

SIBBERTOFT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk & RFO: Mrs CE Valentine
c/o 20 Styles Place
Yelvertoft
NN6 6LR
clerk@sibbertoftparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.sibbertoftparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE SIBBERTOFT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 20:00 hrs in The Reading Room, Sibbertoft.

Attendees: Chairman G Kershaw, Councillors Brunel-While, Walpole, Bickerstaff, Parsons, Wilkinson and Abraham
2 members of public plus Ward Councillor C Ware
Clerk: Mrs C E Valentine

3068	**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -** None
3069	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
	Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed. A disclosable pecuniary interest requires withdrawal from the meeting during that item. No declarations.
3070	**SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**
	It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2026 as a correct record.
3071	**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
	Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of three minutes. Members of the public should address their representations through the Chairman. No comment
3072	**WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT** To receive a report from the Ward Councillor. West Northants Council has approved its budget with a 4.99% council tax rise and a £69 green bin charge, and is considering parking charges moving from two hours' free weekend parking in Northampton and new charges for Blue Badge holders, which are out for consultation. The Local Plan is also open for consultation, with no site allocations for Sibbertoft, though nearby villages have a combined 193 proposed dwellings, and the Regulation 19 draft is due by year-end. Highways continue to tackle potholes, though weather is causing repeated failures, and Airfield Road and out Kelmarsh remains hazardous, with a major pothole on the Leicestershire section needing direct reporting. Faulty West Northants bins can be replaced, recent fly-tipped tyre near The Pound to being investigated, and Cllr Ware will explore options for a new wooden bus shelter for the village. WNC has a claim line contact number for any pothole damage i.e. to a vehicle.
3073	**PLANNING -** Planning portal: https://wnc.planning-register.co.uk/
	a) New applications: To consider any applications not otherwise on the agenda. No new applications **b)** Current applications: Noted

2025/5313/FULL	Townsend Lodge, 3 Welford Road, Sibbertoft, LE16 9UJ	Proposed two storey side extension, single storey side extension, single storey rear extension & external alterations.	16/12/2025		Awaiting decision

c)	West Northants Council Local Plan – To consider any comments during the consultation period – Cllr Ware provided an update in her report above.
d)	Updating the Village Design Statement consider next steps Councillors Abraham and Bickerstaff are reviewing the Village Design Statement and will need to meet to discuss the next steps. They are considering forming a small strategy group, as other parishes have successfully used this approach when updating their plans. A youth questionnaire may be helpful in gathering residents' views. The Clerk will pass on Yelvertoft Parish Council contact details, as they have recently updated their VDS, and it was also



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	suggested that Northamptonshire ACRE might be able to offer support, although the Parish Council is not currently a member of this association.
3074	**NEW MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AND OUTSTANDING FROM THE MEETING OF THE 3rd February 2026.**
a)	Highways updates and Fixmystreet reports & vegetation issues – Noted updates. The Chairman reported that he is still pursuing the issue of the recently repainted white lines, which were stopped abruptly at Westhorpe and not continued around the bend; similar incomplete sections appear elsewhere in the village, creating an odd and inconsistent appearance. Cllr Ware will raise this with West Northants Council it has been on fixmystreet sometime. Cllr Wilkinson noted that the verges have been damaged by vehicles due to the wet weather and soft ground, with drivers cutting across them; these will be reported via FixMyStreet. Additional verge damage has also been identified at the bottom of Welland Rise. It was asked whether, if a housing association operates in the village might be able to provide additional parking for their residents to help with parking cars.
	• 8744612 – Overgrown vegetation & blocked ditch causing flooding. Church Street/Springcroft field. Investigate within 5 working days at 27.01.26
	• 8963167 – 80cm pothole and others Sibbertoft Road (airfield road) 5 day investigation from 20.02.26
	• 8939916 – Pothole Welland Rise
	• 8939762 – Verge damage triangle grass verge Church Street/Welland Rise 5 days investigation from 17.02.26
	• 8812698 – Drain cover collapse Church Street Investigating as of 01.02.26
	• 8808571 -White lines completion of the repaint around village as of 31.01.26
	• 8721880 – Pothole Berkley Street/Naseby Road – priority 4 repair 59 days as of 26.01.26
	• 8721847 – Road subsidence and potholes – Priority 3 repair 12 days as of 21.01.26
	• To note the Parish Council has requested road sweeper and drains and gullies cleared.
	To report road or street issues go to: https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk/
b)	**STREET LIGHTING** 1. To discuss new energy contract options with temporary switch to British Gas following closure of Tomato Energy. Cllr Parsons reported that he is still awaiting the British Gas bill for September to December 2025, which has not yet been issued, possibly because information from the liquidators of Tomato Energy has not been fully transferred. British Gas, now acting as the supplier of last resort, has updated the MPAN usage to a half-hourly calculation. Cllr Parsons has contacted a range of alternative suppliers, but most have confirmed they no longer offer unmetered supply contracts. A revised bill for December and then January is expected once recalculations are complete. British Gas has advised that the Parish Council should remain on the current variable rates for the next six months rather than entering into a fixed contract. It was **RESOLVED** that, on balance, it is preferable to stay with British Gas on a six-month rolling, out-of-contract arrangement with no standing charge, while being mindful of wider geopolitical uncertainties. Cllr Parsons also confirmed that the streetlight by the corner of Beeches Close has now been attended to, and a shield will be fitted free of charge. The light output is consistent with the rest of the village's streetlights. A guard costing approximately £6 has been sourced, and contractors will install it when they are next in the area. The issue arose because the light had not been correctly adjusted, but this has now been resolved.
3075	**REPORTS, TO RECEIVE AND AGREE ACTIONS REQUIRED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**
a)	**Sibbertoft Peace Park** Update on the project and plans for completing the biodiversity grant - deadline 31st March 2026. Other funding opportunities Open Gardens



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	Finance update Cllr Bickerstaff reported that the West Northants Council grant officer had been away for a month, so the Parish Council is still waiting for confirmation if the grant completion deadline can be extended past 31st March26 sue to the bad weather delaying work . The fencing is finished, planting is underway, and the bog garden is being extended, with wildflower seeds and further planting planned. A water tank to be installed to collect rainwater from the duck house roof for maintaining the bog garden and watering with a hose. The group is considering either an information board or a bench and will check whether the grant allows this; a local resident may be able to produce a board at a lower cost. Quotes are being sought for tree trimming, and plans include composters, hedgehog and bird boxes, hedging, fruit trees, and shrubs. A bench has appeared on site but is sinking into the tarmac and needs attention. The relatives of the land donor have offered to buy a bench and will be asked if they would like to fund a matching one. Cllr Walpole advised that the hazel will need coppicing next year to encourage healthy growth. The biodiversity improvements meet the grant requirement of around £2,500. The wooden gate at the front now works, the metal gate at the other end has been fixed and will be resprayed green, and signage may be added. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the proposed purchases to fulfil the grant following review of costs.
b)	**Recreation Ground** Play area any areas requiring attention/expenditure. Pirate Ship, fencing, items requiring maintenance Wild flower area Councillor Bickerstaff reported a tiny bit of fencing to sort and this is nearly completed. There was no further discussion on flowers or long grass in the park. It was noted that the bank is quite steep behind the swings and one end has a corner brick wall.
c)	**Police Liaison Representative** Policing updates and any further action for the Parish Council relating to Neighbourhood Watch. Councillor Wilkinson reported that the PC is waiting for the police to send the information pack out and will progress this. Councillor Wilkinson and the chairman agreed to meet to talk through continuing neighbourhood watch in the village
3076	**FINANCE**
a)	It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation statement. Bank balance on 25.02.26 £ 7,378.22
b)	The budget against receipts and payments reviewed.
c)	It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments for March 2026:

Date	Payee	Details	Amount £	Payment method	Power to pay
03.03.26	Staffing	February 2026	-	BP	LGA (1972) s112
03.03.26	HMRC	PAYE 2026	-	BP	LGA (1972) s112
03.03.26	CPRE	Feb 2026 Subscription	5.00	DD	LGA (1972), s111
03.03.26	Ionos Cloud Ltd	Email monthly fee	4.20	DD	LGA (1972), s111
03.03.26	Tesco Mobile	Parish Mobile	10.29	DD	LGA (1972) s111
03.03.26	Lloyds Bank	Service charge	4.25	BP	LGA (1972) s111
03.03.26	The Reading Room	Inv 4 hire July – Dec 25	65.00	BP	
03.03.26	British Gas	Street lighting January26	27.40	BP	

d)	**INTERNAL CONTROL/AUDIT/FINANCE**
	a) IT Policy and compliance. – Clerk to circulate IT Policy to Chairman. Accompanying policies in progress, b) Arrangements to meet Assertion 10 Clerk to attend training 12th March will update PC.



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3077	**CORRESPONDENCE** Noted Open consultations can be found via link: **https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/ West Northants Consultation Hub** • Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter – Newsletter – February 2026 - Northamptonshire Police & Fire Commissionerhttps://northantspfcc.org.uk/newsletter-february-2026/ • Shared Lives carers | West Northamptonshire Council https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/caring-someone/shared-lives-carers • WNC is consulting on its final draft (https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/consultations/local-nature-recovery-strategy-consultation) before sending it off to Natural England for comment and then adoption by the WNC Cabinet in summer 2026. The consultation deadline is **25 March 2026** and all parish and town councils in West Northamptonshire are encouraged to respond. • NCALC working on the next Strategic Plan helping shape the future of the association with engagement sessions in 23rd March 2026. Clerk has information.
3078	**Future agenda items** None
3079	**Date of next meeting**: Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 20:00 hrs on Tuesday 7th April 2026. Meeting closed at 21:15hrs