

## **Minutes of the Harringworth Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Village Hall**

Present:

Cllr S McLean (Chair); Cllr K Dove; Cllr F Walsh; Cllr H Boon; Cllr P Gasson; Cllr R Wade;  
Cllr T Wade  
Mrs J Dove (Clerk)

### **1674. Open Session for Parishioners.**

No parishioners attended

### **1675. Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **1676. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.**

All Councillors declared their interest in the discussion on setting the Precept as residents of Harringworth.

### **1677. To consider any dispensation requests and to grant such dispensations as the Clerk may consider necessary.**

The Clerk granted them dispensation to discuss this matter.

### **1678. To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be signed as an accurate record.**

The minutes were accepted as accurate and signed by the Chair.


### **1679. Matters arising**

- a. **Blocked Culverts:** The Clerk confirmed that NNC would be clearing the blocked culverts under the viaduct on the Northamptonshire side on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> when the road to Seaton would be fully closed. Cllr Dove requested that the Clerk confirms with the contractors that the soil at the opening of the culverts will be removed.
- b. **Turtle Bridge:** There is still no progress on repairs to Turtle Bridge. The Clerk has been informed that they are still awaiting planning permission from NNC to proceed.
- c. **Footpaths Update:** Cllr Walsh, Footpaths Officer, reported that he had recently checked the village footpaths and would be undertaking work, either by himself or with a working party, to clear overgrown areas where required. This would include the footpath opposite

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the Church beside Percy's Cottage, the Shotley footpath, the hornbeam hedge on Jubilee Green and Percy's Path.

- d. **New Burial Ground Update:** Cllr Dove reported that the fencing team had done a great job to enclose the new burial ground extension. Cllrs Dove & Walsh were thanked for the work they did at the weekend to clear the land and remove the old fencing. The area would now be ready for grass seed in the spring. He outlined the costs already incurred and was optimistic that the project would come in considerably below the provision for the work in the PC accounts. While present the fencing team also replaced the main church path gateposts and rehung the gates.
- e. **Manor Farm Stables:** Cllr Boon confirmed that the Stables insurance policy covers incidents anywhere in the village, not just on the road and bridleways.

### 1680. Routine Financial Matters

- a. To review payments received Burial Plot £480.00
- b. These pre-approved payments were reviewed:
- Bank Charges £6.00 & £6.00
- Yu Energy £36.37 & £2.86 & £44.09
- RBL Wreaths £40.00
- PWLB Repayment £299.96
- Clerk's Pay £319.50 (inc back pay)
- HMRC £79.80
- Deposit for new burial ground fence  
£1623.14 (50%)
- Leics Gardens £264.60 & £529.20  
(inc VAT)
- T.P. Jones Payroll Services £80.52
- c. To approve payments:
- Deposit for new church gate posts £593.88 (50%). This payment had already been approved by email to the Councillors so that work could proceed.
- d. The reconciliation sheet was approved by the Councillors and signed by Cllr Tom Wade, Finance Officer.

1681. Draft of Budget for FY2026/27 & Precept

Cllr Tom Wade, Finance Officer, had done a review of PC spend so far this FY after 7 months. As things stand, the income over expenditure for the year is forecast to have a positive variance against budget of just over £500. The works on the burial ground extension have also come in comfortably under the provisioned figure. This was explained to the Councillors which gave rise to a discussion on next year's budget. Given that grass cutting is by far the largest expense for the PC it was decided that a draft budget could not yet be drawn up as we do not yet have costs for this for next year. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that our current grass cutting contractors, Leicestershire Gardens, have become VAT registered. This VAT is reclaimable by the PC and the Clerk will now reclaim VAT quarterly rather than annually to help the cash flow.

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On the assumption that our grass cutting costs will increase next year, the Councillors unanimously agreed that they consider the Precept should be raised by 4% next year to £7373.60 in order to cover this. This will be confirmed at the next PC meeting in January.

#### **1682. Grass Cutting Review**

The Finance Officer suggested that we begin a review of grass cutting in the New Year when the chancellor's budget has passed and the contractors will have a better idea of their costs for the FY 2026/27.

#### **1683. Burial Charges Review**

The Clerk presented a review of the Burial Charges for Harringworth Burial Ground. Comparisons were made with 5 other local burial grounds. Whilst like-for-like comparisons were not always possible, following discussion amongst the Councillors it was agreed that our charges were fair and broadly in line with other villages and therefore no changes would be made to our burial charges at this stage.

#### **1684. Purchase of additional defibrillator for village**


Following on from the very successful CPR training evening organised by Cllr Gasson at the Village Hall, a discussion arose amongst residents present on that evening as to whether the PC should purchase an additional defibrillator for the village in order to make it more accessible to remoter parts of the village. This was discussed in detail by the Councillors, but it was decided not to purchase another defibrillator, but to focus on offering more training to residents on CPR and encourage residents to train as First Response volunteers.

#### **1685. Highway Matters**

Cllr Richard Wade shared his correspondence with Rutland CC concerning the lack of road markings at the junction of Seaton Road with Morcott Hill, following 4 further accidents there recently. Pressure would continue to be put on RCC via the local MP and Seaton Parish Council. Cllr Walsh had been asked by some residents to research speed controlling measures in the village, such as flashing speed signs mounted on telegraph poles or freestanding. He had been contacted by Kier, the NNC Highways contractor, with information on what is available. The PC asked him to look into some more detail costings and report back to the next meeting.

#### **1686. Planning Matters**

There were no current planning matters to discuss.

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The Clerk confirmed that neither she, nor our Ward Councillors Simon Fairhall, had still not had any satisfactory replies from the Planning Dept on the situation regarding the White Swan pub.

**1687. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Thursday January 15th 2026 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.36pm.

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