MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held at Whilton Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2025 – 7:30pm

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

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 Acceptance of Apologies – J Bunce, M Hampson

1.2 Declarations of Interest – Personal or Prejudicial

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on **WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2025 –** The minutes were approved by R Smith, seconded by J Melling and all voted in favour that these are an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. PUBLIC TIME – A request for some way markers at the top of the village was received by the landowner to highlight the correct route for the Right of Way. Dan Lister will be contacted.

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

5. THE SPINNEY

5.1 Working Parties – Richard Bunce has taken on the organising of these.

5.2 Risk Assessments – The Chairman has updated the Risk Assessment form and there is an annual rota in place, one more volunteer is required ideally.

5.3 Tree Maintenance Quotes - Tree Maintenance Quotes - Two quotes have been received from Treeworkx and Harry Mockett for the tree maintenance in The Spinney, at the Allotments and the overhanging hedge along Main Street. It was approved by all that the best quote received from Harry Mockett be accepted for £1,840 for all the work, with the PC picking up the costs for the work in the Spinney and at the Allotments. The quote for the hedge along Main Street will be offered to the homeowner whom is responsible. The Chairman will arrange a start date for the works.

6 VILLAGE HALL – The Land Registration is ongoing, and is expected to be completed in May 2026.

7 HIGHWAYS

7.1 Brington Lane – Road Condition/Water Issue – This continues to cause a problem, the Chairman will continue to pursue for answers.

8. BUSINESS

8.1 Whilton Locks – B Lewis has provided a feedback on the recent issues affecting Whilton Locks;

October VAS statistics are:

Total number of vehicles driving through Whilton Locks from both directions –
98,316 (Incoming from A5 - 53,835, Incoming from Northampton - 44,481)

Incoming Speeds from Northampton - Spotted Cow Lane VAS – 6,352 (14.28% of 44,481)

Incoming Speeds from A5 – 16,117 (29.93% of 53,835).

Speed Camera Signs, the PC have agreed the size (300 x350mm), design (speed camera warning) and number. These need to be ordered from Nordis.

'Pop Up Bob' – Thoughts on the purchase of a 'Pop Up Bob' for use occasionally in Whilton Locks – This may be considered at a later date.

Local Transport Supporting Strategies Workshop

B Lewis attended the follow-up 30th September online. Nothing new to report except that in the LTP Active Travel Strategy the Rural Network has been identified especially 'Continue to Support Traffic Calming in Rural Networks. They are planning to run the public consultation on these three supporting strategies between the 17th November 2025 and the 5thJanuary 2026.

Grand Union Canal Transfer – Whilton Locks

Proposal to bypass the seven locks by 'Gravity Bypasses'. These are simply weirs and pipelines built into the canal bank to divert water around the locks. They are largely underground to minimise visual impact. There is no information about any properties being affected at the moment but there is another public consultation due in 2026.

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner – Road Safety Grant and Round Table Invitations

B Lewis joined and submitted a question on the online public meeting on 21st October to Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone and Chief Constable Ivan Balhatchet about the issues of speeding through Whilton Locks. They had received quite a few questions on this matter from other rural communities but apart from a general response to look into these nothing positive. E-mail has been sent to Deborah Denton, Danielle Stone's PA, with details of our concerns.

WNC Network Management Plan 2021

This plan highlights to 'effectively deliver services and manage the counties highway network'. Section 18.5 - Traffic Calming is worth reading as it identifies that 'Traffic calming will be considered where there is evidence of vehicle speeds exceeding the appropriate speed limit and there are no conventional traffic management methods for improving the safety of the road environment'.

8.2 WNC Annual Parish Conference – Thursday 23rd October 2025 – No update

8.3 Telephone Box – The maintenance works have been completed.

8.4 Church Clock Repairs – There has been no quote received from Smith of Derby, lacking in confidence with this company now, other companies will be approached for a quote.

8.5 Churchyard Mowing – The grass will be cut as and when required at the cost of £150 per cut. The PC and Church have agreed to share the costs.

8.6 Trees & Hedges Maintenance – Quotes discussed under Item 5.3

8.7 External Audit Report 2024/25 – There are no matters of concern to note. The date for the Public Rights Notice was incorrect and the AGAR will reflect this next year and be correctly written for 2025/26.

8.8 WNC - Charging Points for Electric Vehicles – Locations have been requested by WNC, it was agreed that there is nowhere suitable in the parish.

8.9 Immediate Justice Programme from the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone – The details will be passed to R Bunce for The Spinney working parties.

8.10 Infrastructure and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – No comments to make.

8.11 Budget Preparation for 2026/27 – The budget was circulated to all for discussion with the costings for increasing the precept by 2.5%, 5% and 10% detailed. A copy of the document will be posted on the website and attached to the minutes.

8.12 Approve Figure for Precept 2026/27 - It was proposed by R Smith, seconded by J Melling and all voted in favour that Whilton Parish Council do precept upon West Northants Council the total sum of £19,850 for 2025/26, which is in an increase of 5%. This will be payable in two instalments, April and September 2026.

9 FINANCE

The following accounts were approved by all;

9.1 Income/Expenditure Update & Bank Reconciliation's from September & October 2025

9.2 Accounts paid (September to November 2025):

Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary Sept 25	£	340.10	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses Sept 25	£	18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary October 25	£	340.10	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses October 25	£	18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	Anglian Water	Allotments	£	43.71	LGA 1972 s111
Online	HMRC	PAYE 2025/26 Q2	£	273.11	LGA 1972 s112
Online	N Power	Street Lights July-Sept 25	£	317.60	PCA1957 s3
Online	S Porter	123 Reg – E-Mail x 1	£	57.46	LGA 1972 s111
Online	R Smith	Website E-Mail	£	86.26	LGA 1972 s111
Online	R Smith	Website Domain	£	86.33	LGA 1972 s111
Online	M Clements	Peppercorn Rent (Now Cancelled)	£	0.05	LGA 1972 s111
Online	P Boor	Telephone Box Maint	£	269.72	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Village Hall	Hall Hire June-Sept25	£	30.00	LGA 1972 s111
Online	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2024-25	£	252.00	LGA 1972 s111

9.3 Payments Received (September to November 2025)

	Nat West	Interest (Sept 25)	£ 15.49
	WNC	½ Year Precept	£9,452.50

Current Bank Balances (as of 28/10/2025):

Current Account £ 8,027.58
Reserve Account £16,142.01

10. PLANNING

2025/3963/LBC - Listed building consent to replace the existing roof with approved blue slate to match the original. Repair rafters where necessary. Reinstate ornamental ridges and replace rainwater goods with new matching UPVC – **Stone House, The Green, Whilton**
No Objections
2025/4495/LBC – Internal alterations and repairs - **Stone House, The Green, Whilton**
No Objections
2025/4467/FULL - Creation of vehicle parking area, removal of garden wall section, new garden wall and hard standing surface - **Stone House, The Green, Whilton**
No Objections

PLANNING APPLICATION GRANTED
The Parish Council noted the following planning application granted;
2025/3725/TPO - T1 Mature Oak tree located adjacent to the main drive in between Lodges 1 and 2, directly behind Lodge 2 overhanging their roofline. Requires a lateral crown reduction of 3m to clear lodge gate cottages roofline.
T2 mature Lime located in the rear garden of the property adjacent to their conservatory. Requires a target prune and 1-2m lateral crown reduction and major dead wood.
T3 mature Lime located adjacent to the garage. Requires target prune and 1-2m lateral crown reduction and major deadwood.
T4 Horse Chestnut requires a failed hanging branch removing and pruning to the union plus large deadwood removing as in decline. T5 Oak located adjacent to the roadside Hedge line. Requires a 5.2m crown lift and a 2-3m lateral crown reduction over the roadside edge of the crown to enable vision splay for drivers because it currently blocks the bridge signage
– **Lodge Gate Cottage, Whilton Locks**

11. CORRESPONDENCE
11.1 Autumn 2025 update from Buckby Library & Hub - Circulated to all

Meeting Closed: 8:47pm