**HANNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.15PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL LANE, HANNINGTON

1. **Attendance and Acceptance of Apologies. Approval of Reasons for Absence.**

Present: Chairman J Middleton, Vice Chairman L Wood, Councillors D Basford & N Jenks.

Apologies: Councillors C Middleton & I Wilson. The Parish Council approved the reasons for absence.

In Attendance: the Clerk and 2 members of the public (Mr G Martin & Mrs R Wood).

1. **Dispensations received and granted.**

There were no dispensations received and granted.

1. **Members Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda.**

There were no Members Declaration of Interest for items on the agenda.

1. **Public Forum - 15 minutes - with a maximum of 5 minutes per question.**

There were no requests to speak.

1. **West Northants Councillor.**

WN Councillor C Irving-Swift had sent her apologies but hoped to attend the November meeting.

1. **Approve and Sign Minutes of the Meetings dated 7 July & 4 August 2025.**

The minutes for the meetings having previously been circulated were 7 July - proposed by Vice Chair L Wood and seconded by Councillor D Basford, 4 August - proposed by Councillor N Jenks and seconded by Vice Chair L Wood and both were signed by the Chairman.

1. **To review action taken on matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting (for information only).**

The Chairman will chase the tree surgeon again as he had said he would inspect the pocket park next week when he was back from holiday.

Mallards Wood fencing would be discussed under item 3255.

The installation of the posts would be discussed under item 3255.

The Clerk had instructed E.on to do the electrical testing of the street lights, which had now been completed.

1. **Correspondence:**
   * + - 1. **NCALC – WNC Biodiversity Grant Scheme.**

WNC have invited parishes with a precept of less than £25,000 to apply for a share of a £10,000 grant for an environmental project that supports biodiversity up to £2,500. Following a discussion, it was agreed to apply to recreate a community orchard and attract wildlife to the area, on one of the underutilised/poor area of the allotments. Councillor D Basford would look into the price of obtaining 2 of each of the following – apples, pears, plums & greengage, together with stakes & ties and topsoil. He will then liaise with the Clerk, who will apply for the grant.

1. **Review of Parish Assets:** 
   * + - 1. **Pocket Park** – OK. Tree inspection still to take place.
         2. **Allotments - to include update on installation of posts** – OK.
         3. **Bus Shelter/BT kiosk** – OK.
         4. **Mallards Wood – to include update on installation of post** – OK. The fencing inspection is still O/S but will look to cover as a use of the CIL monies.

The installation of the posts remains outstanding.

1. **Report from Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.**

There was nothing to report locally. There is a small car parked on the Holcot Road (close to Holcot), which has been for several days – it is both taxed & has an MOT but as it is not causing an obstruction WNC will not remove.

1. **Report/Actions needed from the “August village Walkabout”.**

The Clerk read out a report by Councillor I Wilson -

Allotments – untidy plots & the boundary hedge.

Plough sign – in need of attention.

Tree at the end of Bridle Road – needs lower branches removed.

Pocket Park – entrance needs trimming back.

Rainwater drains – blocked – NB will not be cleared until the annual inspection.

Councillor D Basford commented on the pothole repairs carried out on Red House Lane.

1. **Parish Council casual vacancy – to be filled by co-option.**

There was currently one vacancy on the Parish Council which is being advertised in Hannington Life.

1. **Green Hill Solar Project update (IW).**

In the absence of Councillor I Wilson this item was deferred. The Chair commented that the cost of the cabling works to get the electricity to the substation at Grendon may prevent the project from going ahead.

1. **Update on the meeting with H Howard (Highways) – A43/Red House Lane junction, to include requesting of 40mph speed limited Red House Lane/Redhouse Road, A43 and move 30mph sign on Holcot Road further out.**

a **Reducing the speed limit**

The Clerk reported that she, the Chairman & Councillor D Basford had met with H Howard on 8 July. The safety panel meets every two months or so to discuss various requests for the speed limits to be reduced.  We will need to mention that we have met with both Matt O’Connell (safer roads team) and Helen Howard. It was agreed that the Parish Council would request a reduction of the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph from the village along Red House Lane to the A43, A43 from the Woodmeadow Garden Centre to the Walgrave turning and along Orlingbury Road from A43 to the wooded area. The rationale being to create a safer crossroad junction due to the increased volume of traffic coming into the village following the use of Mere Farm Business Park – to park lorries overnight and the passing of WND/2022/1066 – Showmen’s site at Pastures Farm, Red House Lane and the increase in the number of vehicles using the Shell garage due to the price of its’ fuel.

In addition, the PC would also like to request moving the 30mph limit further out along the Holcot Road – passed the livery yard – for reasons of the safety of horse riders and the Riding For the Disabled who use the yard.

**Overgrown vegetation**

She will get her colleagues to cut back the vegetation on both sides and will try and get in touch with the owners/commercial agents to get the heras fencing moved back.

**Other**

Helen Howard will arrange for “dragon teeth” markings to be done at the village entrance along Red House Lane & Holcot Road, together with an advanced “Give Way” sign and “slow” sign on the road – however these are only arranged once a year, so we will be included in the 2026/27 budget.

It was mentioned making both the turnings onto the A43 to STOP rather than GIVE WAY – this will NOT occur as the sight line is too good.

1. **Parking on the pavement along Main Street – (DB)**

It was agreed to put another article in Hannington Life regarding this problem. Councillor D Basford suggested contacting the local police officer if the problem persisted.

1. **Incident of overflowing litter bin on Walgrave Road – (DB).**

Following an incident last month, it was agreed to include an article in Hannington Life that the Parish Council is NOT responsible for providing a service to those dog owners who do not want to place the bags in their own bins and provide alternative suggestions. Councillor N Jenks reported that the footpath around the Deer Park was terrible for dog poo & Mr G Martin reported that a car frequently came into the village to deposit dog poo bags in the bin by the BT Kiosk.

1. **Planning Application Update – S119 Diversion Order public bridleway CT8 (part). Updates on other Planning issues – lorry park, Mere Farm Business Park, Ash Tree (TPO) School Lane & re-alignment of footpath CT2 close to Red Lion House, School Lane.**

Councillor D Basford had received a response from The Definitive Maps team regarding CT2 re-alignment – they confirmed that NO application had been received to divert the public footpath and a letter was to be sent to the landowner requesting they either apply for a formal diversion order or remove the obstruction – he will chase in a couple of weeks. Currently fencing has been erected close to CT1 whereby walkers have to deviate c2m from the original footpath.

In addition, he had also heard back from WNC Planning regarding the discharging of conditions placed on WND/2022/1066 – some of which where currently being dealt with under the on-going discharge of conditions application. He had on behalf of the PC lodged objections to items 6, 14-16 & 24 as they have not yet been met. He encouraged all those present to check out the web site & lodge objections by 15 September but ideally by 5 September being the decision target date.

1. **CIL money projects – purchase of new notice board/Pocket Park fencing/traffic notice re children on roads (IW) etc.**

It was agreed to purchase a new aluminium notice board – double fronted, one locking side, in British Racing Green & magnetic. The Chair will telephone the company for a quote. It was also agreed that the Clerk will get prices for “Children in the Village” signs.

1. **To agree Clerk’s salary review – National Joint Council for Local Government Service agreed new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2025 – from £15.33 per hour to back dated to 1 April £15.82.**

It was agreed that the Clerk be paid the new rate of pay backdated to 1 April. The Clerk had started on SCP 15 which was then changed to SCP 16 following the completion of her CiLCA course. It was agreed that the Parish Council would look into giving her a merit increase in addition to the pay award – to be discussed at the next meeting.

1. **Finance:** 
   * + - 1. **Approve expenditure items received.**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices:

Lloyds Bank plc – bank charges 280725 (May) D/D £6.25

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Mrs JP Friell – toner cartridge Chq 935 £95.48

Hannington VHC – hire of hall 4 Aug Chq 936 £15.00

The reconciled bank balance was £24,501.89 being General £14,177.98 Allotment deposits & Defibrillator replacement £600.00 and CIL £9,723.91 (from 28 April 2022 monies).

* + - * 1. **Approve income received.**

No income had been received since the August meeting.

1. **Hannington Life - items for inclusion in the next edition and any New Residents requiring Welcome Pack.**

Councillor C Middleton had produced a draft copy for September, which was agreed by the Parish Council for publication. In addition, two Residents Packs were required – Main Street & Poplars Farm Close.

1. **Councillors’ comments for consideration at next meeting.**

There were no Councillor’s comments for consideration at the next meeting. The Chairman apologised as he forgot to mention under item 3255 that Mr L Austin had made a start at clearing the allotment plots. He also thought that the allotment hedge would not be ready to be “layered” until the Winter 2026. In addition, he would speak to his land agent about any grants that were available.

1. **Date of next meeting: 6 October 2025.**