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Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 commencing at 7.30PM, at the Brampton Primary School, Chapel Brampton.

Minutes by Sarah Stock, Clerk to the Council.

Attending: Cllrs Jill Slinn, Mick Macmain, William Shearer, Mark Vernon, Richard Gent, Stephen Crane.

4 MOP, Tom Kemp - Tom Kemp, Keir/WNC Project Manager

Apologies received & accepted: Cllr Robin Green,

**2023/60**      **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest on matters relating to this agenda.

**2023/61**      **Public Session**

Tom Kemp, Keir/WNC Project Manager – Northwest Relief Road. TK briefed the council on works to date and next steps, traffic management and diversion routes. Rather than closing the A5199/Boughton Crossing area to traffic, the roundabout at Windhover will be completed off-line, using with 3-way traffic lights. This work begins now with estimated completion at the end of Jan. The traffic lights will be removed over the Christmas period (23/12/23 – 8/1/24), after which follows a week of night closures (8.45pm – 6am) for resurfacing works. Sandy Lane will close towards the end of Jan for four weeks. Traffic will be diverted through Chapel Brampton. The A5199 will close for installation of the “plug” (the piece of road linking the roundabout to the A5199) from beginning of March for about eight weeks. HGVs will be diverted along the A508, all other traffic using Sandy Lane. Kier accepted that some local HGV traffic will use Sandy Lane despite signage, but experience shows that drivers often find alternative routes to avoid overly congested roads. Given this, it is likely to be busy through the villages initially but will ease somewhat after a week or so. Kier, Balfour Beatty and WNC will meet with council representatives to discuss mitigation measures, traffic calming and signage locations. Development of the relief road from the Harlestone end will begin in March. Tom Kemp, the project manager, stressed very strongly that the dates are subject to change. We will get two weeks' notice of any road closures, but the weather dictates progress.

Cllr WS suggested creation of additional parking at the playing field, with cones to prohibit parking outside the school. TK confirmed that before the diversion routes are set up, the parish council will be invited to meet with WNC & Balfour Beatty to discuss mitigation measures and signage.

MOP raised concern regarding speed of traffic travelling through Back Lane. It may be possible to have a temporary traffic order for 20mph. Accidents at the crossroads are also concern.

MOP thanked Robin and Mick for their efforts to get more information and improve communication.

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

- Chapel Meeting Room power supply: E-on will supply meter. Date TBC. Item closed.
- Golf Lane Oak. Andrew Leighton (WNC) confirmed work will take place 13<sup>th</sup> November. Item closed.
- Harlestone Road & Sandy Lane SID Pole. New location agreed with WNC Highways.

- Streetlighting. Quote received to upgrade bulbs to lower wattage LED lights with timed dimmers - total cost £19,118.71. Given this is cost prohibitive, no further action. Item closed.
- Church entrance pavement. Council confirmed this work is the Church's responsibility. Item closed.

**2023/62 Minutes:** Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**2023/63 Bank reconciliation and YTD budget vs Expenditure review**

Council accepted the bank reconciliation and the budget analysis provided with the agenda.

2023/24 Opening balance:	£32,385	
YTD Income	£34,666	
YTD expenditure (Inc. VAT & Unauthorised payments)		£22,847
Online Balance		
Current Account (Unity 20415701)		£4,603
Reserve Account (Unity 20415714)		£41,513
Balance b/f		£46,116
<b>YTD Closing balance (less pending expenditure)</b>		<b>£44,204</b>
2023/24 Unclaimed VAT YTD	£2,354	

Income:

WNC	Precept	29.9.23	£14,500.00
Unity Trust Bank	Interest	30.9.23	£207.36
Road Safety Grant	Grant	11.10.23	£2,550.00

**2023/64 Accounts for Payment:** Council approved the accounts for payment.

Payee	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Amount Due (Inc. VAT)	VAT
Yu Energy	1317418	2.10.23	£266.57	£12.69
Yu Energy	1317419	2.10.23	£33.00	£1.57
J Hawkins (SO)	October	28.10.23	£27.50	
Z A Finney (Noah & Grace) (SO)	October	28.10.23	£55.00	
Sarah Stock (SO)	October	28.10.23	£x	
E-On Energy Solutions	120188	18.9.23	£273.00	£45.50
PKF Littlejohn LLP	SB20232413	25.9.23	£252.00	£42.00
PW Warden Environmental	7099	29.9.23	£816.00	£136.00

Council agreed expenditure for a replacement door on the Chapel Meeting Room, £924.

**2023/65 2023/24 Notice of conclusion of audit**

Council noted receipt of PKF's report, the external auditor's report. There are no matters arising. Notice of the conclusion of audit, external audit report and signed AGAR has been published on the website.

**2023/66 2024/2025 Budget & Precept**

Council agreed budget presented with the agenda for 2024/25 (set out on final page). Council will increase expenditure from precepted funds by 7%, from £29,000 to £31,000. This includes funds for wildflowers,

streetlight testing and maintenance of the Chapel Meeting Room. Council resolved to commission a traffic survey this year. Although this is usually completed in April, council noted that if completed in October all works to the roundabout should have finished and the survey would yield a more robust data set. Council resolved to seek a grant for an additional vehicle activated road sign leading up to the Pitsford junction to improve awareness of the junction.

It was unanimously resolved to set a precept of £31,000 for the 2024/25 financial year.

#### **2023/67      Playing Field & Pocket Park**

Playing Field: Council noted Rice Farms have flailed the western boundary hedge to the playing field. Southern boundary could use few additional whips. Cllr MM will organise.

Council agreed to removal of the tree adjacent to the gate. Maurice Fitch will be instructed to remove the tree and grind out the stump.

Pocket Park: No updates.

#### **2023/68      Northwest Sandy Lane Relief Road**

Covered during the public time of the meeting. Council to note Balfour Beatty has supplied a community newsletter and additional information which can be shared with the community.

Council to consider temporary measures to lessen the impact of the diverted traffic travelling through Chapel Brampton past the school and down Sandy Lane. Note all traffic, traffic including lorries, will be passing the school and through Back Lane.

#### **2023/69      Environment (verges, path, trees, and village maintenance)**

Wildflowers: Council accepted the proposal from Cllr Macmain to establish wildflower areas on the verges on the entry to Church and Chapel Brampton (scheme like Pitsford PC). Cllrs MM & SC will obtain quotes.

Dog waste bin (Harlestone Road): Council to note that the bin was destroyed, a replacement has been ordered. Cost of replacement & installation, £214 exc. VAT. MOP reported the bin was destroyed by agricultural equipment cutting the hedge. Mr Paybody has agreed to meet the cost of the replacement bin.

Althorp Hedges etc: Cllrs WS reported that Althorp agreed to flail the hedge back 2/3 of the way to the boundary line, remove brambles and remove temporary fencing. Parish Council may have to remove debris from pavement. Althorp has agreed that work will be completed within the month.

Hedge along Harlestone Road, nr Chicane. Farmer has cut the top but not the hedge nearest to the path, which is overhanging and obstructing the footpath.

Cedar Hythe: Michael Venton (WNC Tree Officer) specified that a Dawn Redwood be planted. Council will dedicate the tree to commemorate the coronation. Estimated cost £500.

#### **2023/70      Northampton to Market Harborough Railway**

Cllr MM reported that a volunteer group seek to reopen the Northampton to Market Harborough railway, reducing the journey time to Leicester to about 30minutes. However, the new roundabout, the tunnel which is too small for electric trains to pass through, and the new homes built on the last mile of the route may prevent progress. The volunteer group are undeterred. Council will monitor.

#### **2023/71      Planning matters**

Contact: The Clerk, 9 Lower Harlestone, Northamptonshire, NN7 4EW.  
Tel.: 01604 820635 email: [theclerk@churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:theclerk@churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk)

Eagles Nest: Amended plan removes creation of the cellar but increases the number of windows to the rear and side. Council resolved to lodge a complaint with the LPA that the changes approved under delegated powers should have been referred to the parish council and neighbours for consultation.

**Date of next meetings:** 16<sup>th</sup> November. No December meeting. Meeting closed: 9pm  
Agreed budget for 2024/25

#### Agreed 2024/25 Budget

<b>BRAMPTON</b>	Agreed 2024/25 Budget
<u>Allocated Precept</u>	
Clerks Salary	£7,000
Litter Wardens	£1,000
Insurance	£750
Audit, Legal & NCALC	£1,000
Office Expenses	£500
Street Lighting	£4,500
Street Light electrical testing	£1,550
Grass Cutting	£4,400
Wildflower verges	£1,000
Village Maintenance	£1,500
Playing Field	£2,000
Pocket Park	£500
Chapel Meeting Room	£1,000
Election Costs	£300
PCSO	£0
Traffic Calming/VAS	£1,500
Street Light Repairs	£1,000
Contingency	£1,500
Allocated Reserves	£0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£31,000</b>