

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held at Whilton Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH 2026 – 7:30pm

Attendance: Parish Councillors – J Bunce, M Hampson, A Lee, B Lewis, J Melling, R Smith (Chairman) and Sue Porter (Clerk)

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

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

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

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on **WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2026** – The minutes were approved by R Smith as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by B Lewis and all voted in favour. These 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 – The tree surgeon is undertaking the tree works currently. Community manpower groups will be approached for holding working parties, using Cummins and Amazon. The Restorative Justice Team will also be asked to assist with some maintenance tasks.

6. VILLAGE HALL - The finances for 2026 have started strongly with over 100 tickets sold for the 200 Club. Both the current and savings accounts remain healthy; however, they shortly have the annual insurance to pay. Future improvements to the Village Hall include a new entrance door and any maintenance due to wear and tear. Many thanks were given to the PC for the annual grant provided. Several events are planned such as the Quiz, Pop up Pub, and an Easter Craft Fayre. B Lewis will investigate the disabled access request received.

7. HIGHWAYS

7.1 Brinton Lane – Road Condition/Water Issue – R Smith has discussed the running water with the homeowners, and an option to divert the water across land is being investigated with the permissions and cost implications to negotiate.

7.2 Brinton Lane Hedges – The hedges have not been cut roadside, only along the top and field side. The Clerk will contact the Althorp Estate Team to discuss further, especially with it now being bird nesting season.

7.3 Village Warden Scheme - This is a suggested scheme from WNC with an emphasis on the highways through the Parish. The PC approved our participation in the scheme.

8. BUSINESS

8.1 Analysis of Speeding/Volume of Traffic – Whilton Locks – The traffic movements through the Locks has reduced significantly since the closure of the Nobottle Road. This is not due to reopen until end of September 2026. B Lewis will ask Helen Howard (WNC Highways) for some 'not a suitable diversion route' signs for Whilton village.

8.1.1 VAS Damage – This damage has been noted but the VAS is still working ok.

8.2 Church Clock – The clock repairs have been undertaken for the sum of £144, and it is now working fine. The PC have offered to share 50% of the invoice cost. The 'Love your Churchyard' incentive scheme will hopefully encourage volunteers to assist with the grounds maintenance. Tree and hedge maintenance is required. There are only 8 burial plots remaining.

8.3 Trees & Hedges Maintenance – The allotments maintenance work has been undertaken.

8.4 WNC – Community Resilience Project (Flood Risk) – There has been no flood risk for Whilton village confirmed by the Environmental Agency and West Northants Council.

8.5 Village Street Lighting – A rolling out programme to replace the street lamps with LED's will start this month with 4 being replaced (one with a shield). This will continue on throughout the year.

8.6 WNC – Local Plan Consultation – PC Response by 27th March – A Lee will respond on behalf of the PC, paying particular attention to the proposed 1,000 dwellings at Long Buckby, which will have an impact on all neighbouring parishes.

8.7 WNC - Parish & Town Council Election Recharge Consultation – Noted.

8.8 Grand Union Canal Transfer – Launch of Phase Two Consultation – B Lewis to respond if necessary to comment.

8.9 WNC - Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Public Consultation – Noted.

8.10 Northants CALC Strategic Plan – Engagement Sessions – Monday 23rd March 2026 – Noted.

8.11 Neighbourhood Plan - The PC consider a plan with support from residents for connectivity between Whilton and Whilton Locks. B Lewis will look at the possibilities of developing this plan, and creating a working group to action this, involving interested parishioners. The current Village Design Statement will be circulated to all.

9 FINANCE

9.1 Income/Expenditure Update & Bank Reconciliation's from January & February 2026

9.2 Approve Accounts paid (January to February 2026)

The following accounts were approved by all to be paid:

Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary Jan 26	£ 340.10	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses Jan 26	£ 18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary Feb 26	£ 340.10	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses Feb 26	£ 18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter	Domain Renewal	£ 31.18	LGA 1972 s111
Online	HMRC	PAYE 2025/26 Q3	£ 256.85	LGA 1972 s112

9.2 Payments Received (November/December 2025)

Nat West	Interest (Jan-Feb 26)	£ 34.72
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Current Bank Balances (as of 28/02/2026):

Current Account	£ 458.23
Reserve Account	£ 21,205.28

10. PLANNING

2026/0420/FULL & 2026/0522/LBC – Proposed rear (north) single storey extension and annex alterations - **Stone House, The Green, Whilton**

No Objections

PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permissions granted;

2025/4495/LBC – Internal alterations and repairs - **Stone House, The Green, Whilton**

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**

Meeting Closed: 8:40pm