

MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2026
730 pm, in the Parish Hall

PRESENT: Cllr B Evans (Chair) (BE) Cllr D Hodges, Vice-Chairman (DH)
Cllr J Russell (JR) Cllr N Banister (NB)
Cllr I Illingworth (II) Cllr P Marsh (PM)
Cllr D Keeble (DK)
Apologies: Cllr S Raper (SR) Cllr M Mitton

In the Chair, Mr Barry Evans, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and reminded everyone that Parish Council meetings can now be recorded by the public as long as this did not disrupt the running of the meeting.

A 15-minute slot had been set aside at agenda item Parishioners Points for village residents to raise matters with the Council. The 'invitation' to attend the meeting can be found on the Facebook page & PC website.

8	(a) Declaration of Interest (on Agenda items only) –None (b) Resolved to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th April 2026 which have been previously circulated and were duly proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting	BE
9	Public Open Forum Session – Parishioner Points - A parishioner asked if there were any updates on the proposed Fosters Booth development. Cllr Keeble advised nothing yet as need to wait for it to be brought forward to the Planning Committee. Cllr Marsh advised that the Planning Portal shows it has been re-opened for comments and the Case Officer's decision is due on 5th June, it will then take a month to write the Report before being shared. He confirmed if the Case Officer's decision is approval they can go to Committee, so still unsure of timeline but the expectation would be later this year. Cllr Keeble stated he would write to the Case Officer and ask for an update as there is understandably a lot of interest in the Parish, and ask for indication where they are in their work and when they are likely to come to a Determination. - Cllr Evans advised the decision would impact on the requirement to find 69 houses if it goes ahead. - Cllr Illingworth noted that all planning applications are taking a long time, some have been on the list since September and October 2025 when they are supposed to be quicker now. Other Councillors agreed that in relation to the Boundary Wall application and the Festal Grange application, both had taken a long time with Festal Grange still not resolved. - Another parishioner asked what progress has been made in terms of facilitating a meeting between WNC Highways and the developer of Mews Court regarding the boundary on Butchers Lane. - Cllr Keeble advised that this had not yet progressed but we are ready to do so, we can reach out to both parties to facilitate that, and when we do, we will need residents present. Cllr Keeble to organise. - A question was raised on any update on the footpath closure in the centre of the village, as it is a steep sharp bend so it needs to be open on the right. Cllr Hodges advised that this is private land but he has seen someone there recently surveying the land but unsure when it will be open.	DK/ CLERK DK

	• Cllr Evans advised the wall is considered unstable and that is why WNC put the barriers there but we have not heard how they will progress it. It was confirmed that this is between the landowner and WNC to resolve directly. • A parishioner asked about the junction with Fosters Booth Road and the junction with the A5, is there any update from Highways on putting in double yellow lines to stop cars parking there and making it dangerous. • Cllr Banister advised that this has been requested and WNC had looked into this a year ago and said it was okay but then got a further call to say that Highways cannot do this as it is down to National Highways. Cllr Banister advised he had then approached National Highways who said when we get traffic calming in Fosters Booth, we will also get yellow lines and cats eyes on the turn. Once he has more information, he will share this. • Parishioner confirmed that the junction is really dangerous as when pulling out cars are coming through at speed. Cllr Banister advised that is one of the reasons Highways don't want to put signs up is that it is a clearway and everyone knows what that is. • Cllr Evans asked Cllr Banister to put a request on Facebook that there should be no parking there, it is a clearway and doesn't have double yellow lines because it doesn't need them. Cllr Banister will re-do the posters tomorrow and he confirmed he is meeting with Sarah Bool about this as she has agreed to support any actions to make the A5 safer which includes making the two lanes into one which has been suggested.	NB
10	Planning: Applications Appeal Decision: 6002676 (LPA 2025/0571/FULL) – Manor Farm, Astcote Cllr Keeble advised that the plot adjacent to chapel was refused but went to Appeal and now successful so they now have permission to build that remaining property on the piece of land. He recognises it is next to the chapel, and could be deemed that it impacts on it, but not significantly, but as long as the plot is sustainable okay for it to go ahead. Cllr Hodges stated the main point was that WNC cannot prove that they have enough land availability of the housing that is required. 2026/0612 /FULL Boundary Wall, Holy Cross, Pattishall 2026/0615/LBC Boundary Wall, Holy Cross, Pattishall Cllr Russell stated the following: • Full and Listed Planning consent has now been given for what we want to do, the Conservation Officer finally removed her objections. He confirmed there are pre-commencement conditions, one is archaeology, the other a Public Right of Way diversion which we need to move forward now we have some impetus to the works. • He suggested we move forward with the first part, the archaeology which involves a brief and investigation by one of the two archaeologists he has been speaking to. In his report he set out what he thought those costs were; the initial archaeology is budgeted for £200-£300. North Northants Archaeologists to write the brief which our archaeologist will have to follow, he advised it is better to follow a document we know is approved by the Council so likely to move forward with that if all in agreement. • In addition the Public Right of Way, it cannot be walked as it goes over the boundary wall and up the back, so he has put together the form with all the necessary drawings and, with an approval from Marion from the Church, to agree to the diversion and it just clips where we want to start building and the diversion will be down onto the street, it is a time charge so again £250, needs to be diverted as he suspects the contractor may need to use it as well to store materials. • Cllr Evans confirmed that they are looking at £500 for the two actions to move ahead with these works. • Cllr Russell confirmed these actions need to go ahead if we wish to move forwards to appoint a contractor as we have to go through these pre commencement conditions – vote taken and AGREED BY ALL to pay for these works • Cllr Russell confirmed the main access path to the church has to be kept in good working order and if there is a funeral the contractor has to allow access	JR
11	Finance (a) Budget/Forecast – Agreed to move this to the June agenda as we cannot do more until we have the figures for the boundary wall – ACTION Clerk to add to June agenda.	DH/ CLERK

	(b) Gayton & Tiffield Community Transport Grant Request – Cllr Banister confirmed they have asked the Parish Council for help which he has shared with Councillors prior to the meeting. He confirmed they are getting desperate for money; hence the request and they will ask for the same from Gayton and Tiffield. They no longer receive a grant from WNC and the other fund available, who gave them funding for 1-2 years, has now run out. He confirmed they do get an income from private hire but not enough to keep it running. Cllr Illingworth asked if they had applied to the Northants Community Foundation, Cllr Banister confirmed they had. He advised they are asking the PC for £1000. Cllr Hodges advised that we used to provide funding for Stagecoach and that was always in our budget, but they stopped requesting it so we have money set aside for community transport which we could allocate elsewhere. It was AGREED BY ALL that we can take £500 from the bus service budget and £500 from S137 budget if Cllr Banister can confirm that Gayton and Tiffield PC are also contributing the same amount, totalling £1000. Agreed on principle that Gayton and Tiffield do the same (c) To Approve Payment Schedule dated 14th May 2026. The Payment Schedule dated 14th May 2026 was proposed for agreement by Cllr Marsh and seconded by Cllr Keeble and approved and will now be authorised on UTB by Cllr Hodges. (d) To Approve and Sign the Bank Reconciliation for All Accounts as at 30.04.2026. These were approved and AGREED BY ALL and signed by Cllr Hodges as a member of the Finance Committee.	NB DH/ CLERK DH/ CLERK
12	Policy: Review Burial Policy. • Cllr Illingworth recommended that the listed 12" memorial stone size is increased to 18", as most in there are already that size, and amend the Policy. • Cllr Illingworth confirmed there are currently only 6 or 7 burial plots left but there is space in the GoR. Cllr Evans asked if there is another option once the burial ground spaces are all used and Cllr Hodges confirmed the churchyard extension at Blacksmiths Close should have some. He confirmed that RJ carried out a ground penetration survey which identified possible usable areas but more investigation needed. Cllr Evans advised that once we are down to 4 remaining burial plots then this needs to be looked at in more detail. Cllr Hodges advised that in the burial extension there is space given some areas are over 100 years old in the bottom left corner. The space issue to be reviewed later in the year. • AGREED BY ALL that the size of memorial stone can be increased in the Burial Policy. Parish Mapping Cllr Russell suggested some dates which had now passed, he will liaise with Bob Illingworth to set up more dates in June and share these with Councillors.	
13	Boundary Wall, Church Street, Review of Tenders Cllr Russell advised: • Two tenders have been received of the three requested, 3rd withdrew last week as they couldn't meet the criteria. The first tender is fully compliant, we originally estimated the cost to be £25-£35K excluding the road closure and archaeology consultant, so if we take that the cost is up to £51k including road closure and consulting. They said they will do it in two sections which means you do not have to hold the whole bank back whilst doing it, to do it in 2m sections is a better way of approaching it. He believes, with all the known costs to date, it will be around £54K, including archaeology, structural engineer signing off and provision of more stone just in case. • He advised we have spent around £1K so far not including the two repairs. • Cllr Keeble asked for clarification that, including the two repairs, the cost would be approximately £75K? This was confirmed but Cllr Russell advised that we don't have to do it all this year but it will prevent the wall deteriorating further. • Cllr Russell confirmed that the other quote was non-compliant and allowed for 20m of wall, not 11m as requested, he will look at it once received again. • Cllr Russell advised that we had budgeted for £40K plus put in proposed play equipment of £10k so have around £50K.	

	• Cllr Illingworth will apply for some grants; not sure we will be eligible for several but will try. She also suggested that we ask the Diocese and Holy Cross and explain to them how much this is going to cost. There is also the possibility of asking local businesses or organisations to contribute. • There was further discussion around crowd funding or holding a fund-raising event so that the costs do not impact on the precept going forwards. Cllr Evans believes we need to tag onto an existing fundraising event, he will think about what event it can be attached to get this started. • Cllr Russell advised that the compliant tender he has received is a fixed price which will be held for the rest of the year but we will need to carry out financial and compliance checks before any tender is awarded and any monies paid. • Cllr Keeble suggested a meeting with the Diocese to talk openly about the costs the PC is facing. • Cllr Russell discussed the costs of the archaeology work, the two quotes he has received are very different, after discussion of the varying costs it was AGREED BY ALL to go with Granta Heritage. • Cllr Illingworth agreed to organise a meeting with Marion from Holy Cross and PPC soon, Clerk to make a formal request for some meeting dates for Cllr Keeble, Cllr Russell, Cllr Illingworth and Cllr Russell to attend before the next FCM on 11 June 2026 and in the interim Cllr Illingworth will complete some grant forms • Cllr Keeble asked if we should formally correct Howes Percival who have provided a letter stating the wall belongs to the PC, Cllr Russell said he would check the letter and ask them to amend that if incorrect. • Cllr Illingworth suggested the wall is insured as a named asset in our PC insurance schedule.	BE JR CLERK JR CLERK
14	Neighbourhood Watch Signs – Butchers Lane Cllr Marsh advised that Linda Hemming has 2 more new NHW signs and he noted 2 need replaced on Butchers Lane, he requested permission to put these up. He will need support from someone to hold the ladder. Parishioners living nearby agreed to assist Cllr Marsh AGREED BY ALL to replace the signs. Clerk to ask Linda for the signs and Cllr Marsh to install.	CLERK PM

15		Key Matters for Discussion	
(a)	Allotments BE	Cllr Evans confirmed people are out and about and starting to get on their allotments and Laura has trimmed around the trees.	
(b)	Community Engagement NB/II/MM/SR	- Cllr Banister advised there is nothing further to add to his Report. - Cllr Illingworth advised school numbers are now up to 170 with 30 starting in September, the first time they have had that many in reception in several years and only 15 short of full capacity so really pleasing. - Cllr Marsh gave an update on behalf of Cllr Raper. The water leak at the Parish Hall is now resolved and Anglian Water connected to new mains and have stop cock and isolators put in the cupboard. The car park has been pressure washed and gulleys all washed out and patio cleaned and they will budget for that every 2-3 years to keep the building fresh. - Cllr Illingworth advised there was an incident where the defibrillator was needed, the person in need dialled 999 and were given an incorrect code 3 times for the one at the school. They had been redirected to the one at the Parish Hall but by then the ambulance arrived. There is a concern now that 999 are holding the wrong codes and this may happen again Cllr Illingworth has created stickers for each defibrillator with their name and location details to try and help next time She will also try and speak to St Johns or the Police about checking the numbers given out are correct. - Cllr Illingworth confirmed that she has now received the spare defibrillator but they need to find a location for that and the church porch was discussed as a possibility. There was also discussion around having a light put in around the one at the school as it is too dark to put the numbers in. - Cllr Evans will check with Johns Motors if they are willing to provide a location for the spare defibrillator.	II BE
(c)	Churchyard & Burial Ground II/DH	Cllr Illingworth advised there was a burial at 10am Wednesday morning and in future she will use discs to mark the graves.	
(d)	Grass cutting, trees, hedges, churchyard, and burial ground maintenance DH	Cllr Hodges advised: - We have received an email request from a lady in Astcote that the PC takes on the mowing of the ground outside her boundary. The ground there is very hard and stony as a wall had been started there, then stopped due to drainage issues and access required and since then the land has been used as a wild flower garden but the resident wishes this to be tidied and strimmed. AGREED BY ALL that Cllr Hodges will speak to the grass cutters to see if they can strim it twice a year and if they agree, the Clerk will let the resident know. - He looked at Booth Close Play area and very uneven so went up and raked out the mole hills but still a lot of them up there again. There has been a lot of rubbish being left at the play area so AGREED BY ALL that Cllr Banister will put on Facebook that the PC will have to consider closing the park if this keeps happening - Still waiting for tree works to be completed, quote for lime trees does say they will remove and grind stumps out as part of the quote so he will check that is done.	DH CLERK NB
(e)	Highways NB	Cllr Banister advised nothing to add to his Report.	
(f)	Lighting	Cllr Marsh advised: The street light was fixed today and a sensor on one at bottom of Butchers Lane opposite Festal Grange replaced, photocell failed, put a new one in and asked if will be free of charge as failed but no reply yet	

(g)		- He had received a response in relation to the low hanging wire. WNC have come back and decided it is for the resident to remove it, which seems incredible since it is overhanging the highway. He has responded to ask who made that decision as he doesn't agree since it goes over a highway and could possibly be live, if an injury occurs WNC would be liable. AGREED Cllr Marsh and the Clerk would make contact with WNC and ask - The crossing sign at entrance to Mews Court is tilted over and he asked if anyone has submitted a Fix My Street, it was confirmed it had been reported and they have agreed to straighten it.	PM/ CLERK
	Footpaths JR	Cllr Russell advised nothing to report as Footpath Warden has been on holiday.	
	Playgrounds JR	Cllr Russell advised he has replaced the shackle on the basket swing on Butchers Lane, School Road roundabout apron been replaced and grass matting still down.	
	Village maintenance JR	Cllr Russell advised: - He has ordered a replacement waste bin in Eastcote; - He has ordered the oak post from Whitmore's Timber and once delivered can look at demolishing the base and investigating, he has spoken to the Village Sign people and the best date at the moment is for collection at the end of July. - Cllr Banister confirmed that on his walk to the meeting this evening he found a post in the Parish Hall car park hedge. Cllr Hodges confirmed it is probably the one missing from the side so will need replaced. - In relation to Parish Mapping, he has added monthly inspections to the play area equipment data and included updating the maintenance records - Cllr Banister said he feels the Parish Mapping work may be better being a portfolio responsibility. Cllr Russell feels that may be too onerous for one person but happy to keep it as it is for now but agreed to let Councillors know if he needs more support.	
149	Report from the Clerk & Key Items for next Agenda - Donation received from Parishioner in relation to the boundary wall. - The Clerk confirmed that she had sought advice from NCALC and this was shared with Councillors ahead of the meeting. - The Internal Audit set for Friday 22nd May 2026 and all paperwork was shared ahead of the meeting. Clerk advised that she has to add in some finance paperwork to the website that was not on there but following that the audit should be ready for review.		
150	Correspondence - Email from Parishioner regarding patch of grass Suttons Walk Astcote – covered above by Cllr Hodges - Email requesting plaque for JF in Garden of Remembrance – Agreed by All, Clerk to confirm.		CLERK
151	<u>Report from West Northants Councillors</u> - Cllr Adrian Little unable to attend <u>Report from Councillors</u> - Cllr Illingworth advised that a parishioner (WW) had asked if she can plant a rose in the Garden of Remembrance, she has suggested this is put by the two other roses on the bank next to the fence but advised her to put a guard around it so it doesn't get caught by the trimmer. - Cllr Illingworth asked if we had heard back from residents in relation to the Yew Hedge, Clerk advised not.		

	• Cllr Hodges advised there had been a police alert from one of the PCO's this afternoon in relation to parking in Pattishall , they had received numerous complaints of illegal parking and pointed out where you can and can't park, confirming they will take legal action in future if it persists. • Cllr Illingworth advised the caravan that had been parked dangerously in Leys Road had been towed by Police to the back of Simon's Walk. • Cllr Hodges discussed the possibility of borrowing money to cover the costs of the repair of the boundary wall and confirming that if we do, full council approval will be needed and it can then be paid back over a number of years. • Cllr Evans confirmed incidents of vandalism and antisocial behaviour on the increase, Cllr Marsh suggested reporting to PSCOs, Chris Dudley and Matt Taylor to let them know so they can build up a case. • Cllr Keeble advised he had shared a Report that Dave Chapman sent after their meeting in relation to NDP scoping, he would encourage people to have a look as there is a lot of good information in there, highlighting the element of costs to think about, including costs of community events. Also, if sites get highlighted for development it is likely they will need a strategic assessment and a habitat assessment so lots of expenses involved.	
152	Date of next meeting – 11 th June 2026 –Full Council Meeting	

End of Meeting: 9pm