MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held at Whilton Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2026 – 7:30pm

Attendance: Parish Councillors – J Bunce, A Gilbert, M Hampson, 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 – D Lister (WNC)
1.2 Declarations of Interest – Personal or Prejudicial

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on **WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2025**

3. PUBLIC TIME – Nil

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

5. THE SPINNEY – Nothing to report.

6. VILLAGE HALL – A Gilbert has circulated the latest VH update. The bank balances, as of 30/12/25, amount to £9,919.70. A Christmas Fayre was trialled which was a partial success, organisation and advertising will be sorted earlier should one be planned for this year.

7. HIGHWAYS
7.1 Brington Lane – Road Condition/Water Issue – A new pipe has been installed further up the road to divert water from a property garden towards a drain in the road. However this has not worked and water is now running down the road again. The Chairman will discuss with the landowners.
7.2 Concerns have been raised due to the Nobottle Road closure and traffic diverting through the village. With this closure planned for 9 months, B Lewis was asked to speak with Helen Howard (WNC Highways) about the increase of vehicle use along Brington Lane.

8. BUSINESS
8.1 Speeding/Volume of Traffic – Whilton Locks – The speed camera advisory signs are due to be delivered this week. B Lewis will turn the 30mph speed limit sign around, which has been struck by a vehicle, when he puts these up. 48,000 vehicles travelled through Whilton Locks in December, with the highest speed recorded incoming being 83mph, and outgoing being 61mph. The average speeds are 28/25mph, which shows the vehicle activated signs are working well.
8.2 Church Clock Repairs – The PCC will arrange for quotes, which will then be approved by the PC. The clock has not been working since November.
8.3 Trees & Hedges Maintenance – A date will be arranged for Harry Mockett to proceed with the works in The Spinney and the Allotments. There has been no response from the homeowner in Main Street regarding the overgrown hedge.
8.4 WNC – Consultation of Draft Active Travel Strategy, Draft Mobility Hub Action Plan & Draft Rail Action Plan - B Lewis has attended the workshops and will respond to the consultation on behalf of the PC.
8.5 WNC - Draft Budget Proposals 2026/27 – All councillors are encouraged to complete the consultation before the end of January. Proposed car parking charges in Daventry and the increase to the annual garden waste bin charge have been noted.

8.6 WNC – Local Plan Consultation – 1000 new homes are being proposed for Long Buckby, the consultation will be out for all to respond shortly.
8.7 WNC – Community Resilience Project – Whilton has been identified as a flood risk area. No action plan necessary.
8.8 Public Bridleways EY22 - Long Buckby & FL7 - Whilton - ROW/193 – Temporary Closure – Noted, this is due to an unsafe surface. Planned to re-open in April 2026.
8.9 Grand Union and Oxford Canal Conservation Area - Outcome of Planning Policy Committee - 19 November 2025 – Nothing reported to affect Whilton Locks.
8.10 Village Street Lighting – Quote to replace the street lights to LED has been received by E-On. It was agreed that when the lights need replacing this will be undertaken. A street light in Main Street is not working, and the one by the Lower Farmhouse; a light shield has been requested by the homeowner, so both these lights will be reported and replaced with LED's.
8.11 West Northamptonshire Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople - Call for Sites – No response.

9 FINANCE

It was proposed by R Smith, seconded by M Hampson, and all voted in favour to approve the following accounts:

9.1 Income/Expenditure Update & Bank Reconciliation's from November & December 2025

9.2 Accounts paid (November to December 2025):

Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary Nov 25	£	339.90	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses Nov 25	£	18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary Dec 25	£	340.10	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses Dec 25	£	18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	R Smith	Website Renewal	£	143.86	LGA 1972 s111
Online	R Smith	Christmas Refreshments	£	12.35	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Village Hall	Hall Hire Oct-Dec 25	£	15.00	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Nordis Signs	Speed Camera Warning Signs	£	99.60	LGA 1972 s111
Online	WNC	Uncontested Election 2025	£	80.50	LGA 1972 s111

9.3 Accounts to be paid

	N Power	Street Lights Oct-Dec 25	£	499.99	PCA1957 s3
	Anglian Water	Allotments Oct-Dec 25	£	46.23	LGA 1972 s111

9.4 Payments Received (November/December 2025)

	Nat West	Interest (Nov-Dec 25)	£	28.55
	WNC	Litter Picking Grant	£	223.00

Current Bank Balances (as of 31/12/2025):

Current Account £ 2,010.68
Reserve Account £ 21,170.56

10. PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATION GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning application granted:
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**

Meeting Closed: 8:20pm