

Minutes of the Harringworth Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

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

1688. Open Session for Parishioners.

Ward Councillor Simon Fairhall attended the meeting as an onlooker. He updated the Councillors on a number of North Northamptonshire Council matters and an Appendix is attached to the Minutes summarising these.

1689. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr T Wade & Cllr H Boon

1690. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

All Councillors declared their interests as residents of Harringworth in their discussion of the Precept.

1691. To consider any dispensation requests and to grant such dispensations as the Clerk may consider necessary.

The Clerk agreed to the request for dispensation for Councillors to discuss the Precept.

1692. To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th November 2025 be signed as an accurate record.

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

1693. Matters Arising:

a. **Blocked culverts under the viaduct:** Highways attended the site in December and spent half a day clearing 3 of the culverts. Cllr Dove pointed out that this had not solved the issue completely although it was agreed that the water did seem to be running under the road more quickly. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways to suggest they contact the landowner to deal with the flooding issue further downstream.

b. **Grass Cutting Contract:** Following discussions with our existing contractor, Leicestershire Gardens, Cllr Tom Wade has negotiated a 3-year contract maintaining our

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existing price per cut for Year 1 rising by 4% in Year 2 and Year 3. It is planned to have 14 cuts in the growing season. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Councillors. The Clerk agreed to request a schedule of cuts for the year.

- c. **Seaton Road Junction Markings:** These have finally been done and there has been a noticeable reduction in incidents at the junction. Cllr Dove commented that the hedge on the left-hand side as you come down from Morcott should be cut and discussions were underway with Highways to improve the Give Way signs. Cllr Richard Wade was thanked for his efforts in getting the junction improved.

1694. Routine Financial Matters

- a. The following payments were received: VAT Repayment Apr-Nov 25
£998.40
- a. These pre-approved payments were reviewed: FJH Fencing (Balance)
£2217.03
Village Hall Hire Mar-Jul £75
Leics Gardens £529.20
Yu Energy £49.17 & £54.65
Clerk's Pay Oct-Dec £291.85
HMRC Oct-Dec £72.80
Bank Service Charge £6.00
& £6.00
- b. The following payments were approved: No payments to approve
- c. The reconciliation sheet was approved by the Cllrs and was signed off by Cllr McLean in the absence of Cllr T Wade.

1695. Setting of Budget for FY2026/27 & Setting of Precept

The budget was unanimously approved by the Councillors and a 4% uplift on the Precept for FY 2026/27 was agreed.

It was agreed that there were some urgent tree works in the Churchyard which needed attention and the Clerk would seek a quote for a tree survey.

1696. Street Wardens

Cllr P Gasson raised the suggestion of nominating Councillors as Street Wardens for different parts of the village. This was discussed but decided that residents had good and open access to all Parish Councillors and there was not a requirement for another level of oversight.

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1697. Parish Nature Recovery Plan

Correspondence had been received about this which has previously been addressed by Cllr F Walsh. He agreed to reply and indicate that the PC have no jurisdiction over land which they do not own.

1698. Tree Works

Correspondence had been received about falling branches from a tree in the Churchyard. Cllr K Dove and Cllr F Walsh agreed to inspect this on behalf of the PC. As it had been 5 years since our last Tree Report, the Clerk was requested to gather quotes on a new Tree Survey for the Churchyard.

1699. Highway Matters

- **Water Trough:** this is now overflowing again and causing a serious hazard when the water flows down the highway and freezes over. Numerous approaches the Highways to come and unblock the pipe again (as they did last year) have met with deaf ears. Cllr Simon Fairhall agreed to submit a Member Enquiry on this issue.
- **Wakerley Quarry Liaison Group:** Cllr S McLean attended the latest meeting of this Group. There had been no complaints about noise and work was being scaled back at present due to reduced demand. The next meeting is on April 22nd 2026.
- **VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed Indicator):** Cllr F Walsh reported back on his findings regarding the installation of flashing speed indicators for the village. The pros and cons were considered. It was agreed that the Councillors would go away and give some thought to this with a view to discussing it at the next PC meeting. Cllr R Wade has agreed to coordinate a volunteer-based "Speedwatch" programme for the village as a precursor to this, in order to accumulate some hard data as to the speeding issues in the village.

1700. Planning Matters

There were no planning matters to discuss.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday March 12th 2026

The date for the Annual Parish Open Meeting has been set for Thursday April 23rd 2026

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.25pm

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