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Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 commencing at 7.30pm. held at Brampton Primary School.

Minutes taken by the Clerk, Sarah Stock.

Apologies received: WNC Cllr Charles Morton.

Attending: Cllrs Steven Crane, Mike Macmain, Margaret Green, Robin Green, Lynda Smith, Paul Paterson. Ross Harding Council received resignation from Cllr Tanya Speakman in January 2026. The Chairman formally thanked TS for her contribution to the council and for continuing to coordinate the Community Speed Watch volunteers.

#### **2025/098 Co-option of Ross Harding**

Council resolved to co-opt Ross Harding to Church with Chapel Brampton Parish Council. Mr Harding signed an acceptance of office, code of conduct, register of members interest, agreement to receive summons by email, and GDPR agreement.

**2025/099 Declarations of Interest.** No declarations made.

**2025/0100 Public Session.** No public attending.

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

- Spencer Close: Land between Spencer Close and Dormy Three needs clearing. BPHA notified.
- Causeway roundabout signage: Highways/Kier have agreed to review signs. Cllr Daniel Lister cc'd and will push for action on our behalf.
- Local Plan response: Draft response presented to Council. CWCB-PC support Boughton's objection to the Buckton Fields extension. Pending small amendments Clerk will send the response to WNC.
- Emails from Marion Peel x2 (22 Jan): Tree adjacent to Church entrance dropped branches. MP requests Council report concerns to Althorp [foresters inspected withing two weeks of report being made have subsequently removed ivy from trees, Althorp foresters will return to complete works in due course] (refer to item 2025/105). Narrowness of the pathway makes access for wheelchair users difficult. [Matter has been passed to Keir (Highways contractor) for action (land belongs highways). Council has been cautioned by Althorp not to undertake any works on their land.]
- Email from Richard Chatley (2 Feb): Reports a road-safety concern on Harlestone Road near Chapel Brampton Primary School. On 26 January at around 08:20, a coach travelling from Church Brampton towards Welford Road passed close to the resident on a narrow pavement at an estimated speed of 25–30 mph. The area is busy at that time with parents, children, and other pedestrians. Other parents have also reported that speeding coaches are a recurring issue. The resident asks the Parish Council to note the issue, contact the coach operator (Hamiltons Coaches Ltd) about using an alternative route, support speed monitoring, consider enforcing the village's 7.5-tonne restriction, and liaise with relevant highways or road-safety authorities. The incident has also been reported to the police via the non-emergency route. (refer to item 2025/104).  
Council noted comments and recommended CSW complete action at the location, Councillors will review school awareness signage and make recommendation accordingly.
- Streetlight repair: The light by 28 Welford Road, Chapel Brampton NN6 8AF (what3words location: ///watch.moss.yarn) is not working - number L41CCB. Reported to Eon.

**2025/0101 Approval of minutes from: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.** Approved & signed by the Chairman.

**2025/0102 Bank reconciliation and YTD budget vs Expenditure review.** Accepted.

2025/26 Opening balance:	£37,541	
YTD Income	£37,970	
YTD expenditure (Inc. VAT)		£29,374
Online Balance		
Current Account (Unity 20415701)	£6,084	
Reserve Account (Unity 20415714)	£41,722	

Contact: The Clerk, 9 Lower Harlestone, Northamptonshire, NN7 4EW.  
email: [theClerk@churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:theClerk@churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk)

Payments Pending	£1,662
<b>Online Balance (less pending payments)</b>	<b>£46,144</b>
2025/26 Unclaimed VAT YTD	£2,936

**2025/0103 Accounts for Payment.** Council approved invoices for payment.

Payee	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Amount Due (Inc. VAT)	VAT
Interest	Statement 26	31.12.25	(£263.70)	
(INCOME) Clear Council Ins	re: Solar Panel	16.1.26	(£409.08)	(£68.18)
(DD) Eon Next	KI-7FD9A6C2-0024	20.1.26	£19.10	£0.91
(DD) Valda Energy	1693267	26.1.26	£8.56	£1.43
(DD) Valda Energy	1693268	26.1.26	£635.28	£105.88
Northants CALC	5093	6.2.26	£42.00	£7.00
Northampton Services	Oct 25 - 008	13.11.26	£95.00	
Northants Police CC	34P2190 CSW	21.1.26	£150.00	
(DD) Eon Next	KI-7FD9A6C2-0025	3.2.26	£20.76	£0.99
Police Crime Commission	Grant for VAS	25.2.26	(£1,250.00)	
(DD) Unity Trust Bank	Statement 58	28.2.26	£7.00	
(SO) Noah Finney	February	28.2.26	£60.00	
(SO) HMRC	267PE00168558/11	28.2.26	£27.64	
(SO) Sarah Stock	February	28.2.26	£601.30	
(DD) Valda Energy		9.3.26	£430.09	£71.68
(INCOME) Clear Council Ins	re: Solar Panel	16.1.26	(£2,263.03)	
(SO) Noah Finney	March	28.3.26	£60.00	
(SO) HMRC	267PE00168558/11	28.3.26	£27.64	
(SO) Sarah Stock	March	28.3.26	£601.30	
Barbara Osborne Business	8291	31.3.26	£75.00	
Kier Nordis	24525	10.3.26	£92.16	£15.36
Exps. Mike Macmain	various	16.3.26	£68.72	
A&A Landscapes	10670	28.2.26	£360.00	£60.00
(DD) Eon Next	KI-7FD9A6C2-0026	3.3.26	£19.51	£0.93
Parish Council Websites	INV-4308	4.3.26	£350.64	£58.44
(DD) Unity Trust Bank	Statement 58	28.3.26	£7.00	
A&A Landscapes	10679	19.3.26	£4,948.80	£824.80
Northampton Services	Feb26 - 009	28.2.26	£150.00	
Northampton Services	Mar26 - 010	28.3.26	£100.00	
Elan City UK Ltd	SAJ-UK/2026/03345	3.3.26	£2,267.99	£378.00
Exps. Steven Crane	Jones Wholesale	9.3.26	£25.30	

**2025/0104 Traffic Calming/Highways.**

**Enforceable 20mph speed restriction on Harlestone Road:** Council noted feedback from Helen Howard (WNC Highways) and Northamptonshire Safer Roads regarding speed reduction. WNC policy does not support enforceable 20mph limits; Boughton's

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scheme remains unique. Advisory 20mph signs will be positioned at AWL signs only. An extra horse awareness sign will be fitted near Stables Lane.

**Temporary 20mph signs:** Councillors reviewed locations and ordered eight more temporary signs for £153.60.

**Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS):**

- Harlestone Road VAS replaced.
- New southbound VAS for Welford Road purchased via grant.
- Sandy Lane VAS is partially faulty; solar upgrade deemed unreliable, so a battery-operated sign will be installed instead. Cllr MM plans to repair the current unit.

**Tracsis Survey:** Scheduled for September 2026 at a cost of £2,000, covering eight sites including one new location near the church on Harlestone Road.

**2025/0105 Environment (verges, path, trees, and village maintenance)**

**Immediate Justice:** Siding out Pitsford road pavement completed. Council very pleased with the results. Team due to come and do Halfway Thorn.

**Lengthsman:** Paul Thomas will commence duties as of 1<sup>st</sup> March, working as self-employed subcontractor, charging £25 per hour. Contract is based on 4 hours per month. PT will submit a monthly invoice which will itemise works and expenses. All expenses must have a valid receipt.

Works list initial proposals. Cllr Paul Paterson will act as principal point of contact for PT.

- Repair of upright support on the Pocket Park sign
- Tighten hexagonal nuts on play equipment in playing field
- Side out paving on the crossroads with Welford Road and Pitsford road (\*)
- Side out paving on Crawan Bank
- Cut back brambles on verge opposite Spencer Arms (John Cutlers area)
- Reinstate grass and repair damage to triangular island, bottom of Harlestone Road and Back Lane.
- Side out paving at entrance to Walkers Lane on Church Lane
- Side out paving on Triangle at entrance to Golf Lane on Harlestone Road (\*)
- Throughout the growing season keep vegetation under control around Chapel Meeting Room
- Throughout the growing season keep vegetation under control around benches
- Install post on approach to Halfway Thorn for 20mph advisory sign
- Install additional taller post on Church Lane for 20mph advisory sign

(\*) Maybe suitable for Immediate Justice Team

Additional work on Church Lane, removing self-sets from verge.

**Althorp:** Helen Burvill (HB) confirmed foresters will tackle the tree near the Church and remove ivy from trees, including around the bus shelter. Cllr RG restated his safety concerns and pressed for Althorp to take urgent action. HB asked to contact Brian Rice Farms requesting they clear ivy and inspect the condition of their Black Pine trees.

**2025/0106 Harlestone Road/Ten Cottages Fence**

The Chairman relayed a conversation with WNC Highways officer Helen Howard (HH) regarding the fence, where she reiterated that Highways will not pursue its removal. HH advised that, at 1.2m, the path is of sufficient width for pedestrian use. HB (Althorp) has declined to remove the fence. The Chairman noted the time spent, the extent and volume of correspondence between the Council, Highways, and Althorp on this matter; none provides the Parish Council with authority to require the fence's removal.

Cllr RG referenced a letter from Althorp, likely received circa 2017/18, requesting the Council's permission to erect the fence. A copy of the letter cannot be located. Cllr RG provided copies of land registry documentation showing the limit of Althorp's ownership and circulated correspondence between Cllr RG & WNC Highways stating the Parish Council has no authority to grant permission for a fence. Cllr RG noted that vegetation growing adjacent to the fence is exacerbating the problem. The council does not dispute Cllr RG's case and appreciates that Cllr Green pursuance of this matter is borne out of concern for pedestrian safety but, given the Council has no route to a resolution, Council does not wish to spend any additional time on this matter.

Council resolved to adopt the statement (4 in favour (Cllrs SC, MM, LS, PP); 2 against (Cllrs RG and MG); 1 abstention (Cllr RH) and to accept corporate responsibility for the position set out below:

Council acknowledges that the fence erected by Althorp is located on Highways land. As such, the Council does not have the authority to require its removal. Only West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Highways has the power to take any enforcement action in relation to this matter. Council has been cautioned by Althorp not to undertake any works on their land. Council could be subject to legal action if this caution is not heeded. Accordingly, in the absence of any material or significant change from the interested parties, the Council will take no further action and will not engage in any further correspondence or discussion regarding the removal of the fence.

**2025/0107 Chapel Meeting Room**

Council to note Jill Slinn is holding approx. £70 from hire of CMR equipment. Requests/bookings are rare. Council resolved to seek ideas from the community to make better use of the CMR.

A&A removed overgrown vegetation and replaced the gravel around the meeting room. Cllr RG offered to donate a mat for the front door.

**2025/0108 Playing Field & Pocket Park (to include Climate & Nature proposals)**

**Hedgehogs:** Council resolved to purchase 4 hedgehog houses for the playing field & pocket park. Cost per house £29.99. Clerk will contact hedgehog rescue centre for advice.

**Playing field:** Proposal to purchase grass & wildflower seed for the playing field, stakes for the oak trees. Trees taken from around the CMR will be replanted on playing field. Trees will be stored at Cllr RG's garden.

In discussion with Althorp, Cllr SC proposed to Althorp to use the thicket near Halfway Thorn to improve biodiversity. HB agreed to take forward this proposal for consideration.

**2025/0109 Police Liaison Role**

Cllr RG resigned as PLR. Council appointed Cllr RH as Police Liaison (Registration required before 1 April 2026). PCSO Kev Lumbis is retiring after many years' service. Council is very grateful to PCSO Lumbis and will send a letter of appreciation.

**2025/0110 Planning matters Council to consider and resolve response to planning applications.**

No new householder applications

Council noted WNC decision to approve 2025/5277/PIP, Audra, Harlestone Road, Chapel Brampton. Permission in principle for 2 no. dwellings

Date of next meetings: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Annual Parish Meeting). Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May (Annual Council Meeting). Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. No August meeting.

Meeting ended 21:30