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Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held on: Thursday 11th January 2024 commencing at 7.30PM
at the Brampton Primary School, Chapel Brampton.

Minutes taken by the Clerk, Sarah Stock.

Apologies received & accepted: Cllr Jill Slinn, Stephen Crane, Mark Vernon

Attending: Cllrs Robin Green (chairing), William Shearer, Mick Macmain, Margret Green, Richard Gent.

MOP x 1

2023/84 **Declarations of Interest.** No declarations of interest on matters relating to this agenda.

2023/85 **Public Session.** No comments from public.

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 on 17th January.
- Chapel Meeting Room door: Council noted replacement will be fitted soon. Council will contact Althorp following offer of financial assistance.
- Harlestone Road SID Pole. New location agreed with WNC Highways. Cllr RGn to liaise with Tom Kemp. Date TBC.
- Lamp post relocation, Great Close. No objection received from neighbours. Mrs Sedgewick has paid £1,916.40 to cover the cost of moving the post. Council has received copies of the licences granted by WNC for the dropped curb. Work to take place January.
- Ten Cottages fence. Althorp have reneged on their promise to remove the fence. Cllr RG/WS are negotiating with Althorp.

2023/86 **Minutes.** Council approved minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16th November 2023.

2023/87 **Bank reconciliation and YTD budget vs Expenditure review**

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

Council agreed to reallocate unspent PCSO funds to cover village maintenance and street lighting.

2023/24 Opening balance:	£32,385	
YTD Income	£32,379	
YTD expenditure (Inc. VAT & Unauthorised payments)		£27,060
<u>Online Balance</u>		
Current Account (Unity 20415701)		£3,313
Reserve Account (Unity 20415714)		£33,777
Balance b/f		£37,090
YTD Closing balance (less pending expenditure)		£37,705
2023/24 Unclaimed VAT YTD	£3,281	

2023/88 **Accounts for Payment.** Council approved the accounts for payment.

Contact: The Clerk, 9 Lower Harlestone, Northamptonshire, NN7 4EW.

Tel.: 01604 820635 email: theclerk@churchwithchapelbrampton-pc.gov.uk

Payee	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Amount Due (Inc. VAT)	VAT
Yu Energy	1381186	3.12.23	£350.62	£16.70
Yu Energy	1381187	3.12.23	£39.74	£1.89
J Hawkins (SO)	December	28.12.23	£27.50	
Z A Finney (Noah & Grace) (SO)	December	28.12.23	£55.00	
Sarah Stock (SO)	December	28.12.23	£523.25	
Sarah Stock (SO)	2023 Backpay	28.12.23	£277.20	
Althorp	INV-1159	1.12.23	£69.90	
Cllr MM (Garden Machines)	1219587	17.11.23	£129.00	£21.50
E-on Energy Solutions	121123	20.11.23	£1,296.00	£216.00
Paul Thomas	Nov 23-001	21.11.23	£300.00	
WNC Norse Ltd	52IN-000909	10.11.23	£318.60	£53.10
INCOME: Mr Paybody	re: Norse	27.11.23	(£265.50)	
A&A Landscapes Ltd	10186	30.11.23	£330.00	£55.00
Maurice Fitch Tree Works Ltd	10949	5.12.23	£2,490.00	£415.00
Unity Trust Bank	Statement 34	31.12.23	£18.00	
Barbara Osborne Payroll	7555	31.12.23	£69.00	
(DD) ICO Subscription	2024	23.1.01	£35.00	
(DD) Yu Energy	1435678	2.1.24	£368.53	£17.55
(DD) Yu Energy	1475232	2.1.24	£41.93	£2.00
(SO) J Hawkins	January	28.1.24	£27.50	
(SO) Z A Finney (Noah & Grace)	January	28.1.24	£55.00	
(SO) Sarah Stock	January	28.1.24	£523.25	
INCOME: Ms Sedgewick	Lamp relocation	2.1.24	(£1,916.40)	
A&A Landscapes Ltd	10189	30.12.23	£270.00	£45.00
Brampton Primary School	E2012001185	10.1.24	£225.00	

2023/89 Playing Field & Pocket Park.

Playing Field: Cllr MM reported another pothole in the car park. Council resolved to instruct A&A to repair it, cost likely to be under £100.

2023/90 Northwest Sandy Lane Relief Road

Update received from Ian Jackson, Project Manager, Balfour Beatty.

We are making steady progress at the new Brampton Roundabout, taking extra precautions working around the many buried services. The temporary traffic lights here will continue until March.

We upgraded the temporary traffic lights to utilise a 'smart' system that optimises the traffic flow. It has proved more reliable than the old system, however, we still have some issues when drivers jump the lights as it confuses the sensors, and they take some time to reset themselves.

Dates have been released for the road closures. Council will publicise the dates barring no further delays occur. Balfour Beatty have offered surfacing to extend the playing field car park (tracking) so that Harlestone Road is clear while the A5199 is closed. Cllr RGn will liaise with Balfour Beatty to agree arrangements.

Council noted that the traffic lights do not allow sufficient time for significant numbers of cars to travel through, waits of 15 minutes are not uncommon. Drivers jump the lights because of the unreasonable wait.

Cllr RG/MM will arrange a liaison meeting with Balfour Beatty to discuss progress and road closures.

2023/91 Biodiversity Policy

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

Church with Chapel Brampton Parish Council resolved to adopt the model Biodiversity Policy published January 2024 by NCalc and note that they comply with the policy by:

- Continuing a program of tree planting in the Chapel Brampton Playing Field and at the Pocket Park
- Establishing wildflower beds along the A5199 and at the Sandy Lane crossroads
- Continue to fund litter picking throughout the villages,
- Ensure mowing & maintenance schedules provide a positive balance of promoting biodiversity and maintaining a safe, tidy village.
- Support Althorp to establish greener farming practices and land management strategies.

Full policy available: <https://www.northantscalc.com/blog/news-1/model-biodiversity-policy-2023-61>

2023/92 Environment (verges, path, trees, and village maintenance)

Golf Lane Green: Council resolved not to place signs on the green to prevent parking.

Spencer Close: Council resolved to purchase "No Parking. Turning Only." sign for the turning area on Spencer Close and to purchase grass seed for area where the shrubs were removed. Estimated cost under £20 for seed and sign under £50.

Harlestone Road hedge: Council resolved to have the hedge tidied. Guy Robinson (hedge layer) has estimated 2 days' work. Approximate cost £400.

Holdenby Road: Council resolved to purchase Crab Apple tree, cost including stake and tie £100. A&A will plant the tree for the council.

Sandy Lane crossroads: Area where tree debris had lay and is now cleared needs rotavating and reseeding. Cllr RGn will instruct A&A to make good the area.

Cedar Hythe: Thanks to residents for clearing leaves off the paths and tidying. Council resolved to purchase Dawn Redwood to replace tree removed in the Autumn. Cost TBC.

2023/93 ERTA proposal for Northampton-Market Harborough rail link

Council noted correspondence received from ERTA requesting councils write to their MP in support of opening the Northampton to Market Harborough link. CWC Parish Council resolved to respond to ERTA's request by

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drawing attention to the obstacles which make this plan unfeasible. Council will copy correspondence to ETRA, WNC and Government ministers.

2023/94 Planning matters

Council is deeply disappointed not receive a response from WNC officers or WNC Cllr JS concerning the complaint made to WNC about parameters for determining non-materially significant amendments to planning applications or the specific complaint which relates to Eagles Nest, Golf Lane. Clerk to escalate complaint to CHH MP.

2023/7851/S73 Everglades Golf Lane
Church Brampton NN6 8AY

Variation of condition 2 of WND/2022/0486 (Demolition of existing house and construction of new house) to extend rear single storey element by 1.5m and change position of WC window. NO OBSERVATIONS.

Council noted Rydal House remains unoccupied, and development has not begun. Nearby residents have raised concerns regarding vermin. Council will notify environmental health officer.

Housing development on east side of A5199. Cllr John Shephard not attending.

Date of next meetings: March 21st. April 18th. Annual Parish Meeting Monday 29th April – clerk to invite CHH, JS, Balfour Beatty and village groups.

Meeting closed: 20:20