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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, Held on Thursday July 30th, 2026.
at 7pm Parsons Meade Community Centre

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

27 members of the public

2 members of Northants Police.

Item no	
26/122	To receive and approve any apologies for absence. It was Resolved to approve the apologies received from Cllrs Chisholm and Read.
26/123	To receive any pecuniary and non-pecuniary Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda None stated
26/124	To approve and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on June 18th 2026 The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting, there was a small amendment made to the attendance list. The Clerk thanked Cllr Squires for taking the minutes of the June meeting in her unexpected absence. It was Resolved to approve the minutes from June 18 th and they were signed as a true record.
26/125	Public Forum. The Chairman explained to the members of the public how the public forum section of the meeting operated, she then opened up the meeting for residents to speak. A resident commented that there are several large thistles and weeds coming out of the ground underneath the new bench on Hunslett Lane. She also mentioned that the ramp on the small bridge in Green Lane appears to be sinking, she will send the clerk a photo and the Clerk will report it to WNC. A resident asked for a clear explanation of the comment made by a WNC Cllr at the recent WNC Cabinet Meeting concerning 'discussions had with West Hunsbury Parish Council Chairman about the sale of the land off Teal Close'

	A resident voiced her concerns about the proposed sale of the green space off Teal Close; she explained that she is concerned that proper processes were not followed and that all other access routes into the development site have not been thoroughly considered. A resident voiced concern about the possibility of illegal encampments accessing the parkland via the proposed new development. Several other residents commented about the sale of the green space and how they have many concerns including the following points – Negative impact on local amenity and biodiversity Significant infrastructure and road safety concerns Concerns about the process that has been followed by WNC regarding the sale of this land.
26/126	To Receive Reports from a) The Police. The Clerk circulated the crime report from June. Two police officers attended the meeting, they commented that although there have been some very serious crimes in Northampton as a whole in the last few weeks, the crime level in West Hunsbury remained low. Cllr Barker mentioned that some youths were seen constructing a homemade mountain bike ‘pump track’ on the land near the Hill Fort which is an ancient monument and is protected. Cllr Barker asked if the officers could possibly visit the area and speak to the people concerned and discourage them from doing this before they damage the monument. b) West Northants Councillors. Cllr Pinder Chauhan had sent a short report to the meeting, in summary Cllr Chauhan said that she had called in the decision by the WNC Cabinet to sell the open space at Teal Close to the WNC Scrutiny Committee, the call in had failed but Cllr Chauhan was still pursuing the issue. In terms of the recent encampments Cllr Chauhan worked with the Police, environment, and the Travellers Unit to move them on. There is concern that the land is very exposed and there are bunds that need installing, this work is sitting with WNC officers at the moment and the parish council are asked to chase it up. Finally Cllr Chauhan wrote ‘We won! With the campaign against parking charges in the West Hunsbury Parks, which I am delighted about – it shows how when we all work together, we can achieve great things’ Cllr Ron Firman also sent in a brief report, he wrote the following ‘Martin Henry has now taken up the role of Chief Executive at West Northamptonshire Council. In addition, David Harris is expected to be appointed as Executive Director for Place and Economy, with the formal confirmation due to be considered at Full Council on 13 August. For the diary, the familiarisation weekend ahead of Europe's largest live street arts celebration will take place from 29 to 31 August. It promises to be another fantastic event for Northampton and the wider area.

	I am also pleased to report that there have been strong improvements delivered within social housing services. While there is always more work to do, the direction of travel is positive and encouraging, with significant effort being made to improve services for tenants and residents'																										
26/127	To receive Clerks report and brief reports from Councillors or Clerk attending outside meetings. None																										
26/128	Matters arising from previous minutes, items not covered on the agenda, for report only. The Clerk has chased the Heritage Signs application and it is still being processed. Volunteers still needed to open and close the park gates – The Chairman explained that volunteers are still desperately needed to help close the entrance gates that keep both of our parks secure at night. Cllr Hughes indicated that she will be able to help on Tuesdays in term time and Cllr Godfrey said he would also be able help.																										
26/129	Finance 1. Resolution to approve the payments listed below for July plus any that are received prior to the meeting. <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 June</td><td>907.37</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td><td>Tax and NI</td><td>358.27</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Nest</td><td>Pension payment</td><td>81.44</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Viking</td><td>Stationary</td><td>105.22</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td><td>Outstanding charge</td><td>125.30</td><td>LGA 1972 s111</td></tr> </tbody> </table> The Clerk explained that when the councils HMRC account was checked, which is done every month, there was an unexpected charge of £125.30 which HMRC said was an overdue payment from several years ago. The Clerk spent over an hour on the phone trying to sort out this payment as HMRC could not say for definite when this overdue payment was missed. The Clerk spoke to the Chair and Vice Chair and it was agreed that the payment would be made as soon as possible to stop any daily interest from being charged. The Clerk would then be able to challenge the discrepancy at a later date. It was Resolved to approve all the payments listed above. 2. Resolution to approve the bank reconciliation statement for 30th June 2026 Bank Balance at 1st April 2026 £6121.47 + 31,649.80 = £37,771.27 Plus Receipts £17,360.70 Less Payments £15,233.07 Total - £39,898.90 Bank Balance at 30th June 2026 = £8158.92 + 31,739.98 = £39,898.90			Payable to	Details	Amount £	Power to Pay	Clerk	Salary June	907.37	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11	HMRC	Tax and NI	358.27	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11	Nest	Pension payment	81.44	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11	Viking	Stationary	105.22	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 11	HMRC	Outstanding charge	125.30	LGA 1972 s111
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	3. To confirm that the monthly internal controls checks have been completed. Cllr Soosan Philip confirmed that the monthly controls checks have been completed and there were no concerns. 4. To receive and approve a budget report for Q1. The Clerk circulated a budget report for the end of the first quarter of 2026-2027. Please see Appendix A. The Clerk explained that the line for Green Spaces was negative because the last payment taken for the new childrens goal posts left the bank account in the current financial year rather than at the end of 2025/2026, there has not been a budget allocation in this financial year.
26/130	Planning New applications plus any that require a response before the next meeting. 2026/2457/HH Garage Conversion and first floor Side Dormer Loft Conversion, 7 Tall Trees Close Northampton NN4 9XZ After some discussion it was Resolved to object to this application on the following grounds – • The proposal is out of keeping with the neighbouring properties and has a negative impact on the streetscene • The proposed new windows upstairs will directly impact upon the privacy of the neighbouring properties both to the side of the application site and the property behind it.
26/131	Update on the latest parish council installations, to include confirmation of the noticeboard installation and also to discuss the position of the bench on Hunsbury Hill Road. The Chairman reported that she had met with JS Potters (the contractor that the PC uses for installation of street furniture) and agreed on the location of the new noticeboard, it will be installed soon. There has been some concern about the positioning of the new bench on Hunslet Lane. Quite a lot of earth had to be moved during installation and it has now become clear that the bench is, unfortunately, too high up the bank and is therefore not as accessible to many residents as we would like it to be. It was agreed that the Chairman would meet with JS Potters and ask if we can move the bench further down the bank and closer to the road, the Chair would also ask for a quote to do this work and will bring that back to the next meeting. This will have a negative impact on the view from the bench but it will make it much easier to use.
26/132	Resolution to register for the Community Flood Resilience Project, nominate two councillors to attend training and manage the project. It was Resolved that the parish council would register for the Community Flood Resilience Project and that the Chairman and Cllr Squires would be the two nominated council contacts.

Teal Close Open Space – to discuss the decision by West Northants Council to sell the open space off Teal Close for development opportunities, Resolution to agree what action, if any, the parish council wish to take.

The Chairman explained what actions had taken place over the last two weeks. In summary, on July 8th the Chairman received an email from Simon Bowers, who is the Assistant Director Assets & Environment, Place, Economy & Environment Directorate at West Northants Council.

Simon Bowers explained that a report would be going to the WNC Cabinet Meeting on July 16th that would allow Bellway to acquire sufficient land off Ladybridge Drive for the construction of an access road (and a very small area for a substation) into the development land at the back of Teal Close and Heronsford. If Cabinet were minded to agree to the sale of the land the matter would remain subject to the statutory consultation on disposal of public open space, a final decision would only be taken following consideration of any objections raised in response to that consultation.

The Clerk was on annual leave when this email was received. The Chairman spoke to Simon Bowers the following day and he confirmed the details in the email.

The parish council did not have any input at this stage of the process. There was not enough time to call a parish council meeting and the Clerk was on annual leave. During the Cabinet meeting WNC Cllr Slope mentioned that ‘discussions had taken place with West Hunsbury Parish Council’. The Chairman confirmed that she had spoken only to Simon Bowers and that this was purely to notify the parish council that the sale of the land was being discussed.

The cabinet agreed to the sale of the land subject to a statutory consultation on the disposal of the open space. It was confirmed that any land that was not needed for the access road could be transferred back to West Northants Council for a nominal fee. This land could then be transferred to West Hunsbury Parish Council for no cost but the parish council would have to maintain it.

Bellway Homes have expressed an interest in purchasing the land in order to build an access road to the development land behind it. This land has been designated for residential development in the Local Plan for many years. Bellway Homes provided the parish council with an initial plan which showed councillors how the development may look and where the access road would be built, the Clerk printed out copies of the plan for the residents who attended the meeting. It also showed that the amount of open space left after the housing development has been built was actually greater and more accessible than the space that is currently used by residents.

It is noted that there are other access routes into the development land, councillors questioned whether these have been thoroughly investigated. Access could be gained via the parkland but this is likely to be very unpopular with residents and may also be objected to by the Football Association. There is also the possibility of an access from the dual carriageway but it thought that this has been dismissed primarily due to the speed of the traffic but also due to the impact that this would have on existing residents and on the new properties. In order to build in access from the dual carriageway there would have to be an opening in the noise reducing fencing, this would have an impact on the noise levels for residents.

	After a lengthy discussion Cllr Squires proposed that the parish council will delegate the forthcoming consultation response to the parish clerk. It was formally agreed that the parish council would Object against the disposal of any green land / open space within West Hunsbury where there would be a net loss to residents. It was also agreed that the parish council would mention that there is a considerable strength of feeling amongst the residents of West Hunsbury, particularly the roads closest to the open space at Teal Close, and they are very much against the sale of the land. This action was formally Resolved by all councillors.
26/134	Grounds Maintenance – requested by Cllr Barker To discuss the level of grounds maintenance in the parks and the parish and to determine any action required. Cllr Barker voiced concerns about the amount of large weeds, such as thistles and nettles, which are now growing up through the benches in the parks. The large weeds should be routinely cleared following the mowing but this is apparently not being done. The Clerk has emailed Chris Carvell at West Northants Council who are responsible for the ground maintenance in the parish. Chris Carvell explained that all these issues need reporting as soon as they are noticed so that action can be agreed. Cllr Barker explained that she felt that the weeds should be routinely cleared as part of the maintenance contract and that residents should not have to individually report them. The Chairman asked that Councillors please report these issues when they are noticed and encourage residents to do the same, no further action was agreed at this time.
26/135	Correspondence and actions when needed. • Resident complaint about the verges maintenance – Clerk directed to WNC • Resident complaint regarding the building works opposite Alphabet Day Nursery – Clerk referred to nursery management or West Northants Planning • Resident email regarding the proposed sale of the open space off Teal Close • Resident complaint regarding the grass maintenance in West Hunsbury • WNC Cllr Pinder Chauhan – list of proposed maintenance to the trees in the parish.
26/136	Next meeting – September 17th 2026

Appendix A

PAYMENT CATEGORY	Q.1 Expenditure April - June 2026	Approved Budget 2026-2027	Balance remaining	Comments
CLERK'S SALARY inc Pension,tax and NI	£ 3,783.74	£ 16,000.00	£ 12,216.26	
Clerks expenses /home allowance	£ 106.26	£ 425.04	£ 318.78	
MILEAGE	£ 18.00	£ 75.00	£ 57.00	
PAYROLL	£ 123.50	£ 208.00	£ 84.50	
MOBILE PHONE	£ 20.39	£ 150.00	£ 129.61	
TRAINING	£ 157.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 1,843.00	
PRINTING AND ADVERTISING	£ 80.00	£ 200.00	£ 120.00	
BOOKS/STATIONERY/INK	£ 11.12	£ 200.00	£ 188.88	
REFRESHMENTS	£ -	£ 25.00	£ 25.00	
ROOM HIRE	£ -	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	
INSURANCE	£ 441.48	£ 500.00	£ 58.52	
AUDIT FEES	£ 305.76	£ 520.00	£ 214.24	
SUBSCRIPTIONS, Nacre, Ncalc, ICO etc	£ 1,611.31	£ 2,000.00	£ 388.69	
ELECTION COSTS	£ -	£ -	£ -	
WEBSITE	£ -	£ 532.00	£ 532.00	
NEWSLETTER	£ -	£ -	£ -	
LAPTOP	£ -	£ -	£ -	
SPEEDWATCH	£ -	£ -	£ -	
GRANTS	£ -	£ 3,500.00	£ 3,500.00	
SCHOOL DONATION	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	
DEFIBRILLATOR	£ -	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	
STREET FURNITURE in benches/bins/noticeboard	£ 5,198.22	£ 5,000.00	£ -198.22	
BUS SHELTER CLEANING/maintenance	£ -	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00	
BINS / GRIT	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	
HIGHWAYS	£ -	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00	
REPAIRS AND PLANTING BOXES	£ -	£ 300.00	£ 300.00	
TREE PLANTING	£ -	£ -	£ -	
CHRISTMAS	£ -	£ 800.00	£ 800.00	
COMMUNITY EVENTS	£ -	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00	
REMEMBRANCE	£ -	£ 300.00	£ 300.00	
GREEN SPACES	£ 1,842.24	£ -	£ -1,842.24	Last payment for the goals, agreed in the previous years budget.
INCLUSION & WELLBEING	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	
CLIMATE INITIATIVES	£ -	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	
GATE COSTS	£ -	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	
PARISH PLAN	£ -	£ -	£ -	
YOUTH CLUB	£ -	£ 300.00	£ 300.00	
TOTAL	£ 13,699.02	£ 43,835.04	£ 30,136.02	