MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held at Whilton Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2026 – 7pm

Attendance: Parish Councillors – J Bunce, 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 – M Hampson
1.2 Declarations of Interest – Village Hall – A Gilbert & B Lewis (Personal & Prejudicial)

2. GUESTS – Sarah-Jayne (Severn Water) & Dan (Canal River Trust) – Grand Union Canal Transfer Scheme – The scheme proposed is an environmentally friendly project which will use the canal as a long open pipeline over 131km (161km in total). Too much water has been extracted from the ground over many years, and this will mean water levels will be critically low by 2055 with no action taken. The scheme would move up to 115 million litres of water a day from a wastewater recycling centre in Birmingham, in Severn Trent's area, along the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union Canals, to Affinity Water's customers in the Southeast. Two public consultations have taken place in Autumn 2024 and Spring 2026, and all information can be viewed on the website www.guctransfer.co.uk. Working groups have been formed and the project will be enhancing value across the network route. A decision is expected to be reached on the project by Autumn 2028, with completion anticipated in 2033.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on **WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2026 –** It was approved by R Smith, seconded by J Melling that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, and all voted in favour, these will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC TIME – Nil

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

6. THE SPINNEY

6.1 Risk Assessments – M Hampson has reviewed the frequency required for the Risk Assessments and these will be recommended to the working party. Warning signs will be ordered to advise of potential hazards in The Spinney.

7. **VILLAGE HALL –** The latest VH update has been circulated to all councillors on email. The original Transfers signed by Yvonne Clements and Whilton Parish Council in relation to title number NN291339 are being returned to the Clerk for filing. A clause has been added to the Title Deeds with the Village Hall being jointly owned by the PC and the VH Committee and this refers to the fact that nothing can to happen to the VH such as a sale or major changes, without the approval of the WVHMC

8. HIGHWAYS – The hedges have been trimmed back along Brington Lane, and the running water issue along the Lane appears to be resolved. A meeting has been held between WNC Highways, B Lewis and R Smith regarding the volume of traffic through Whilton Locks and the need for this to be addressed. It was advised that this problem be registered at the WNC Speaker Committee, so this can be discussed by Full Council at WNC.

9. BUSINESS

9.1 Street Lighting – The next two light upgrades have been ordered at The Green and the Village Hall. The next two will be arranged with E-On to continue the project.

9.2 Street Lighting on Main Street/The Green corner – This is a very dark area, and the kerb is not particularly visible to pedestrians. R Smith will ask that the streetlamp shield be adjusted by E-On to allow more light in this area. There is a large tree in the Churchyard which also needs removing which will hopefully assist with the problem. A quote for the removal has been received by the Church for £1,400, and a faculty needs to be arranged. The PC have offered to pay 50% from CIL monies, up to the sum of £700, for the removal of the tree. H Mockett will also be approached to provide a quote.

9.3 New Barns – The barns are now being used as storage facilities. No further action required.

9.4 Community Speedwatch – Data is being collected from the VAS units in Whilton Locks, which recorded a total of 63,000 vehicle movements in September, and this is with the Nobottle Road closed.

9.5 Red Telephone Box – The library books have been removed by J Melling and the door has been taken off for renovation by Paul Boor.

9.6 Defibrillator – Information Cards – It was approved by all that the 250 laminated info cards, at a cost of £75.00, be ordered. J Bunce will put these in with the Christmas Cards which will be distributed to each household in the parish.

9.7 Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan – B Lewis will continue to proceed with the idea of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and gathering the information required for this to be produced. This can include creating a path between Whilton Village and Whilton Locks.

9.8 WNC – Consultation on Draft Road Safety Strategy – Items identified which are affecting Whilton PC are the speeding in villages, traffic calming measures and speed limit reductions.
* Online session – Monday 23rd November 10-11:30am – B Lewis to attend.

9.9 WNC – Consultation on Draft Freight Action Plan for West Northamptonshire
*Online session – Tuesday 24th November 2pm – M Hampson to attend.

9.10 WNC – Daventry Masterplan sets out vision for vibrant town centre – Noted.

9.11 West Northamptonshire Youth Council – Cake & Debate Event – Monday 23rd November - 4:30-6:30pm – Noted.

9.12 Parking on South View – There is a problem in this area with the number of vehicles and lack of parking spaces available. This situation will only escalate over the coming years and options need to be discussed to help address the issue. R Smith will circulate a news article in January regarding the parking in the village.

9.13 Budget Preparation for 2027/28 – The spreadsheet has been circulated to all on e-mail. To justify the high reserves held, a figure of up to £9,000 will be ringfenced to assist the Village Hall with their accessible entrance plans, for which a quote has been received for £18,000. The Church can apply to the PC for funding small maintenance projects.

9.14 Approve Figure for Precept 2027/28 – It was suggested that a minimum increase of 2.5% be approved for 2027/28 to generate a precept figure of £20,346. This will be approved at the January meeting.

10 FINANCE

10.1 Income/Expenditure from October & November 2026

10.2 Approve Accounts paid (October - November 2026):

It was approved by all that the following accounts be paid:

Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary Sept 26	£ 444.27	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses Sept 26	£ 43.50	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter	Clerk's Salary October 26	£ 357.22	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses October 26	£ 24.00	LGA 1972 s112
		Street Light Poppies	£ 95.00	LGA 1972 s111
		123 Reg E-Mail (Annual)	£ 57.46	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Anglian Water	Allotments July-Sept 26	£ 47.60	SHAA 1908
Online	N Power	Street Lighting July-Sept 26	£ 295.53	PCA 1957 S3
Online	HMRC	PAYE 2026/27 Q2	£ 305.48	LGA 1972 S11
Online	Village Hall	Hall Hire	£ 60.00	LGA 1972 S11
Online	E-On	Street Light Upgrades	£ 844.80	PCA1957 S3

10.3 Payments Received (July-September 2026)

Nat West	Interest – August-Sept 2026	£ 28.15
WNC	½ Year Precept	£9,925.00

Current Bank Balances (as of 31/10/2026):

Current Account	£ 2,206.39
Reserve Account	£ 24,838.11

TOTAL £ 27,044.50

Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 13th January 2027 – 7:30pm

Meeting Closed: 9:17pm