

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH SCHOOLROOM ON
11th MARCH 2025 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Mr Andy Anderson, Miss Freya Davies, Mr Tom Higginson, Mr Geoff Holden,
Mr Simon Levell, Mrs Chris Littlewood, Mr John Thomason
Public: 2 Members of the public present
Unitary Cllr Mr Phil Bignell from item 2037.

Acceptance of Apologies for absence: Councillors: Mr Kev Beasley, Mrs Kathryn Baines, Mr Geoff Fellows
Unitary Cllr: Mr Phil Bignell (for the first part of the meeting)
Mr Charles Morton

Chair: Mrs Christine Littlewood

2030.0 **Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct, regarding business tabled for discussion.** Cllr Levell declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2034.6

2031.0 **Public Forum:** for parishioners and reports by Unitary Councillors

- U/Cllr Bignell had sent through his report on the WNC budget, roads and recycling– all noted. Cllr Bignell joined the meeting later and advised that the gravel extraction application is going to be a 2 day Hearing (date to be confirmed)
- Both residents had come to listen to the meeting

2032.0 **To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th February 2025.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

2033.0 **Outstanding items - updates** (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

- Flood Warden: Residents at Brockhall Road had paid for someone to dig the ditches there. Cllr Thomason had reported the drains again. Tree over river at tin bridge has been cleared.
- Land behind Holiday Inn. Noted that WNC will be contacting owners re area at the bottom of the field; that planning consent was required for another owner. They are visiting again to check on the progress of clearance - chase May/June
- Immediate Justice Team. Noted that they cannot work on the bypass due to speed of vehicles. They have painted the play equipment at Brodie Lodge
- Stagecoach service 7.32 am Daventry-Northampton. Noted that they have passed on suggestion to have a larger bus on this route but nothing heard back since.
- Commonwealth Disasters Relief Project. This is still ongoing and events are being planned.
- Annual Parish Meeting. Flooding issues (John Thomason) and Land Army (Helen Frost) will be the speakers this year.

May/June

2034.0 **GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

2034.1 Tree work – Closed Churchyard. Cllr Littlewood will speak again to WNC about whether a conifer which keeps shedding branches can be cut down as an emergency or whether planning consent is required. Two quotes of £680 and £1000 received; to be discussed once confirmation regarding consent is acquired.

Cllr Littlewood

2034.2 Layby by Holiday Inn. Noted that the two caravans have been removed, some litter picking has occurred. Councillors asked whether bins could be reinstated once rest of litter has been removed. Immediate Justice Team may be able to help if WNC doesn't clear the site.

Resolved: To not close the layby at present as residents who live adjacent it do not wish it to be closed.

2034.3 Messenger: Request was to include advertising from outside the village

Resolved: Not agreed to include outside company advertising at this stage.

2034.4 Local Plan briefing. Noted that Cllr Fellows will attend

2034.5 Elections. Confirmed that the Notice of Election has been received and posted. Nomination papers have been given to those who requested one. Cllr Fellows has an appointment to submit his papers and is willing to take in other people's forms at the same time.

2034.6 Bypass: Can the Unitary Cllrs instigate a safety audit on this road which needs to be carried out as soon as possible. Cllrs understand the pitfalls of the undulating road and ask that all safety options are looked at.

Clerk

High Street: When bypass is closed traffic does move through the village albeit slowly. The question was asked could the priority change at such times. Cllr Higginson responded that the chicanes were the

subject of considerable safety assessments at the time and these dictated the priority traffic flows.

2035.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS

2035.1 Finance update. It was reported that as at 28th February the Council had £46,150.21 in the bank account. Messenger adverts received £235.00. There were no matters arising. Reserves: approx. £21000. Figures accepted.

2035.2 Internal Control. Cllr Holden had looked through the paperwork, including bank statements, and confirmed all present and correct.

2035.3 Request for financial support – Citizens Advice

Resolved: To give a small grant of £200 towards Citizens Advice. FD/AA

2036.0 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accumulated invoice for year to date – new contract

SSE	Street light electricity (January payment)	203.49
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The Plastic People	Polycarbonate sheets	925.44
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February payments 1128.93

Agreed at meeting

Halkett	Salary £769.50/office £17	786.50
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HMRC	PAYE	220.54
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Design to Print	Messenger	159.00
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Millennium Hall	Library rent	75.00
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G Fellows	Cleaning liquid for bus stop	6.99
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Information Commissioner	Data protection licence	52.00
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Unity Trust	Bank charges	6.00
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S Drinkwater	Repair of bin (donation paid to this)	114.00
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Citizens Advice	Donation (agreed at meeting)	200.00
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Monthly Total 1620.03

Awaiting SSE Street lighting invoice

2037.0 REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

2037.1 Brodie Lodge. Nothing to report

2037.2 Millennium Hall. Nothing to report, although ticket sales for the play are still available.

2037.3 Commonwealth Flags: A good display of flags was flying for Commonwealth Day

2037.4 Charities: Richard Capell meeting donated money to school and the URC/PCC youth groups.

2038.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

a. WNC Land behind Holiday Inn. 2033

b. Injustice Team Possible Work. 2033

c. Stagecoach Request for larger bus. 2033

d. WNC Layby adj Holiday Inn. 2034.2

e. NCALC Local Plan briefing. 2034.4

f. WNC Election info. 2034.5

g. WNC Copy correspondence re bypass. 2034.6

h. Citizens Advice Request for funding. 2035.3

NCALC Updates and Training

WNC Town & Parish Briefing

WNC Media Updates

WNC weekly planning register

ACRE newsletter

2040.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA PUBLISHED

Cllr Fellows: Advised that the purchased cleaning product has removed the sticky Sellotape from the polycarbonate sheets on the bus shelter at Bricketts Lane and they are looking ok, so don't need replacing at present.

Holiday Inn: Following recent social media and complaint to a Cllr, a discussion took place regarding the residents of the hotel in Flore and the ongoing use of the hotel and support that could be given. Cllr Littlewood had spoken to the contact in charge of refuges. Cllr Higginson advised that he was having a meeting with the partnerships Manager at Serco on the 13th March to discuss the ongoing situation and support needed.

Date of next meetings: 8th April
Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April
Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 13th May,
10th June, 8th July, 9 September, 14th October, 11th November

Items for inclusion on next meeting's agenda.

Flood Warden
High Street / Climate Group (only if something to report)
Handrail extension on Ram Bank - if anything received
Removal of tree in closed churchyard
Layby by Holiday Inn – only if something to report
Advisory signs on bus shelters
Land behind Holiday Inn – May/June

The meeting closed at 2010 hrs

Chair 8th April 2025