



Clerk: Ms. Fiona Young, 32 Holdenby Road, Spratton, Northampton. NN6 8JD  
 Tel: 07729 608062 email: clerk@westhunsburyparishcouncil.gov.uk  
 www.westhunsburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Held on Thursday December 21st 2023  
 at 7pm Parsons Meade Community Centre**

**Members Present:** Councillors Carl Squires (Chairman), Linda Hook, Mavis Wilmshurst, David Garrett, Pete Spink and Richard Matthews.  
 Also present– Fiona Young ( Clerk)  
 Four members of the public

Item no	
23/183	<b>To receive any apologies and approve reasons for absence.</b>
	There were no apologies received.
23/184	<b>To receive any pecuniary and non-pecuniary Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda</b>
	Cllr Spink declared an interest in item 23/194
23/185	<b>To approve and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on November 16th, 2023.</b> It was <b>Resolved</b> to approve the minutes and they were signed as a true record.
23/186	<b>Public Session.</b>
	A member of the public voiced his concern regarding the safety of the zebra crossing on Hunsbury Hill Road that crosses the road to the Drs surgery and the shops. The resident explained that he is partially sighted, a zebra crossing is more dangerous to use than a pelican crossing and he has experience several near misses with cars on that crossing. The resident asked that the parish council write to West Northants Council and request that the zebra crossing is upgraded to a pelican crossing. The Chairman explained that the parish council have no responsibility for the highways but that a letter could be sent asking whether an upgrade would be possible.
23/187	<b>To Receive Reports from the following</b>
	a) Police Representative. November crimes – 2 x residential burglary, 2 x criminal damage and 2 x vehicle crime. b) West Northants Councillors. None received.

23/188	<p><b>To receive brief reports from Councillors or Clerk attending outside meetings on behalf of WHPC and to receive Clerks report.</b></p> <p>Cllr Hook, Cllr Philip and the Clerk attended an Ncalc briefing session about the planning department at West Northants Council.</p> <p>Cllrs Hook and Spink attended the St Benedicts Church Christmas Tree Festival and set up a mini tree for the parish council.</p> <p>Several councillors attended the WNC bus service drop in meeting at Parsons Mead. It was agreed that the parish council would follow it up in February.</p>												
21/189	<p><b>Matters arising from previous minutes, for report only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation that a letter was sent to West Northants Council regarding the flooding of the fireworks event, council have now received a response, Clerk to report. The Clerk has received several emails from West Northants Council following receipt of the letter from the parish council regarding the firework event flooding.</li> </ul> <p>The Flood and Water Management Team and the Principle Planning Enforcement Officer have both responded and will be arranging a meeting with the developer of the Milton Ham site in January, the Clerk requested that Cllr Hook attend the meeting as she could give information about the speed and direction of the water flow. Cllr Matthews would also like to attend the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with WNC.</p>												
23/190	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>1. Resolution to approve the following payments for December, plus any that arrive between agenda publication and the meeting. It was <b>Resolved</b> to approve the payments shown below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="204 1070 1385 1238"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payable to</th> <th>Details</th> <th>Amount £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>F Young</td> <td>Salary</td> <td>894.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax and NI</td> <td>270.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Broxap</td> <td>New bins x 5</td> <td>2933.64</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. Resolution to approve the bank reconciliation statement for 30th November 2023  Bank Balance at 1st April 2023 £5304.27 + £45302.20 = £50,606.47  Plus Receipts £25,220.09  Less Payments £28188.13  Total - £47,638.43  Bank Balance at 30th November 2023 - £12120.14 + £35,518.29 =£47,638.43</p> <p>The bank reconciliation statement was noted.</p> <p>3. To confirm that the monthly internal controls checks have been completed. The controls checks were confirmed by Cllr Philip. There were no concerns.</p>	Payable to	Details	Amount £	F Young	Salary	894.99	HMRC	Tax and NI	270.40	Broxap	New bins x 5	2933.64
Payable to	Details	Amount £											
F Young	Salary	894.99											
HMRC	Tax and NI	270.40											
Broxap	New bins x 5	2933.64											
23/191	<p><b>Resolution to approve the budget for 2024-2025</b></p> <p>A copy of the draft budget was circulated to all councillors proper to the meeting. Following a discussion it was <b>Resolved</b> to set the budget at £44,235.00.</p>												
23/192	<p><b>Resolution to approve the precept for 2024-2025</b></p> <p>After a discussion it was agreed that the precept would need to be increased this year, most of the councils regular costs have gone up and if the precept is not increased the council will not have the recommended reserves left at the end of the financial year.</p>												

	It was <b>Resolved</b> to set the precept to £27,500.00 which is an increase of 10%, or £1.63 a year for an average Band D property.
23/193	<b>Planning - No new applications.</b> Chairman asked for the Western Expansion to be put on the January agenda. Cllr Barker mentioned the large amount of development in Towcester which may impact the traffic flow in West Hunsbury.
23/194	<b>Resolution to approve a grant application from Space 2 Talk.</b> The grant application form had been received prior to the meeting and circulated to all councillors. Councillors wanted to know a breakdown of how the grant requested would be spent, it was agreed that Space 2 Talk would be able to provide these figures at the next meeting when a decision on the grant would be made.
23/195	<b>West Hunsbury Disabilities Group</b> - Resolution to agree how best to pass on requests for action and concerns raised by West Hunsbury Disabilities Group, resolution to nominate a councillor to act as liaison with the group, to raise queries with the relevant organisations and to undertake research into those requests on behalf of the new group or alternatively. There followed a lengthy discussion regarding the new group that has been set up by Cllr Barker and Emily Rootes. The group is completely unrelated to the parish council, it has been set up on Facebook as a forum for people with disabilities, their carers and others to talk about common issues. It was agreed that if the group had some issues that needed to be actioned then it would be better to take these issues directly to either West Northants Council or other appropriate organisations rather than to the parish council. It was explained that the parish council would be prepared to pass on major concerns but the council does not have the resources to do this on a regular basis. It was agreed that the Footpath Working Party needs to be restarted in the New Year as some of the issues looked at by the working party relate to the Disabilities Group.
23/196	<b>Parish Plan WP-</b> To receive update from the Chairman and to agree the next meeting date. It was agreed that there would be a working party meeting in January.
23/197	<b>Resolution to agree a response if required to the following consultations –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give us your views on the development of our Tree Strategy ( closes 1 January 2024) It was Resolved that Cllr Wilmshurt will complete the survey on behalf of the parish council.</li> <li>• Community Governance Review 2023/2024 – Phase 1 Consultation, ends 31st January</li> </ul> The Chairman read out the key questions relating to the Community Governance Review, the council as a body answered the questions and the Chairman agreed to complete the review online on behalf of the council.
23/198	<b>Correspondence and actions when needed.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident email regarding overgrown shrubs at Parsons Meade, Clerk responded with the contact details of NPH.</li> <li>• Resident query regarding the temp bus stop sign – Clerk responded and referred to WNC</li> <li>• December newsletter, NPFCC – Clerk circulated</li> <li>• Response from WNC to the fireworks flooding- on agenda</li> </ul>
23/199	<b>Resolution to set the meeting dates for 2024, to include the date for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Next meeting date January 18th 2024</b> It was <b>Resolved</b> to continue with a meeting date of the third Thursday in the month, the Annual Parish Meeting would be at 6.30pm on Thursday May 16 <sup>th</sup> followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.00pm.

23/200	<p><b>Confidential Item</b></p> <p>Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the council may resolve to exclude members of the public and press for the following agenda items on the grounds that publicity may be prejudicial to the public interest or because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</p> <p>It was agreed to wait and see what the outcome of discussions with one of the vendors at the cancelled firework event would be and then resolve further action if needed.</p>
--------	---