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Minutes the Ordinary Council Meeting on: Thursday 16th January 2026 commencing at 7.30pm. held at Brampton Primary School.

Minutes taken by the Clerk, Sarah Stock.

Apologies received: Cllr Lynda Smith.

Attending: Cllrs Stephen Crane, Robin Green, Margaret Green, Mick Macmain, Paul Paterson, Tanya Speakman
Members of the Public x 10.

Chairman paid tribute to Rita Wilson, who died recently. Rita was once a parish councillor, and council acknowledged her contribution, sense of humour and warm personality.

The chairman noted following the November Meeting there appeared to be a misrepresentation of the Parish Council's concern that implementing a blanket 20mph in Church Brampton might result in more dangerous and aggressive driving; these fears expressed by Chapel Brampton Councillors have been mistakenly interpreted as being more concerned about the rights of speeding motorists than of parishioners. He noted that all councillors regardless of their address work without bias or favour towards either village. The chairman reiterated the commitment to tackling speeding in both villages as evidenced by the increased signage and installation of VAS indicators, but particularly with the reintroduction of the community speed watch scheme. This will continue using new, dedicated equipment providing a more proactive approach with potentially greater regularity throughout the whole parish. He noted that the exercise proved a fantastic deterrent on the day with drivers braking and slowing, who otherwise would have exceeded 30mph. He restated, as a Council "we are steadfast in doing our utmost to ensure motorists comply with the speed limit, be it 20 or 30mph".

Robin Green specified the comments were based on draft minutes and subsequent emails. The November published minutes accurately reflect the extent of the council discussion.

2025/084 **Declarations of Interest.** None reported.

2025/085 **Public Session.** 10 member of the public in attendance.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the council on matters related to the agenda.

- Andrew Robertson, Halfway Thorn: Requested enforceable 20mph speed restriction. AR specified that it would be better not to have speedhump, or, if required, humps carefully placed away from homes. Placement of bins after the refuse collection adds to the hazard.
- Glenda Cosens – Request a chicane between Church Brampton and Halfway Thorn to slow traffic.
- Mervyn Robertson: Complimented advisory 20mph signs installed through the village, however, noted that drivers seem to ignore the advisory notices. Noted the difficulty of walking to village services with children – pavements are narrow. Children themselves have expressed feeling unsafe. He noted that Boughton has an enforceable 20mph limit and traffic calming as part of planning condition.

(Cllr RG clarified that CWCB-PC has not applied for 20mph).

- Yvonne Rose – Suggested council increase the number and size of advisory signs in short term.

(Cllr TS agreed to contact Kier, who supply signs and stipulate the size and design.)

- YR – Noted that there is not signage directing traffic from Duston heading to the A14 onto the NWRR now that the new road is open.

- Ross Harding (Church Brampton): Noted that the recently published Local Plan seeks to allocate 1500 additional houses in the immediate area. RH urged council to respond to the consultation objecting to the additional houses which will increase the traffic in the parish.
- Anna Johnson – Asked council to consider a one-way system through the villages to reduce traffic. (Chairman noted that regardless of the speed limit enforcement, is crucial.)

Cllr MM reiterated concerns mentioned in November, that 20mph signs do not guarantee safer or more considerate driving to improve road safety.

Cllr Speakman requested additional volunteers to man the Speedwatch camera equipment. Most volunteers were from Chapel Brampton, despite obvious passion in Church Brampton. Actions were shared equally across villages. Offenders, those going over 35mph, receive an educational letter.

Chairman closed the open discussion.

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

- Spencer Close: Land clearance between Spencer Close & Dormy Three. BPHA notified. Clerk to seek update.
- Email from Deb Costello (9/12): Re Dog fouling in Jacks Lane. Enquiring if the PC considered installing wooden posts to prevent people parking on the grass verge. Council is sympathetic but concluded posts would prevent less mobile Brampton residents accessing the lane and may transfer the problem to another area of the village. Item Closed.
- Email from Wendy Henley (26/10): Parish Council to consider removal of the Apple Tree on the Crown Bank, Chapel Brampton. The small apples fall on the narrow pathway causing a hazard to pedestrians. Council noted area is inside the conservation area and approval from WNC would have to be sought. Council reluctant to remove trees but recognise the need for ongoing maintenance. See item 2025/091.
- Email from Kathryn Deering (5/1): Council asked to review traffic calming measures in Church Brampton to promote adherence to 30mph. Ms Deering notes the volume of traffic, disregard for signs, narrowness of pavements. She suggests increased signage, speed bumps and a chicane. Refer to item 2025/089. Item Closed.

2025/086 To approve minutes from: 27th November 2025. Approved.

Minutes are available from <http://www.churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk/agendas-minutes/>

2025/087 Bank reconciliation and YTD budget vs Expenditure review. Accepted

2024/25 Opening balance:	£37,541	
YTD Income	£37,706	
YTD expenditure (Inc. VAT)		£28,849
Online Balance		
Current Account (Unity 20415701)	£5,255	
Reserve Account (Unity 20415714)	£44,722	
Payments Pending		£3,315
Online Balance (less pending payments)	£46,662	
2025/26 Unclaimed VAT YTD	£2,681	

2025/088 Accounts for Payment. Council resolved to pay the following invoices.

Payee	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Amount Due (Inc. VAT)	VAT
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(DD) Unity Trust Bank	Statement 55	30.11.25	£6.00	
(DD) Valda Energy	1597747	25.11.25	£578.21	£96.37
(DD) Eon Next	KI-7FD9A6C2-0023	4.12.25	£19.87	£0.95
(SO) Noah Finney	December	28.11.25	£60.00	
(SO) HMRC	267PE00168558/9	28.11.25	£27.64	
(SO) Sarah Stock	December	28.11.25	£601.30	
Sarah Stock	plastic pouches	28.11.25	£8.99	
(DD) Unity Trust Bank	Statement 56	30.12.25	£6.00	
(DD) Unity Trust Bank	Statement 57	31.1.26	£6.00	
Exps. Tanya Speakman	Kier & Screw Fix	2.12.25	£85.11	
Information Comm Office	Z2520159	23.1.26	£52.00	
(DD) Valda Energy	1646837	27.12.25	£1.25	£0.21
(DD) Valda Energy	1646838	27.12.25	£602.51	£100.42
Yorks Sweeper Hire Ltd	81834	5.12.25	£1,560.00	£260.00
Yorks Sweeper Hire Ltd	82075	24.12.25	£780.00	£130.00
Parish Online	34UC076-004	24.12.25	£96.00	£16.00
Sarah Stock	Paper	7.1.26	£14.94	
Barbara Osborne Business	8212	31.12.26	£75.00	
Northants CALC	5040	19.12.25	£42.00	£7.00
(SO) Noah Finney	January	28.11.25	£60.00	
(SO) HMRC	267PE00168558/10	28.11.25	£27.64	
(SO) Sarah Stock	January	28.11.25	£601.30	

2025/089 Traffic Calming/Highways

In progress and awaiting updates/action:

Request to improve signage on exits off causeway roundabout to Chapel Brampton. Request sent 24th Nov. Gary Thorp (Kier Principal Parking & TRO Officer) confirmed (12th Jan, by phone) request has been sent to 'design team' to review. Council noted that not all SatNav have updated to reflect 40mph restrictions. Clerk asked to find out who controls central data base delivering information to SatNav providers.

Request to reduce speed limit on Pitsford Road from 50mph to 40mph sent to Helen Howard (Community Liaison Officer, Transport & Highways) 6th Nov. Additional information supplied 9th December. Update requested 12th Jan).

Community Speed Watch: Council approved funds to purchase equipment. Cllr Speakman will run speed watch actions from March. Additional volunteers are needed. Covered above.

Advisory 20mph signs: Signs have been erected in Back Lane, near the school on Harlestone Road and signs are ordered for placement near the Church and on Church Lane. Council approved installation of a post to accommodate a sign near the war memorial and allocated funds accordingly (under £50).

Vehicle Activated Signs: War Memorial Sign: Claim submitted for replacement Solar Panel (£750.08). Panel can be supplied within two weeks and will be fitted by Paul Thomas. Grant application submitted for additional battery-operated sign for A5199, north entrance to the village.

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

2025/090 Proposal to request blanket 20mph speed restriction through Church Brampton

Considering public interest, Council resolved to re-open discussion from November 2025/082.

Council noted procedure for change of speed limit (supplied by WNC Transport & Highways)

All requests for a change of speed limit are referred to the Speed Limit Review Panel for consideration – this includes various officers from Road Safety, Community Liaison and Traffic Engineering Teams, and a representative from the Police's Safer Roads Team who has delegated authority from the Chief Constable regarding agreeing changes to speed limits.

The request will be considered by the group considering any comments raised, the general characteristics of the area, in addition to speed and collision data.

Council reviewed emails supporting implementation of a 20mph limit: Keith Archibold, Mervyn Roberts, Yvonne Rose, Jill Slinn, Marion Peel, Michelle Brookes, David Alston, Stephen Barlow, Rachel Kurkinen.

The Council considered that the narrow width of the pavements compromises pedestrian safety and acknowledged that Bramptons' pavements would not meet today's building standards, as they do not allow two people to walk side by side. The Council recognised that residents with restricted mobility require additional pavement space and would feel safer if traffic speeds were reduced. It was also noted that the local bridleway network connects to the village via the road network, and that horse riders would benefit from a 20mph speed restriction. Councillors further observed that compliance with the existing 30mph limit is poor. Increased on-street parking, following the loss of the Church car park, has exacerbated these issues.

The Clerk was instructed to investigate the criteria and evidence required for the installation of permanent 20mph speed limits, and to establish whether any conditions are attached to the associated road traffic orders.

CLlr Speakman agreed to ask Kier whether larger advisory signs are available. The Council resolved to purchase additional advisory signs for Holdenby Road and for the approach to the A5199 junction. It was noted that signs must not obstruct visibility at junctions, must be clearly visible to oncoming traffic, must not be placed over enforceable signage, and must be mounted on suitable posts. CLlr TS will circulate a map and proposed locations by email for approval.

The council noted that regularly clearing debris from the pavements will help to maintain their usable width, but any earthworks or siding out where the bank is steep would require appropriate retaining measures to prevent material falling back onto the footway. The chairman commented that unfortunately older footpaths are often historically narrow and were not designed to accommodate today's requirements making walking two abreast difficult and potentially hazardous.

CLlr Green requested that the Council reconsider taking action to remove the fence at No. 2 Ten Cottages and to insist all adjacent hedges to be cut back significantly. The Council confirmed that the fence is located on Highway land adjacent to Althorp properties and that Highways has advised it will not pursue enforcement action (minute reference September 2025). The council reiterated the resolution to have no further involvement in the removal of the fence or hedges.

CLlr Green is free to make his own arrangements with Althorp to remove the fence at his own expense. Removal of the fence without landowner permission would be illegal.

2025/091 Environment (verges, path, trees, and village maintenance)

Pavement sweep review: Council concluded that sweeping, despite being expensive (£2,600 for three days) will help maintain the pavements. However, some pavements need siding out.

Tree Survey: Council accepted recommendations from Maurice Fitch and resolved to phase works over two/three years. Council will ask Maurice to prioritise urgent items. Council delegated power to the clerk to liaise with MF and determine which works can be deferred.

Playing Field - Remove deadwood from mature Oak and raise the canopy on one young Oak. £540.00

Crossroads: Cherry - reduce crown by approximately 2 -3 metres, remove deadwood. £360.00

Tidy Oak and Laurel and remove Thorn branch over the driveway. £180.00

Crawn Bank - remove low branch from 1 Cherry and deadwood. £80.00

Cedar Hythe - Tulip Tree. Vigorous and in good condition. My concern is that there are many branches in the upper crown that are not supported. Although they have been reduced, they are becoming very dense and are attached to decaying parent limbs. If one were to fail it could damage branches lower down and affect the integrity of the whole canopy. I recommend that the whole canopy is thinned by removing crossing, rubbing and duplicated growth and is reduced to the previous pruning level to reduce weight and wind resistance. £1,600.00

Pocket Park: Scots Pine - remove major deadwood and hanging branch over the footpath. £400.00

Ash - shorten branch over the foot bridge to some vertical growth near the stem. £760.00

Young Beech - formative Prune, leave the low growth. £40.00

Immediate Justice: Cllr Paterson attended a meeting with officers from Immediate Justice team. Immediate justice scheme provides one individual for smaller job. Nominee will side out Pitsford Road in next couple of months.

Lengthsman Role: Councillors resolved to employ a Lengthsman for 4 hours per month. Job description includes general maintenance around the villages, hedge trimming on public land (i.e. playing field junction) and minor repairs to play equipment etc.

Clerk directed to approach Paul Thomas (already working for other councils), he charges £25 per hour.

February 2026 Litter Pick: Council confirmed arrangements for the litter pick. Volunteers needed. 10am, 7th February. Bags & equipment are supplied by WNC, and Cllr SC will coordinate volunteers. Cllr TS will publicise it on Facebook.

Tree on Harlestone Road towards pumping station. Maurice to make assessment and advise council.

2025/092 Assertion 10 (Data Compliance).

Council noted the details of Assertion 10 (circulated with the agenda) and resolved to review security on personal equipment used for council business. Website, GDPR and Data Policy are in place.

2025/093 Donation Request from Citizens Advice.

Citizens Advice West Northants and Cherwell (CAWNAC) request for a donation was declined.

2025/094 Local Plan Consultation

West Northamptonshire Council has published the latest draft of its Local Plan. The consultation will begin at the beginning of February and runs for 8 weeks.

The plan identifies a need for 1900 homes in rural areas. CCWCB has no allocation.

The plan seeks to extend Buckton Fields northwards for an additional 1500 homes. Council concluded this will have detrimental impact on the Bramptons, including traffic, pressure on the school and other services, and flooding of Boughton Brooke. Council resolved to respond to the plan outlining an objection to extending the urban area. Council noted the continuing pressure on green wedge, particularly at Harlestone.

2025/095 Local Transport Plan

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

West Northamptonshire Council are consulting on the first three supporting strategies following adoption of the Local Transport Plan: the draft Active Travel Strategy, draft Rail Action Plan, and draft Mobility hub Action Plan. The Council's consultation survey for these documents closes on the 27th January.

Cllr TS & n MM attended meeting. Plan includes opening N2MH railway line to which the council will object, but support establishing the Northampton to Bedford line which would have economic benefit for Northampton.

Active Travel Plan provides for equestrian need and rural travel needs,

2025/096 Councillor vacancies.

Council has two vacancies. Ross Harding volunteered and will be coopted in March.

The remaining vacancy will be advertised in the newsletter and on Facebook.

2025/097 Planning matters Council resolved response to planning applications.

2025/5162/FULL Northamptonshire County Golf Club Golf Lane Church Brampton NN6 8AZ	(CA James Dawson, obs by 30 Jan) Proposed workshop and store
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No observations.

Date of next meetings: No February Meeting. Thursday 19th March. Thursday 16th April. Monday 27th April (Annual Parish Meeting). Thursday 21st May (Annual Council Meeting).