

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 6th October 2026 at 20:00 hrs in The Reading Room, Sibbertoft.

Attendees: Chairman Kershaw. Councillors Walpole, Parsons, Bickerstaff and Abrahams.
3 members of public.
Clerk. Mrs Clare E Valentine.

3161	**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** Apologies received and approved for Councillor Brunel-While (personal)
3162	**TO NOTE A CASUAL VACANCY**
	Councillor applications will be welcome for consideration and co-option. The relevant forms including declaration of acceptance of office and registerable interests to be duly signed by the successful applicant. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Chairmans motion that this item to be moved to the end of the meeting after item 3171, to confirm interest from a member of public being co-opted having sat and viewed the meeting.
3163	**TO CONFIRM ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA** Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a disclosable pecuniary interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business. None
3164	**SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**
	It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2026 as a correct record.
3165	**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. A member of public thanked the Chairman for reporting to West Northants Council the request for a new kissing gate on Jurassic way. WNC attended and replaced the gate within three weeks of the report, and the work was commented as exceptional and great improvement on health and safety.
3166	**WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT** To receive a report from the Ward Councillor. Councillor Ware sent apologies but circulated a report which can be found at the end of the minutes on the website.
3167	**PLANNING -** Planning portal: https://wnc.planning-register.co.uk/
	a) **New applications:** To consider any applications not otherwise on the agenda. None **b)** Current applications: (Awaiting decision) **c)** 2026/3608/FULL- It was **RESOLVED** as no objection. In this instance the Parish Council would like to support farmers trying to diversify.

Reference No.▶	Location▶	Proposal / Description▶	Valid Date▲	Decision Issue Date▶	Decision▶
2026/3608/FULL	Prince Rupert Farm Naseby Road Sibbertoft LE16 9UH	Conversion of brick agricultural building to a 3 bedroom holiday accommodation	23/09/2026		Pending NEW
2026/2001/FULL	Nobold Hill Clipston Road Sibbertoft LE16 9UB	Change of use of agricultural paddock to Equestrian Use for new menage/arena with concrete yard, muck pit and enclosure fencing	29/04/2026	Awaiting	Pending



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2026/1661/FULL	Lowe Farm Nobold Hill Clipston Road Sibbertoft LE16 9UB	Loft conversion, new rooflights and dormer windows plus internal alteration at first floor	31/03/2026	Awaiting	Pending

d)	**VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT** To receive an update on the arrangements for updating the Village Design Statement and consider next steps and any decision on spend. Councillor Abrahams reported that the working group have held a few meetings to discuss the VDS update and hope to have a questionnaire available to residents by November. The Questionnaire supports the VDS update with help from Northants Acre and asks residents for views and feedback. Before it is shared with the public the Parish Council will receive a copy of the questionnaire. **New National Planning Policy Framework Published** **https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework).** Noted **Discuss any updates relating to WNC Local Plan, regulation 19 progress.** Noted
3168	**NEW MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AND OUTSTANDING FROM THE MEETING OF THE 1st of September 2026**
a)	**Highways updates and Fixmystreet reports & vegetation issues.**
	• Multiple potholes reports logged on fixmystreet around the village and Longhold Road (C Ware/Highways). Noted.
	• 10068062 – Stile entrance exit from the Jurassic Way onto Harborough Road / Church Street. On site 01.10.26 starting repairs. Work completed. Clerk to send thanks to Highways on behalf of the Parish Council.
	• 9759574 –-White lines completion 9753723 – Give way markings worn/faded- Reported as completed. The Chairman to report on Fixmystreet a request that the white lines are reinstated to match Leicestershire on the airfield road.
	• Drain cleansing was scheduled for September – although maybe delay in highways programme of works. Noted delay but being scheduled.
	• *To report road or street issues go to: https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk/*
	Councillor Parsons reported that footpath DN9 Welland Rise to Berkeley Street is now very narrow and grass is covering the tarmac footpath, so it is less than half its original width. Councillor Walpole offered to attend to this matter.
b)	**Police and Crime Commissioner Road Safety Fund** Clerk has written to highways for cost to install two SID (speed devices) at two locations by village entrances. To consider costs and next steps with highways and to apply for the PFFC grant up to £5k. https://northantspfcc.org.uk/our-work/grant-schemes/safe-and-sound-communities-fund/ The Chairman has offered to meet with Highways to discuss the proposed locations and next steps. Clerk to co-ordinate. Councillor Bickerstaff and Parsons to see if any data can be extracted from the existing SID device on Naseby Road to support the matter.
3169	**REPORTS, TO RECEIVE AND AGREE ACTIONS REQUIRED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**
a)	**Sibbertoft Peace Park** Update on the project, plans and spend. Information Noticeboards and next steps, permissions and decisions on spend. The Clerk has sent off the application for the licence for the noticeboard, and we await a response from Highways. Councillor Bickerstaff advised the group have purchased a range of plants and shrubs for the area and volunteers have kindly been helping with the planting so they are established before winter. There will be further planting in springtime.



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b)	**Recreation Ground** Areas requiring attention/quotes/ expenditure for approval. Councillor Bickerstaff is arranging to complete some repair work to the pirate ship before winter with Councillor Abraham. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a request for £146.00 for timber. The rest of the play park was reported as Ok.
3170	**FINANCE**
a)	It was **RESOLVED to** approve the bank reconciliation statement. Bank balance on 01.10.26 £19,361.90 Income HMRC VAT 126 Return £4,200.62. To confirm 2nd half precept received £10,000.00 on 28.09.26. – Approved as received. To note British Gas is now set up as direct debit.
b)	It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments for October 2026:

Date	Payee	Details	Amount £	Payment method	Power to pay
06.10.26	Staffing	September 2026	-	BP	LGA (1972) s112
06.10.26	HMRC	PAYE 2026	-	BP	LGA (1972) s112
06.10.26	Tesco Mobile	Parish Mobile	10.90	DD	LGA (1972), s111
06.10.26	Lloyds Bank	Service charge	4.25	DD	LGA (1972), s111
06.10.26	British Gas	Street lighting September 26	41.27	DD	LGA (1972) s111
06.10.26	Leicestershire Gardens	Inv 26/172 3 x August	1678.14	BP	LGA (1972) s111 Highways Act 1980
06.10.26	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Inv SB20262286 external audit	252.00	BP	Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
01.09.26	Leicestershire Gardens	Inv 26/141 grass cutting July	1228.14	BP	Open Spaces Act 1906
16.09.26	DM Payroll	Inv 5407 payroll service	79.20	BP	Open Spaces Act 1906 LGA (1972) s111

c)	To note PKF Littlejohn AGAR External Audit Section 3 and Notice of conclusion of audit. Noted and approved. Thanks made to the Clerk for the minutes.
d)	Staffing: The National Joint Council has agreed a 3.3% increase in local-government pay rates and allowances for 2026/27, effective from 1 April 2026. For councils employing staff on NJC or model-contract terms, payroll updates and the calculation of any back pay will be required as part of this pay award process. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the NJC increase.
3171	**CORRESPONDENCE – Noted** • West Northamptonshire Parish Conference 2026: Parishes in Partnership. 26/11/26 10am – 1pm Towcester • Newsletter – September 2026 - Northamptonshire Police & Fire Commissioner • West Northamptonshire Council is consulting on a new strategy that sets out a long-term vision for improving transport across Northampton link: https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/consultations closes 15.11.26 • The West Northamptonshire Council on Street Consolidation Order P2149 see www.westnorthants.gov.uk (search traffic regulation orders) The purpose of the Order is to consolidate West Northamptonshire's existing on-street prohibition of waiting, loading, and unloading, stopping restrictions and on-street parking place Orders into a single county-wide Traffic Regulation Order. Closes 17.10.26
3162	**TO NOTE A CASUAL VACANCY – Item moved**
	Councillor applications will be welcome for consideration and co-option. The relevant forms including declaration of acceptance of office and registerable interests to be duly signed by the successful applicant.



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	An application was received from Robin Rogers. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt the applicant onto the Parish Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed. Clerk to provide relevant forms and registerable interests electronically in order to induct the member onto the Parish Council.
3172	**Future agenda items** Police Liaison Representative Lectern approval/highways Budget/Precept 3 examples requested £16k, £18k and £20k.
3173	**Date of next meeting**: Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 8pm. The Reading Room, Sibbertoft Meeting closed at 20:55 hrs



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Sibbertoft PC Update 6 October 2026
Update from Cllr Christine Ware

I am sorry that I won't be at Sibbertoft Parish Council meeting this month. Please accept my apologies. Here's an update from me and I will be grateful if you will share it with Council. Please do get in touch if there is anything you need from me.

West Northamptonshire Council
Council Finances

West Northamptonshire Council has recently reported its Period 4 figures to cabinet. The latest update is showing a forecast overspend of £13.1million at year end. This is the adjusted figure after some £11million of contingency and technical costs have been taken into account. The pressures continue to be from the demand led services.

Adult Social Care is predicting an overspend in the region of £8million and The Children's Trust has forecasted a combined overspend of £32million for both North and West Northamptonshire combined. £18million is West Northamptonshire allocation of this overspend.
Service levels at the Children's Trust have improved considerably since the dire situation that occurred in the County Council days, but there are serious concerns about the sustainability of finances. The council is waiting to see if the government will lift the statutory directive which will provide more flexibility for the council to consider future care provision. This notwithstanding, most of the cost pressures relate to the external market and the provision of care.
Work has now started on the 2027/2028 Budget.

Planning
As you will know, the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is now in place following national consultation. This is the overarching policy framework that informs planning decisions. You will also be aware of the issues over the Regulation 19 Local Plan which is now out for consultation following intervention from the Government. Matthew Pennycook, Minister of State for Housing and Planning wrote to the Council on 15 September exercising the Government's statutory powers of intervention directing the Council to proceed with the current draft Regulation 19 Local Plan, which has been produced in line with the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012.



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The letter instructs the Council to continue with the process for the current draft Plan by:

• Starting Regulation 19 consultation on the emerging plan by no later than 5 October 2026 for a minimum 6-week period
• Submitting the emerging plan by no later than 31 December 2026
• Not to take any step to withdraw the Plan and report monthly to Government officials on the progress of the Plan
• Progress the Plan up to the end of the examination process.

WNC has been working on a new local plan since 2021, with work beginning under the then Conservative administration.

The administration have written to the Government setting out what it views as exceptional circumstances which suggest intervention is not appropriate. The administration maintains that the Reg 19 plan, which is in line with NPPF 2024, is not appropriate. The Government have confirmed both here in West Northants, and in other parts of the country, that the current process is legal and appropriate. It also raises concerns about the infrastructure within the area, specifically, the National Grid capacity.

This appeal is under consideration but does not negate the instruction from the Government and as you can see the instruction to start the Reg 19 consultation has been complied with.
Recruitment for the Director of Resources has started and a decision expected later this month.

David Harris - Director of Place started on 1 October. Stuart Timmiss, the current Director of Place retires mid-month.
Sibbertoft Drainage Plan - no news as we speak but it is very much top of my chasing list.

Kind regards
Christine

Christine Ware
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