension, single storey side extensions, rear two storey extension. Two storey front extension.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that this application had originally been considered by council last year, the application had been amended and new plans had been issued.</p> <p>Following a lengthy discussion it was Resolved to Object to the application with 4 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention. The reasons for the objection were that the proposed extensions made the property too large in terms of size and mass for the plot. It was also Resolved to send the observation that there was not a scale printed on the plans which made it impossible to see how close the extension was to the neighbouring property.</p>
25/010	<p>Green Lane</p> <p>Cllr Garrett reported that the Green Lane Working Party now had a Whatsapp group, the Clerk requested that the parish mobile is added to the group. A meeting was held on Green Lane on Jan 4th with WNC Cllr Pinder Chauhan. Cllr Chauhan requested some work was done by WNC and the Clerk was asked to request a copy of the work that was requested. It is a positive outcome that work is now being actioned.</p>
25/011	<p>Youth Club Provision</p> <p>The Chairman explained that she had spoken to the leader of the youth club and that it was hoped that a taster session would be arranged in early February for school years 4,5,6 and 7. All ages would mix in one session. This item will be discussed further in the March meeting.</p>

25/012	<p>Resolution to attend NACRE Community energy networking group</p> <p>It was Resolved that Cllr Spink will attend this event when the date is announced.</p>
25/013	<p>Responsibility for the park gates and other voluntary roles</p> <p>The Chairman explained that at the moment volunteers open and close the two sets of park gates every day, the gates protect the parks and are considered vitally important. After some discussion it was agreed that the parish council would try and support the volunteers who are largely connected to the Friends of West Hunsbury Parks group. The Chairman would liaise with the group and see if there was anything that the parish council could help with.</p>
25/014	<p>Climate summit Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To update council and agree action as required. <p>The climate summit event is on Saturday January 25th at Parsons Meade Community Centre, Cllr Spink reported that the Mayor of Northampton is hoping to attend and that there has been a lot of interest amongst other parish councils. The event is completely free for residents to attend and will include a talk from Cllr Garrett who will be presenting on behalf of Garden Organic, tips on how to compost your food waste and other recycling ideas.</p>
25/015	<p>Correspondence and actions when needed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resident complaint about flooding in the underpass from Ladybridge Drive – refer to WNC 2. Rain newsletter – circulated 3. 1 x Bus 13 complaint – logged
25/016	<p>Next meeting February 2025</p>