



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

Tel: 07729 608062 emails: clerk@westhunsburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.westhunsburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, Held on Thursday September 17th, 2026.

at 7pm Parsons Meade Community Centre

Members Present: Councillors Linda Hook (Chairman), Kathryn Barker, Carl Squires, Jacqueline Hughes, Kevin Read and Stephen Godfrey.

Absent – Cllr Ros Chisholm

1 member of the public

Item no	
26/142	To receive and approve any apologies for absence. It was Resolved to approve the apologies received from Cllrs Phillip and Garrett and from WNC Cllr Ron Firman.
26/143	To receive any pecuniary and non-pecuniary Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda Cllr Godfrey stated that as a member of the Northampton Ironstone Railway Trust he has a personal interest in Item 26/154
26/144	To approve and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on July 30th and the Extra Ordinary Parish council meeting held on September 10th 2026. The draft minutes for July were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman explained that the council had received a letter from a member of the public requesting some changes to the draft minutes. This request had been circulated to all councillors. The Clerk explained the process for councillors to request an amendment to draft minutes and that any changes must be proposed and voted on. After some discussion Cllr Squires proposed that in Item 26/133 Teal Close Open Space, paragraph 7 states that 'In order to build in access from the dual carriageway there would have to be an opening in the noise reducing fencing' Cllr Squires proposed that the word 'Fencing' be replaced with 'Barrier' as it is agreed that there is not fencing along the dual carriageway but there is a barrier of trees. This proposal was seconded by the Chairman and agreed by all. The other changes requested by the resident were not proposed.

	After this amendment it was Resolved to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The draft minutes to the Extra Ordinary meeting on September 10 th were circulated, it was Resolved to approve the minutes and they were signed as a true record.
26/145	Public Session The member of public present asked if the parish councils response to the planning application on land north of Milton Ham would be on the WNC website, the Chairman explained that yes it would but that WNC have a backlog of responses to publish. The response would also be published on the parish council website.
26/146	To Receive Reports from a) The Police. The Clerk circulated the crime report from July and August. The Clerk explained that she had received an email from PCSO Paul Hurst who has produced the parish crime report for quite a while, he notified the council that he will not be able to produce the reports anymore, he was not sure who would be taking over from him or when. The Councillors all expressed disappointment at this information as the crime reports are very useful, it was Resolved to write to the Northampton PFCC Office and make it known that the PC would very much like the crime reports to continue. b) West Northants Councillors. There were apologies received from Cllr Firman who had to attend a WNC meeting. No reports were received. The Clerk was asked to request the attendance of Cllr Glenn Butcher at a meeting soon as he has been absent for some time. It is also requested that if WNC Cllrs cannot attend then they send a brief report and apology. Cllr Squires outlined the recent issues with the WNC Local Plan that have been covered widely in the local press. West Northants Council is currently revising its Local Plan and this week made the decision to scrap the new plan and start again, despite 3 years of work and investment. This decision has been overturned by the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
26/147	To receive Clerks report and brief reports from Councillors or Clerk attending outside meetings. The Clerk report was circulated and there were no questions.
26/148	Matters arising from previous minutes, items not covered on the agenda, for report only. None.
26/149	Staffing Resolution to approve the national increase in the Clerks pay scale as announced by Ncalc and the SLCC. The rise for 2026/2027 is 3.3% and is to be backdated to 1 April 2026 It was Resolved to approve the payscale increase.

26/150	Finance 1. Resolution to approve the following payments for September, plus payments made in August and any that arrive between agenda publication and the meeting. <table><tr><th>Payable to</th><th>Details</th><th>Amount £</th><th>Power to Pay</th></tr><tr><td>Clerk</td><td>Salary August</td><td>907.37</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC</td><td>Tax and NI August</td><td>358.07</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112</td></tr><tr><td>Nest</td><td>Pension payment August</td><td>116.33</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112</td></tr><tr><td>Clerk</td><td>Salary September inc backdated amount</td><td>1067.15</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC</td><td>Tax and NI September</td><td>457.19</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112</td></tr><tr><td>Nest</td><td>Pension payment September</td><td>105.31</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112</td></tr><tr><td>Parish Online mapping</td><td>Parish mapping</td><td>249.60</td><td>LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112</td></tr></table> It was Resolved to approve the payments listed above including those made in between meetings. 2. Resolution to approve the bank reconciliation statement for 31st July 2026 Bank Balance at 1st April 2026 £6121.47 + 31,649.80 = £37,771.27 Plus Receipts £17,360.70 Less Payments £18,010.78 Total - £37,121.19 Bank Balance at 31st August 2026 = 5,381.21 + 31,739.98 = £37,121.19 Noted. 3. To confirm that the monthly internal controls checks have been completed. Cllr Squires confirmed that the monthly controls checks have been completed and there are no concerns with the payments. The home working allowance was briefly discussed and will be discussed further with the Clerk. 4. To confirm receipt of the External Audit Report, Clerk confirms no actions required. Conclusion of audit certificate now on the council website. Noted.	Payable to	Details	Amount £	Power to Pay	Clerk	Salary August	907.37	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112	HMRC	Tax and NI August	358.07	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112	Nest	Pension payment August	116.33	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112	Clerk	Salary September inc backdated amount	1067.15	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112	HMRC	Tax and NI September	457.19	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112	Nest	Pension payment September	105.31	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112	Parish Online mapping	Parish mapping	249.60	LGA 1972 ss101, 111 & 112
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26/151	Planning 1. To agree councils response to new applications plus any that require a response before the next meeting 2026/2915/HH (outside determination date of 16th Sept) 35 Icknield Drive Northampton NN4 9YS Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, garage conversion, new front porch together with internal alterations Following a brief discussion it was Resolved to submit no comments.																																

	Revised plans - WNN/2021/0537, Proposal Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved except access) for a development of up to 190 dwellings (Use Class C3) including affordable housing with new vehicular access, open space and associated infrastructure. Former Milton Ham Farm Towcester Road Northampton NN4 9RN Amendment Details: Revised development description and amended plans and reports. Change of the description of development and revised plans and reports. The council discussed this application at length, the original application was submitted in 2021 and the council had submitted 3 responses to the application and its various amendments. It was Resolved to submit a further response outlining the councils continued concern about the surface water drainage from this site and the cumulative effect of other applications in the same area. It was also noted that all the councils previous responses still apply.
26/152	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 explained that it is hoped that the new notice board will be installed this week. The council is still waiting for a quote to move the Birds and Bees bench on Hunslett Lane. Cllr Barker asked that enquiries are made with WNC about the condition of the land immediately adjacent to the new bench at the corner of St Dunstons Rise and Hunslett Lane, this piece of land does not seem to be getting mown. Clerk to investigate.
26/153	Flood Project The Chairman and Cllr Squires are attending the Flood Warden training day on October 2nd. They will report back at the next meeting.
26/154	Heritage Signs project • Council to resolve next steps following the quote from WNC for approx. £7200 plus vat, consideration to be given to forming a Cllr working party to manage this project. The application for the heritage signs had been sent into WNC a few weeks ago, the Clerk explained to Council that a quote had been received from WNC for £7,206.73 + VAT It was agreed that as this is a substantial amount a working party would be formed to look at the benefits of the project. Cllr Stephen Godfrey will lead the working party and will report back at the next meeting.
26/155	Park Gates – Chairman to update on the need for more volunteers to open and close the park gates. The Chairman explained that now the nights are getting darker earlier it is really important that more volunteers come forward to help open and close the park gates. It was agreed that the current arrangement in which councillors are primarily doing the gates, is not sustainable in the longer term. Cllr Squires, Hook and Godfrey will form a working party to investigate different solutions and will then report back to the council at a future meeting.

26/156	WNC Food and Recycling Campaign – to discuss ways that the PC could raise awareness of the food and recycling arrangements in Northampton. (requested by Cllr Squires) It was agreed that trying to encourage more residents to correctly recycle food waste was very important. The Clerk will look for some promotional material to put on the website and in noticeboards to try and publicise the campaign.
26/157	Anglian water replacement tree – to confirm arrangements for the replacement tree, what type and where is it going to be planted. The Clerk confirmed that now Autumn was on the way it would be a good time to contact Anglian Water and ask that they replace the mature tree that was cut down earlier in the year. The council chose an ornamental cherry priced at £250 for a 3M tree, ideally they would like two. It is hoped that Anglian Water will deliver and plant the new trees, the council will confirm the location.
26/158	Correspondence and actions when needed. • Ncalc AGM, Sat 3rd October, places now fully booked however 2 x places have been put on a waiting list. • Parish collab meeting, Sept 22nd Duston. • Ncalc Highways Representative Scheme, survey to be completed. Would WHPC be interested in having a nominated person? Closing date Sept 30th. • Agree attendance (two max) WNC Parish Conference, Nov 26th 10 am-1 pm Towcester Forum. It was agreed that the Chairman would attend. • Request from resident to consider fencing off the childrens play areas in the parks – Clerk suggested resident contact WNC
26/159	Date of next meeting October 15th 2026