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Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on: Thursday 18th September 2025 commencing at 7.30pm. Meeting to held at Brampton Primary School.

Minutes taken by the Clerk, Sarah Stock

Apologies received: Cllr Margaret Green. Ward Councillor Charles Morton

Attending: Cllrs Steven Crane, Mike Macmain, Robin Green, Lynda Smith, Paul Paterson and Tanya Speakman.

2025/049 Declarations of Interest. No declarations reported.

2025/050 Public Session No members of the public attending

WNC Officer Simon Ellis (Head of Planning) declined the invitation to attend the meeting to review the SPG for Church Brampton. In response to the request Mr Ellis's email stated: "If you want to explain briefly to me what the concerns are in relation to the design guide for the area I will discuss with my development management colleagues, who work in this area, to ensure they pick up any matters for future applications."

Verbal Updates (no decisions will be made on items in this section of the agenda)

- Caravan on Holdenby Road. Information passed to Sgt Kev Lombis & WNC Child Protect Services. Caravan has now moved on. Item Closed.
- Pathway along Back Lane needs clearing to improve accessibility. Now cleared. Item Closed.
- 20mph signs are ordered and will be fitted in due course. Item Closed.
- Cllr TS to provided update on Community Speedwatch. Police are dropping off equipment. 5 locations approved and each will have two actions. Speed will be monitored inside the village.
- Results of the consultation to determine a name for the Northwest Relief Road. The road will be named 'Gorse Valley Way'. Road will remain closed while developers site work compounds. Once open, WNC Highways will review speed restriction signage to comply with regulations for the entire length of the road. Council noted the name applies to the Causeway section of the road. Council resolved that "Gorse Valley Way" could be applied to entire new road. Harlestone has been asked to submit name suggestions for the eastern section of the road to York Way. Council is disappointed not to have been consulted as much of the road is in Brampton Parish. Brampton councillors will submit names to the clerk for forwarding on to WNC.
- Playing field: Council to confirm following items have been addressed: See-saw: encroaching vegetation & Rocker seat: bolts need tightening. Defer to Item 2025/055.
- Council noted the results of the Boughton traffic calming consultation. WNC resolved not to close the road between Boughton and Moulton, implementing a 20mph and cushioning system to slow traffic. Council noted Boughton's intention to appeal this decision and mount a legal challenge.
- Ten Cottages, Fence Removal. Council noted response from Highways regulatory department rec'd 11th September: "...as the encroachment is minimal the decision has been taken not to proceed with enforcement in this instance."

Council noted correspondence from Marion Peel describing the difficulty the narrowness of the pathway caused to less mobile pedestrians. Clerk forwarded Mrs Peel's letter to Highways.

No further action can legally be taken to remove the fence. Council cannot appoint a contractor to remove the fence or cut hedges that are privately owned. Council resolved to request hedges are cut back where possible and widen path.

- Clerk to write to residents at No. 3 Ten Cottages requesting they cut back their hedge.
- Council resolved to get contractor to side out the footpath along the narrowest part of the path.
- Cllr RG request copy of correspondence between Helen Howard (WNC Highways Officer) and Highways Regulatory Department. Clerk to send request.

2025/051 **To approve minutes from:** 17th July 2025. Amendments offered and agreed. Clerk to represent the minutes to the council in October

2025/052 **Bank reconciliation and YTD budget vs Expenditure review.** Accepted.

2024/25 Opening balance:	£37,541	
YTD Income	£21,226	
YTD expenditure (Inc. VAT)		£20,155
Online Balance		
Current Account (Unity 20415701)	£4,385	
Reserve Account (Unity 20415714)	£35,979	
YTD Balance (less pending payments)	£38,612	
2024/25 Unclaimed VAT YTD	£1,381	

2025/053 **Accounts for Payment.** All payments approved.

Payee	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Amount Due (Inc. VAT)	VAT
(DD) Yu Energy	2863937	1.8.25	£268.78	£12.80
(DD) Yu Energy	2863939	1.8.25	£33.05	£1.57
Yorks Sweeper Hire Ltd	INV80443	25.7.25	£780.00	£130.00
Thompson Lock & Security	INV-0080	21.7.25	£2,446.40	
Warden Environmental	7183	30.7.25	£444.00	£74.00
(DD) Eon Next	KI-7FD9A6C2-0019	4.8.25	£18.54	£0.88
(DD) Yu Energy	2947929	18.8.25	£14.10	£0.67
(DD) Yu Energy	2959442	1.9.25	£299.80	£14.28
(Exp TS) Nordis Kier	20463	21.8.25	£46.08	
PKF Littlejohn LLP	SB20250529	8.8.25	£252.00	£42.00
Thompson Lock & Security	INV-0081	8.8.25	£360.00	
Warden Environmental	7186	31.8.25	£444.00	£74.00
(SO) Sarah Stock	September + backpay	28.9.25	£688.80	
(SO) Noah Finney	September	28.9.25	£60.00	
(SO) HMRC	267PE00168558/06	28.9.25	£19.24	
HMRC	267PE00168558 – Apr-Oct	28.9.25	£21.53	
(DD) Unity Trust Bank	Statement 52	30.9.25	£6.00	
(DD) Eon Next	KI-7FD9A6C2-0020	4.8.25	£19.15	£0.91

2025/049 **Notice of the conclusion of Audit.** Noted

Notice of conclusion of audit received. There are no issues arising and a notice of conclusion of audit, closure letter and signed AGAR is displayed on website.

2025/054 Clerk Salary.

Council agreed pay increase in accordance with published pay scale from Northants CALC, Clerk's salary will increase by one SCP and 3.2% (inflationary rise) to SCP 21 @ £17.18 per hour. Back dated to 1st April 2025. Calculation provided after publication of agenda. List of payments (item 2025/053) to be amended.

2025/055 Playing Field & Pocket Park

Car Park boundary: Specification to remove timber edgings from the perimeter of the car park, replacing like for like and apply 10mm drainage stone behind the timbers. 45 metres of 500mm high timber retainer to match the existing with pressure treated UC4 timber. Council reviewed quotes:

A&A Landscapes – Total cost £3,400.

Bob Thompson – Total Cost £5,496.00

Denman – declined to quote.

Council resolved to alter the specification to remove timber edging, remodel bunds to accommodate low sleepers to mark the edge of the car park. Cllr MM will request new quote from A&A. Bob Thompson & Denman will not be asked to submit a new quote. Council will review both schemes in October.

Playing Field: Council noted rent review. Annual rent is now £1,190 per annum.

Play equipment: Council resolved to appoint Wicksteed to attend to the bolts. Council agreed that safety matting around the seesaw will need replacing. Clerk to get quote.

2025/056 Environment (verges, path, trees, and village maintenance)

- Trees: Cllr MM & SC completed tree inspection and provided report to clerk. No immediate action needed. Council resolved to appoint Maurice Fitch to complete a risk assessment tree survey. Cllr MM to action.
- Golf Lane triangle: Council accepted Mr Clayson offer to make repairs to the ground and install posts on two sides of the triangle to prevent vehicles parking at this location. Cllr RG has placed temporary cones around the triangle to prevent parking. Cllr RG to action.
- Pavement/highway sweeping: Council resolved to appoint Yorks Sweepers at cost of £650 to clear the pavement in November. Route will be extended to include Pitsford Road to edge of the village. SS to action.
- Spencer Close: Land between Spencer Close and Dormy Three needs clearing. Area is responsibility of BPHA. Clerk has written to BPHA, no response received prior to meeting.
- Church Brampton bus shelter: Quote accepted from A&A to remove ivy from the walls and roof of the bus shelter, cut ivy from the base of the neighbouring pine tree and remove any branches from the ash tree rubbing on the roof. Total cost £470. Cllr RG to inform A&A.
- Village Sign: Removal of ivy from sign (Harlestone Road) up to the small road bridge over the stream. Council resolved to report maintenance requirement to Highways (cutting around half a meter of ivy up from around the base of mature trees (approximately 25)).
- Crocuses: Cllr RG will provide additional crocuses for Cedar Hythe, Golf Lane Triangle, crossroads at Pitsford Road and for the playing field. Additional trees are available for the parish. Cllr SC & RG will liaise.
- Sunken Drains, Harlestone Road: all drains need re-stating, to make flush with the road. Cllr to report to highways using Fix My Street. Cllr SC to action.
- Cutting Wildflower areas and removing the debris. Council resolved to appoint Paul Thomas to mow, then leave for couple of weeks before removing debris. SS to action.
- Footpath adjacent to Church (ROW CE8) overgrown with vegetation and debris from hedge cutting on the gardens. Cllr TS has walked path and reported on FMS

2025/057 Interactive Mapping Subscription

Council resolved to subscribe to Parish Online. Subscription costs £50 per year.

Contact: The Clerk, 9 Lower Harlestone, Northamptonshire, NN7 4EW.
email: theclerk@churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk

2025/058 Traffic Calming/Highways

Pitsford road traffic: Council resolved to press highways to reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph, either along the whole road or on the approach to Chapel Brampton from e.g. Sedgebrook, and to request a weight restriction as at narrow sections near the crossroads and Pocket Park HGVs mount the pavement. Clerk to enquire.

Council asked for an update of repairs to the bridge and removal of the traffic lights from WNC Highways Officer Helen Howard.

2025/059 Parish Communication

Council reviewed of communication between residents and the council concluding the website could be better used. Council resolved to create a QR code to direct parishioners to the website and publicise it.

Note – the Facebook page is not managed by the council and not monitored by the clerk.

2025/060 Planning matters No new householder applications received prior to the meeting.

Council noted an application adjacent to CwCB Parish:

2025/3276/FULL, Land to the West of Welford Road Boughton, Residential development of up to 21 dwellings.

Council resolved to send comments objecting to the proposed build as the development sits on an area of land which contributes to the flood defence of the Boughton Mill area, noting the SUDs serving Buckton Fields are close by, and any overflow might overwhelm this site. The proposed housing mix includes a three-story apartment block which council believe will be overly dominate on the site when compared to the adjacent two-story housing development to the south and in the context of the boundary between the urban area and rural outlook provided by the Brampton Valley Way.

Date of next meetings: 16th October; 27th November, No December meeting.

Meeting closed: 9.45pm