

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held in Whilton Village Hall
on Wednesday 10th November 2021 – 7:30pm

Attendance: Parish Councillors – A Gilbert, J Hanslip, M Hampson, A Lee, J Melling, R Smith (Chairman), D Lister - (WNC) and S Porter (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES: K Hiscock

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – Personal or Prejudicial – Nil

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on WEDNESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2021 and the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING held on MONDAY 4th OCTOBER 2021 – It was proposed by R Smith, seconded by J Melling and all voted in favour that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING – Nil

4. PUBLIC TIME – Nil

5. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Dan Lister - The WNC Strategic Plan – Spatial Options Consultation is now underway with a deadline of 6th December to respond. This includes a possible 5,000 more homes for Long Buckby between the Railway Station and the Wharf. The Parish Council and residents are encouraged to respond. A recent exhibition held in Long Buckby Community Centre saw over 100 residents attend, and a further day is planned for 27th November. Long Buckby PC, and the ward councillors, are all against these proposals and are preparing their responses. Northampton is currently applying for City status.

6. THE SPINNEY – K Hiscock circulated his report to the councillors and it was noted that the open spaces in Long Buckby have been visited and assistance requested from Nick Roberts who is a member of the Long Buckby Green Spaces. It was recommended that the PC enrol as members for a trial year to the Small Woodland Trust for an annual fee of £40.00. It was proposed by R Smith, seconded by A Gilbert and all voted in favour to join.

The Spinney Work parties have taken place on three occasions since the last Council meeting. These have taken place since Treeworx finished the major tree work on 22nd of September. A number of necessary tasks have been undertaken including freeing up the stream and replacing 3 walkway supports. They are aware however that the removal of the 8 trees has helped increase the presence of surface water and either a new bridge or raised walkway extension is now being considered and its expense on our behalf by Roy Haynes to ensure all year access to both Spinney Walks. There will be other at least one more work party before the next P.C. to include work around the pond. Thanks were given to the 7 volunteers who continue to willingly take part. Meanwhile the pre-school group have held a successful Halloween walk during the half term in the Spinney.

7. HIGHWAYS – The new village name sign has been installed. The Clerk will chase up a response from WNC Highways with regards to the running water off the paddock on to Brington Lane. The condition of the Brington Lane also needs assessing and repairs made. The highways maintenance contract is up for renewal and new contractors will be in place mid 2022, who will hopefully provide a better standard of work.

8. VILLAGE HALL – A Gilbert circulated the latest report to all the councillors. The PC agreed to fully support the plan by the Village Hall Committee to update and refurbish the hall and kitchen facilities, using the £10,000 grant received. The PC will assist in paying the invoices for the work required, to enable the VAT to be reclaimed. The PC also agreed in principle to provide any shortfall, which is not expected, should this be required. The PC also agreed to fund a Wi-Fi installation in the Village Hall, which will hopefully further assist with bookings. A Gilbert will inform the Committee of the decisions made by the PC.

9. BUSINESS

9.1 Dog Fouling Issues – All under control at the moment, with the pavements and churchyard clear, the only problems remain in the fields.

9.2 Whilton Mill Karting Track – There has been a meeting held between the Chairman, Dan Lister (WNC) and the owners of Whilton Mill. The complaints were discussed and it was found that the problem seems to mainly happen on a Tuesday evening when the motorbikes are using the track as these sound levels are not monitored. The karts are regularly monitored and are set to the standard national limit of 105 decibels. M Jephcott (WNC Environmental Health) will attend on a Tuesday and take his own measurements. There was an end of season fireworks display which caused some complaints, this was held without the owner's knowledge and has since been addressed with the management. Investigations will continue.

9.3 Village Name Sign Replacement – This has been installed.

9.4 Whilton Locks – Speeding – A meeting was held recently at the Locks, and in attendance was A Lee, M Clarke (WNC Highways) and the Lewis's (residents). Options to deter the speeding through the Locks were discussed. The speed limit has been reduced to 30mph recently and the signage is in place. Highways will be asked to provide costs for a village gateway, along with a feasibility study. Also to be considered is a Vehicle Activated Sign, there is a mobile unit in Norton, and the Clerk will contact the Norton Clerk to ask the costings involved and the details, and also if Whilton would be able to borrow the unit for a trial at the Locks.

9.5 Village Parking – Main Street/Brington Lane – This situation will be monitored.

9.6 Overgrown Hedge – Main Street – The Chairman has spoken with the owner and the hedge has been cut back. This will continue to be monitored.

9.7 Whilton Garden Village – The building works are underway, and the PC would like to know the plans for the replacement tree planting. The Chairman will contact the management.

9.8 Adoption of Environmental Policy – R Smith proposed that the policy is adopted, seconded by M Hampson and all voted in favour.

9.9 DACT Bus – The DACT bus service is now back up and running. An e-mail will be sent to the circulation list to remind people of the service provided and how to enrol as a member of the Evergreen Club. The timetable is on the noticeboard.

9.10 West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan – Spatial Options Consultation – A response is required from the PC by the 6th December, which would state that the PC object to these proposals. Main concerns are the complete lack of transport infrastructure. Much of the proposed new homes are on a Zone 3 flood plain. The impact on the conservation area at Whilton Locks. The Chairman will produce details to send on the e-mail circulation list encouraging people to respond to the consultation.

9.11 Whilton Red Telephone Box – It was proposed by R Smith, seconded by A Gilbert that the PC adopt the telephone box from BT for £1.00. A quote will be obtained for renovating the box.

9.12 Parish & Town Councils Forum – Wednesday 17th November 2021 - 6-7:30pm (MS Teams) – R Smith will attend on behalf of the PC.

10. FINANCE

The following accounts were approved by R Smith, seconded by M Hampson and all voted in favour:

10.1 Income/Expenditure Update & Bank Reconciliation from September & October 2021

10.2 Accounts Paid (September to November 2021):

Online	S Porter – Clerk’s Salary September 21	£ 266.46	LGA 1972 s112
	S Porter – Clerk’s Expenses September 21	£ 18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter – Clerk’s Salary October 21	£ 266.46	LGA 1972 s112
	S Porter – Clerk’s Expenses October 21	£ 21.60	LGA 1972 s112
Online	HMRC – PAYE 2021/22 Q2	£ 199.80	LGA 1972 s112
Online	M Clements	£ 0.05	LGA 1972 s111
Online	123 Reg – E-Mail Renewal	£ 43.06	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Anglian Water – Allotments July-Sept 21	£ 16.08	SHAA 1908
Online	Treeworx – The Spinney	£ 6,600.00	LGA 1972 s111

10.3 Accounts to be Paid:

Roy Haynes	Mowing Expenses	£ 59.24	LGA 1972 s111
	Timber for Boardwalk Repairs – The Spinney	£ 58.02	LGA 1972 s111
E-On	Street Lighting July-Sept 2021	£ 181.38	PCA1957 s3

10.4 Payments Received (October to November 2021)

Nat West	Interest	£ 0.29
WNC	½ Year Precept	£7,532.50

Bank Balance (as at 31.10.2021)

Current Account	£ 4,046.64
Reserve Account	£17,278.07

11. PLANNING

WND/2021/0712 – Single storey rear extension - **Cottam, Main Street, Whilton**

No Objections

PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permissions granted:

WND/2021/0300 – Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of the first floor area as a residential flat – **Whilton Locks Carpet Company. Whilton Locks**

WND/2021/0307 – Single storey extension between kitchen and garage, single storey rear extension, replacement porch and first floor extension – **The Ridings, 3 Langton Rise, Whilton**

WND/2021/0504 - Listed Building Consent for installation of new external soil and vent pipe – **Holly House, Main Street, Whilton**

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 12th January 2022 - 7:30pm

Meeting Closed: 8:45pm