MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held at Whilton Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2025 – 7:30pm

Attendance: Parish Councillors – J Bunce, M Hampson, B Lewis, J Melling, R Smith (Chairman), Sue Porter (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 Acceptance of Apologies – A Gilbert, A Lee, D Lister (WNC)

1.2 Declarations of Interest – Personal & Prejudicial – B Lewis (Village Hall)

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on **WEDNESDAY 9th JULY 2025 –** The minutes were approved by all as an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. PUBLIC TIME – Nil

4. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Daniel Lister) – No report received.

5. THE SPINNEY

5.1 Working Parties – Jim Thompson will be standing down from the co-ordinating duties and a replacement is being sought. Various companies have been approached who offer volunteer hours, however the quotas have been used up for this year. Working parties in The Spinney tend to be held bi-monthly. A tree surgeon quote is required for the tree maintenance required.

6. VILLAGE HALL

6.1 Village Hall/PC relationship - Wilson Browne, the solicitors handling registrations at the Land Registry, for Whilton Parish Council (WPC) and Whilton Village Hall Trust (WVHT), have advised that the wording in the WVH Trust Deed, which holds the hall in trust for the residents of the parish, indicates that the ownership of the hall is shared equally between Whilton Parish Council, which holds the legal ownership and Whilton Village Hall Trust, which holds the beneficial ownership. The village hall is managed on a daily basis by the trustees of the WVHT, who sit on a management committee which represents residents of the parish

The Chairman role is now being shared between those not holding an Officer title. Many thanks were given to the PC for the annual grant funding. Regular bookings are providing a healthy bank balance.

7. HIGHWAYS

7.1 Overhanging Hedge – The Old School House – Following advice from the Highways Inspection Manual, the Chairman will write to the householder to get permission to cut the hedge back from the highway. A quote will be obtained from a tree surgeon for the works to be undertaken.

7.2 Brington Lane – Road Condition/Water Issue – Anglian Water have undertaken testing of the water running on to the road and it is showing as chlorinated, in two out of the three tests. Investigations continue. The road surface is breaking up again.

8. BUSINESS

8.1 Speeding/Volume of Traffic – Whilton Locks – A traffic survey completed in August 2025, which now gives the PC data from the past three years for comparison. This shows a 13% reduction in speeding vehicles over 35mph since 2022 down from 5,841 to 3,804. In August 2025 the number of vehicles travelling through the Locks was 29,247, an increase from 26,443 in 2022. The Police will be asked again if a mobile speed camera van can visit. Speed camera warning signs will be erected and the 20mph advisory signs removed. These will be ordered from Nordis.
8.2 A5 Speed Limits – There is not enough accident data to warrant any change in the speed limit.
8.3 WNC Annual Parish Conference – Thursday 23rd October 2025 – The Chairman will attend.
8.4 New Parish Website/E-Mails – The new website is up and running and the Whilton News website will have a link to the new site. Parish Councillors will continue to use the whiltonpc.co.uk e-mails for the time being. J Bunce will be set up with the gov.uk e-mail.
8.5 Woodland Trust - Free Tree Packs for the Community – B Lewis to investigate.
8.6 Telephone Box – Maintenance works will be undertaken 16/17 September, to include cleaning, paint and refurbishment.
8.7 Local Transport Plan Supporting Strategies Workshop (Active Travel Strategy, Rail Action Plan and Mobility Hub Action Plan) – Details have been obtained of interventions that could benefit the parish, to include traffic calming measures, the LCWIP in Daventry and a deferred scheme for Watford village for the signalisation of the A5 junction (est.cost £500k). A follow up meeting is planned for 30th September which B Lewis will attend.
8.8 NCALC – Biodiversity Grant Scheme – Noted
8.9 Notice of the NCALC 78th Annual Conference – 4th October 2025 9-1pm (Moulton Community Centre) – Noted
8.10 WNC - Have your say on Planning Application Requirements – No comments to submit.
8.11 Church Clock – The mechanism of the clock needs replacing with an electronic system, with the old mechanism being displayed as a feature in the Church. A quote has been requested, and will be discussed at the next meeting.
8.12 Churchyard Mowing – Volunteers have been mowing for the 2025 season. Future planning for 2026 could include an initial and final cut by a mowing contractor, with volunteers filling in with the cuts in between. J Bunce will arrange for some quotes.
8.13 Invitation to Agricultural Forum (MP) – Friday 17th October 2025 6pm – Gordon Emery has requested to attend. M Hampson will also be attending.
8.14 Allotments – Trees & Hedges – The tree in the top left of the allotments needs removing, along with the right hand hedge cutting back (responsibility of the housing association). A quote will be requested.
8.15 Grand Union Canal Transfer – Whilton Locks (also known as the Buckby Flight) is being discussed, with 7 locks within 2.5km, proposed to be bypassed in five separate locations, with compulsory land purchases required.
8.16 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner - Road Safety Grant and Round table Invitation – Discussed earlier in the meeting.
8.17 Views sought on a plan to improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes in Northampton - The Daventry LCWIP is to be investigated by B Lewis.
8.18 Replacing the Information board on the canal at Whilton Locks – This is the responsibility of the Canal & River Trust.

9 FINANCE
The following accounts were approved by all;

9.1 Approve Income/Expenditure Update & Bank Reconciliation's from July & August 2025

9.2 Approve Accounts paid (July 2025 to September 2025):

Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary July 25	£	371.88	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses July 25	£	18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary August 25	£	340.10	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses August 25	£	18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	Anglian Water	Allotments	£	51.08	LGA 1972 s111
Online	HMRC	PAYE 2025/26 Q1	£	246.20	LGA 1972 s112

9.3 Approve Accounts to be paid:

	Parish Online	Website/E-Mails 2025-26	£	258.00	LGA 1972 s111
	Smith of Derby	Church Clock Repairs	£	210.00	PCA1957 s2
	N Power	Street Lighting Jan-June25	£	717.25	PCA1957 s3

9.3 Payments Received (July to September 2025)

	Nat West	Interest (July/August 25)	£	37.74

Current Bank Balances (as of 31/08/2025):

Current Account	£	420.46
Reserve Account	£	17,411.71

Meeting Closed: 9:03pm