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**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, Held on Thursday February 19th 2026.**

**at 7pm Parsons Meade Community Centre**

**Members Present:** Councillors Linda Hook (Chairman), Carl Squires, Kathryn Barker, Jacqueline Hughes, Stephen Godfrey, Ros Chisholm and David Garrett.

| Item no |   |
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| 26/019  | <b>To receive and approve any apologies for absence.</b> It was <b>Resolved</b> to accept and approve the apologies received from Cllr Soosan Philip and Cllr Kevin Read. The clerk also noted apologies from WNC Cllrs Ron Firman and Pinder Chauhan.  |
| 26/020  | <b>To receive any pecuniary and non-pecuniary Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda;</b> None stated   |
| 26/021  | <b>To approve and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026</b><br>The minutes of the meeting on January 15 <sup>th</sup> 2026 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was <b>Resolved</b> to approve the minutes and they were signed as a true record.   |
| 26/022  | <b>Public Forum</b><br>There were no members of the public present.   |
| 26/023  | <b>To Receive Reports from</b><br><br>a) <b>The Police.</b> The Police report for January had been circulated to the councillors. Cllrs voiced concern about a very serious knife crime that had taken place in Briar Hill this week. It was acknowledged that unemployment amongst 18-25yr olds was very high and that the sale of drugs in the parish is often quite public and obvious. The Cllrs commented that an increase in the visibility of the police would help residents feel safer.<br><br>b) <b>West Northants Councillors.</b> No report available |
| 26/024  | <b>To receive Clerks report and brief reports from Councillors or Clerk attending outside meetings.</b><br>The Clerk attended the Ncalc Local Plan briefing and the Ncalc training course Introduction to AI. Cllr Chisholm also attended the Introduction to AI Course, following that training session Cllr Chisholm was asked to present a session to Ncalc about the use of AI and will continue to liaise  |

|                  | <p>with Ncalc as they develop their AI capabilities and training. Cllr Chisholm also agreed to do some AI training for the parish councillors.</p> <p>The Chair met with Gary Spratt, the manager of Hunsbury Library, to discuss how West Hunsbury PC could utilise the library more. A noticeboard has now been provided for use by WHPC.</p> <p>The Chair and Cllr Hughes met with the Church warden at St Benedicts to discuss ongoing issues with the parking in and around the area of St Benedicts Church. One possible action is to look at an application for double yellow lines on roads close to the Church where parking is an issue. This will be discussed at the March meeting.</p>  |            |                                     |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |
|------------------|--|------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------|-------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|------|------------|--------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|------|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|---|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 26/025           | <p><b>Matters arising from previous minutes, items not covered on the agenda, for report only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Clerk confirmed that the Objection to planning application 2025/5229/FULL was submitted to WNC</li> <li>The Clerk confirmed that the new defibrillator and bleed kit have been ordered.</li> </ul>  |            |                                     |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |
| 26/026           | <p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>1. <b>New applications, to include any applications that arrive before the meeting date.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024/2138/MAO Northampton South Western Expansion</li> </ul> <p>The council were pleased to have been consulted on this application, however, it was <b>Resolved</b> to submit no comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2026/0023/FULL 34 Harksome Hill Northampton NN4 9YF Installation of a wooden cabin 4m x 3m in garden to operate appointment only beauty business from home.<br/><a href="https://wnc.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2026/0023/FULL#undefined">https://wnc.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2026/0023/FULL#undefined</a></li> </ul> <p>It was <b>Resolved</b> to submit no comments.</p>   |            |                                     |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |
| 26/027           | <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>1. Resolution to approve the payments listed below for February plus any that are received prior to the meeting.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payable to</th> <th>Details</th> <th>Amount £</th> <th>Power to Pay</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary February</td> <td>954.11</td> <td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 &amp; 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax and NI</td> <td>358.07</td> <td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 &amp; 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taylor's Foundry</td> <td>50% deposit for park bench (Paid)</td> <td>1161.00</td> <td>Parish councils Act 1957</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SLCC</td> <td>Clerks annual membership (shared )</td> <td>139.15</td> <td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 &amp; 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L Hook</td> <td>Reimburse Community Speedwatch Equipment (Paid)</td> <td>150.00</td> <td>Local Gov and Rating Act 1997, s 31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Payable to | Details                             | Amount £ | Power to Pay | Clerk | Salary February | 954.11 | LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11 | HMRC | Tax and NI | 358.07 | LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11 | Taylor's Foundry | 50% deposit for park bench (Paid) | 1161.00 | Parish councils Act 1957 | SLCC | Clerks annual membership (shared ) | 139.15 | LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11 | L Hook | Reimburse Community Speedwatch Equipment (Paid) | 150.00 | Local Gov and Rating Act 1997, s 31 |
| Payable to       | Details  | Amount £   | Power to Pay                        |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |
| Clerk            | Salary February  | 954.11     | LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11            |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |
| HMRC             | Tax and NI   | 358.07     | LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11            |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |
| Taylor's Foundry | 50% deposit for park bench (Paid)  | 1161.00    | Parish councils Act 1957            |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |
| SLCC             | Clerks annual membership (shared )   | 139.15     | LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11            |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |
| L Hook           | Reimburse Community Speedwatch Equipment (Paid)  | 150.00     | Local Gov and Rating Act 1997, s 31 |          |              |       |                 |        |                          |      |            |        |                          |                  |                                   |         |                          |      |                                    |        |                          |        |   |        |                                     |

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|        | South Northants<br>Community Responders   | New defibrillator & bleed kit | 955.00 | Public health act 1936 s23   |
|        | Parish Online   | New website and emails        | 496.80 | LGA 1972, s.142.<br>Transparency Code for<br>Smaller Authorities 2014. |
|        | <p>It was <b>Resolved</b> to approve the payments and Cllr Hook will do the online banking.</p> <p>2. Approval of the bank reconciliation statements for January 31<sup>st</sup> 2026</p> <p>Bank Balance at 1st April 2025 £13,747.52 + £31,270.01 = £45017.053<br/> Plus Receipts £29,519.13<br/> Less Payments £22,105.22<br/> Total <b><u>£52,431.44</u></b></p> <p>Bank Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 = £21,219.83 + £31,569.88 less payments not taken by<br/> January 31<sup>st</sup> £358.27 = <b><u>£52,431.44</u></b><br/> Noted.</p> <p>3. Confirmation that the internal controls checks have been completed by Cllr Phillip<br/> Cllr Philips confirmed by email, that the internal controls checks had been completed and there<br/> were no concerns.</p>  |                               |        |  |
| 26/028 | <p><b>New Orchard in Ladybridge</b></p> <p>Cllr Garrett reported that a new orchard had been planted in Ladybridge park, several councillors took part in the planting that was arranged and paid for by the Environment Agency as an offset for some tree felling that had taken place further into the Nene valley. Despite the weather the planting day was a great success, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> orchard in West Hunsbury and consists of mainly heritage apple trees. There will also be a double hedge planted in front of the orchard and a public bench will be placed at the side of the field. The environment agency will maintain the orchard for a year and then WNC will take over. On Sunday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1000 whips (young trees) will be planted in various locations within Ladybridge Park, there will be some planted near the overflow car park and some along the fence line. The young trees have been provided by Iain Welters and Able Mortgages Ltd.</p> <p>Anglian Water felled a mature tree in the parish last year and have promised a replacement, the Clerk was asked to request a couple of Cherry trees to replace the felled tree, the new trees would be planted in Ladybridge Park.</p> |                               |        |  |
| 26/029 | <p><b>Defibrillator</b></p> <p>The Clerk explained that the defibrillator has been ordered, the defib and bleed kit will be delivered to the Chair and she will install it in the existing cabinet at St Benedicts Church.</p>  |                               |        |  |

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| 26/030 | <p><b>Goal post</b> – Resolution to purchase a goal post for the children’s play area in Ladybridge Park.</p> <p>The Chair provided two examples of children’s goal posts, one from Wicksteed Leisure and one from Sovereign Play.</p> <p>Both goal posts are designed for children’s play areas and are not the size required for a full size football pitch. Both goals have added side panels to help with ball control.</p> <p>The budget for the year 2025/2026 is £5000. The cost of one goal post is approx. £4275 after some discussion with Sovereign Play the Chair was offered a discount if the council agreed to buy two goal posts. It is thought that the total cost of two goalposts will be in the region of £6500, this will include installation and herras fencing. It was <b>Resolved</b> that the Chair will speak to Sovereign Play and secure a confirmed cost, subject to that being in the region of £6500, the council <b>Resolved</b> to order the two goal posts with the cost being met from the 2025/2026 budget, it was noted that it maybe necessary to vire the balance from other budget categories or from the free reserve.</p> |
| 26/031 | <p><b>New benches in the parish</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that she has ordered the new bench from David Ogilvie Engineering, the Bees and Butterflies Bench. Councillors discussed where it was going to be installed and agreed that it would be on Hunslett Lane, on the verge area near St Dunstans Rise. The Clerk will provide the installer with the what3words location after confirmation from WNC.</p> <p>The bench from Taylors Foundry has also been ordered, this one will be installed in Ladybridge Park, the Chair will provide a what3words location so that WNC can approve its installation.</p>  |
| 26/032 | <p><b>Resolution to install a new noticeboard at Hill Fort Close.</b></p> <p>The council <b>Resolved</b> to order a new double aluminium noticeboard with a header saying ‘West Hunsbury Parish Council’ the noticeboard will be from Broxap. It will be installed near the bus shelter on Dayrell Road. The cost of the noticeboard will be £1565.00 plus delivery and installation.</p>  |
| 26/033 | <p><b>Resolution to install a new bin near Hunsbury Park School and to confirm additional collection charge.</b></p> <p>The council resolved to order a new double litter bin at the meeting in January. The location was confirmed as just outside Hunsbury Park School, near to the entrance to the lane that leads to the park. The Clerk will place the order.</p>   |
| 26/034 | <p><b>Heritage signs</b></p> <p>The Clerk updated the council on the application for the Heritage Signs, the council discussed where the signs would be located and how many were needed. It was noted that the final decision on the suitability of locations would be made by WNC Highways.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk would send the application in with the location map provided, this is the initial stage of the process. Following an assessment the council would then be asked to pay</p>   |

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|        | <p>an application fee of £110, this is non refundable and the application could then proceed to the next stage. If the request is successful all costs associated with design, manufacturing and installation will fall to the applicant.</p>  |
| 26/035 | <p><b>Consultations, to agree councils response ( if any) to the following consultations –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Northants Local Plan, Reg 18 Consultation.</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>Resolved</b> that Cllr Squires will submit the response to the consultation on behalf of the parish council. It was agreed that the council would object to the loss of part of Collingtree Golf Course as that is such an important resource for the whole parish. It was also agreed to comment on how important it is to make sure the infrastructure is improved to cope with the additional housing and also that vital health provision such as the hospital and doctors services is improved also to cope with the increased population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish and Town Council Election Recharge Consultation closes April 10th</li> </ul> <p>Council to choose 1 of 3 options for charging the 2029 election. The Clerk explained the three options that were available in the consultation, the council chose option A as this was the cheapest option for the parish.</p> |
| 26/036 | <p><b>Council to consider investigating the possibility of a youth council –</b> proposed by Cllr Hook.</p> <p>The Chair explained that Blisworth parish council have a working group that consists of local children of between 11-17 yrs old. They meet a few times a year and discuss issues that are important to them, this then gets reported back to the council. The working party must comprise of at least one parish councillor and all the members must be residents of the parish.</p> <p>The council <b>Resolved</b> to make further enquiries and it was agreed that Cllrs Hook, Hughes and Philip would work on this together.</p>   |
| 26/037 | <p><b>Correspondence, to include actions when needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northampton Transport Strategy – in person workshops invite, 3rd and 5th March – Clerk has the information if a councillor wishes to attend. Cllr Hook will attend on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cllr Squires on March 5<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• WNC Cllrs, Flooding in the underpass.</li> <li>• WNC Cllr Firman – update on the fencing issue in Ladybridge Park</li> <li>• Parish collaboration meeting Feb 24th and March 24th in Duston.</li> </ul>  |
| 26/038 | <p><b>Next meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> 2026</b></p>  |