BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026
AT BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

PRESENT Cllr. Mr. S. Johnson (Chairman of Billing Parish Council)
Cllrs. Mr. D. Brede, Rev. R. Burbidge, Mr. J. Marlow, Mr. P. Nock, Mr S. Rockall, Mr. S. Ward.

Also Present: Mrs. C. Goodridge (Clerk to Billing Parish Council)
Mr. P. Marks (Green Space Manager)
Rachel Clarke (Cre8Change)
Mr. M. Deakes (West Northamptonshire Unitary Ward Councillor)
Mr. S. Hays (West Northamptonshire Unitary Ward Councillor)
1 Parishioner

Item no		Action
115	***Apologies for Absence*** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mr F. Brett, Mrs. G Chaggar, Mr R. Chamberlin (Vice Chair), Mr. S. Marsh and Mr. S. Young. Apologies were also received from Mr. D. Lang (Highways Warden). No apologies were received from Mr. B. Patel.	
116	***Minutes*** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2026 (Folio Nos. 061/2026 to 071/2026) were approved and signed as true records.	
117	***To Receive Declarations of Interest Under the Council's Code of Conduct*** None declared	
118	**To receive requests for dispensation** None received	
119	***Public Forum*** A resident raised concerns regarding an increase in the use of illegal e-scooters, bikes and motorbikes within Ecton Brook, including five incidents involving youths on motorbikes on the pathway between Ecton Brook and Fishponds Road, during which threats were made towards his dog. One incident had been reported to the police. The Clerk advised that all future incidents should be reported to the police to assist in building an evidence base. Concerns were also raised regarding speeding on Ecton Brook Road; the Clerk advised that the location had already been referred to the local PCSOs for consideration as part of future Speed Watch operations and would also raise the anti-social behaviour concerns with them.	
120 a	***Reports from Outside Agencies*** Rachel from Cre8Change reported the following: • Regularly having 20 to 30 people per session • A resident meeting with West Northamptonshire Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Charlie Hastie, is being arranged in response to the number of concerns raised regarding Northampton Partnership Homes bungalows.	

Item no		Action
120 a	***Reports from Outside Agencies (continued):*** • An investigation is being held into the way in which the Bellinge evacuation was handled by Northants Police and West Northamptonshire Council.	
b	In the absence of Northamptonshire Police, the Clerk reported the following: • They are receiving a high number of noise disturbance complaints involving the area around the carpark at Ecton Brook Shops and Jungle@Bips. • They are awaiting confirmation from the Sergeant of what information can be shared surrounding the fire and evacuation of Bellinge last month. • The crime figures for the WNC Unitary Ward of Billing from 1st August to 9th September:	
c	Mr M. Deakes and Mr. S. Hays West Northamptonshire Billing Ward Councillors reported: • A member's enquiry has been submitted to West Northamptonshire Council following the Bellinge Evacuation to understand the process when things liken this occur and if lines of communication can be improved. • Numerous member enquiries are being chased, Ecton Brook Lake bridge and fly tipping. • Any outstanding West Northamptonshire issues please let them know.	
121 a	***Planning*** To consider the following planning applications: • **2026/0978/FULL** - 34 Lakeside Drive, Ecton Brook – Revised plans for double storey front extension **– No comments or objections** • **2026/2203/HH** – 75 Ecton Park Road, Ecton Brook - Change to the proposal from 'Two storey extensions to the dwelling and rear garden regrading' to 'Two storey extensions to the dwelling'. Additional site plan showing parking provisions of the site received. Photograph of the frontage showing parking arrangements received. Revised Design and Access Statement omitting garden regrading received **- No comments or objections** • **2026/2582/HH** - 5 Station Road, Great Billing - Construct entrance porch and replace rear conservatory with flat roof garden room - **No comments or objections** • **2026/3013/TPO** - 22 Penfold Lane, Great Billing - T1: beech - crown lift to a height of 5 metres all round to provide sufficient clearance. T2: multi-stemmed sycamore - crown lift to a height of 5 metres to provide sufficient clearance - **No comments or objections** • **2026/3529/LDE** - Certificate (Existing) 21 Lasham Court, Bellinge - Lawful development certificate (existing) for large detached single storey outbuilding - **No comments or objections**	
b	The following determinations had been received from WNC: • **WNN/2022/0418** - Land at Wildacre Drive, Northampton - Construction 5 no. dwelling houses and associated works including vehicular accesses, private driveway and parking – **DISPOSED OF**	

Crime Occurrence	Number
Shoplifting	49
All other Theft Offences	24
Theft from Motor Vehicle	10
Vehicle Interference	4
Burglary – Residential Home	3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	4
Bicycle Theft	1
Theft from Person	1
Burglary – Business/ Community	1

Item no		Action
121 b	***Planning (continued)*** The following determinations had been received from WNC: • **2026/0978/**FULL - 34 Lakeside Drive, Ecton Brook - Double storey front extension – **REFUSED** • **2026/1459/FULL** - 3 Shepperton Close, Great Billing - Construction of rear and side 2m boundary fence – **APPROVED** • **2026/2203/HH -** 75 Ecton Park Road, Ecton Brook - Two storey extensions to the dwelling – **APPROVED** • **2026/2243/TPO** – 32 Penfold Lane, Great Billing - T1: Ash - Pollard to single stem which is to be retained at 4m. Previously pollarded at 6-7m due to decay which is now more extensive resulting in recent main lateral failure. – **APPROVED** • **2026/2256/HH** - 19 Fishers Close - Two-storey side extension, part construction above the existing garage which is to be retained – **APPROVED** • **2026/2493/TCA** - 17A Manor Lodge, Elwes Way, Great Billing - Removal of 1x Apple tree due to its impact on nearby stone wall and tree disease. To be replace by a Fig or Pear tree further down the wall – **APPROVED** • **2026/2501/HH** - 7 Ham Meadow Drive, Ecton Brook - Outbuilding incidental to main dwelling house – **APPROVED** • **2026/2537/PIP** - 68 Valley Road, Northampton, NN3 9AL - Planning in principle for proposed access and development of up to 5 bungalows – **REFUSED** • **2026/3013/TPO** - 22 Penfold Lane, Great Billing - T1: beech - crown lift to a height of 5 metres all round to provide sufficient clearance. T2: multi-stemmed sycamore - crown lift to a height of 5 metres to provide sufficient clearance – **Approved**	
c	The following enforcement were discussed: • 26 Home Farm Close, Little Billing – Still being reviewed by WNC legal team. • 9 Church Walk – No further update has been received since the acknowledgment letter. • 68 Valley Road, Little Billing – The Clerk has submitted an enforcement request to WNC and received an acknowledgement confirming that, due to the number of cases currently under investigation, it may take up to six weeks before any further update is received. They have been in contact and requested photos which were sent last week. • 24 Penfold Lane – The Clerk has submitted an enforcement request to WNC and received an acknowledgement confirming that, due to the number of cases currently under investigation, it may take up to six weeks before any further update is received.	
122 a	***Finance*** RESOLVED to APPROVE the following payments from 1st July to 31st August 2026.	

Payee Name	Transaction Detail	Power	Amount Paid
SOUTH NORTHANTS	First Aid Summer Fayre	LA2011S1-8	220.00
Barclaycard	Barclaycard payment	LA2011S1-8	730.27
D F PHIPPS	Mowing/Strimming June	LA2011S1-8	3452.40
YU ENERGY	Great & Little Billing Streetlights Jun	LA2011S1-8	251.90
CRE8CHANGE	2nd part of agreed grant	LGA1972S137	2850.00
Current Account Unity Trust	Reserves trans to new bank	LA2011S1-8	123,521.80
NATWEST BANK	Account closure charge	LA2011S1-8	2.80
NATWEST BANK	Bank charges	LA2011S1-8	15.18
BRITISH GAS	Pavilion electric 14/05-16/06	LA2011S1-8	159.93
Deposit Account Unity Trust	Transfer to reserve acct	LA2011S1-8	50,000.00
CLEAR BUSINESS	Tel & Broadband July	LA2011S1-8	55.44

Item no		Action
122 a	***Finance*** RESOLVED to APPROVE the following payments from 1st July to 31st August 2026.	

Payee Name	Transaction Detail	Power	Amount Paid
O2	GSM/Clerk Mobile June	LA2011S1-8	69.27
BRITISH GAS	Pavilion electric 7/7-14/7	LA2011S1-8	100.11
PPL PRS LMITED	Music Licence	LA2011S1-8	332.73
BEACH MARKETING LTD	Web -Accessibility Compliance	LA2011S1-8	960.00
BACA WORKWEAR & SAFETY	Gloves x 12 + 1 driver gloves	LA2011S1-8	41.58
NORTHANTS CALC	Cllr. Training x 3 sessions	LA2011S1-8	190.80
SMALL BUSINESS PAYROLL	Salary & payroll Service July	LA2011S1-8	6208.07
PFK LITTLE JOHN LLP	External Audit Service 2025/26	LA2011S1-8	756.00
FPWM LTD	Pavilion bin collection June	LA2011S1-8	138.80
NEST	Clerk / GSM pension June	LA2011S1-8	756.44
UNITY TRUST BANK	Bank charges	LA2011S1-8	7.00
Barclaycard	Barclaycard payment	LA2011S1-8	257.57
N J BARBER LTD	Pavilion cleaning July	LA2011S1-8	380.24
BELLINGE COMMUNITY	Approved Grant	LGA1972S137	5,000.00
YU ENERGY	Great & Little Billing Streetlights Jul	LA2011S1-8	278.42
WICKSTEED LEISURE LTD	New playground installation	LA2011S1-8	28,680.33
DARREN WILLIAMS SIGNWRITING	Chairman board update	LA2011S1-8	90.00
D F PHIPPS	Mow/ strim July	LA2011S1-8	694.80
LONSDALE DIRECT SOLUTIONS	Magazine production	LA2011S1-8	943.00
TRIM & PROPER TREE SURGEONS	Tree work play areas	LA2011S1-8	1200.00
PARISH ONLINE - LOCAL	Mapping software	LA2011S1-8	336.00
LOCAL LEAFLET DROP LIMITED	Newsletter delivery	LA2011S1-8	351.00
O2	GSM/Clerk Mobile July	LA2011S1-8	69.27
CLEAR BUSINESS	Tel & Broadband August	LA2011S1-8	55.44
THOMAS HAULAGE LTD	Spoil Collection 27.08.2026	LA2011S1-8	321.00
ANGLIAN WATER BUSINESS	Pavilion water bill 10/5-09/8	LA2011S1-8	240.31
BACA WORKWEAR & SAFETY	Wheelie Bin Liners	LA2011S1-8	38.69
FUTURE ROOMS LTD	Workshop deposit 1	LA2011S1-8	21,512.00
FPWM LTD	Pavilion bin collection July	LA2011S1-8	145.55
A J MILLS MASTER MASONS LTD	Restoration-Great Billing War Memorial	LA2011S1-8	5760.00
SMALL BUSINESS PAYROLL	Salary & payroll Service Aug	LA2011S1-8	5668.36
NEST	Clerk / GSM pension August	LA2011S1-8	688.37
UNITY TRUST BANK	Bank Charges	LA2011S1-8	9.10

Charges included in the Barclaycard payments were as follows:

Payee Name	Transaction Detail	Power	Amount Paid
TOMAS (HAULAGE) LTD	Topsoil - Bellinge Field	LA2011S1-8	264.00
ALDI STORES	Milk for history meeting	LA2011S1-8	1.20

Item no		Action
122 a	***Finance (continued)*** Charges included in the Barclaycard payments were as follows:	

Payee Name	Transaction Detail	Power	Amount Paid
HOBBYCRAFT	Paper for display board	LA2011S1-8	39.50
TESCOS PFS	Fuel for GSM truck	LA2011S1-8	125.23
ALDI STORES	Pavilion cleaning products	LA2011S1-8	8.32
TOOLSTATION	Plastic filler	LA2011S1-8	6.99
CURRYS ONLINE	Computer monitor	LA2011S1-8	99.00
AMAZON MARKET PLACE	Square Posts x 2	LA2011S1-8	168.98
TESCOS PFS	Fuel for machinery	LA2011S1-8	17.05
B&M	Tarpaulin for Billing fayre	LA2011S1-8	10.00
TESCOS PFS	Fuel for machinery	LA2011S1-8	8.98
MATRIX ARCHITECTURAL	Pavilion door handle	LA2011S1-8	30.86
TESCOS PFS	Fuel for machinery	LA2011S1-8	22.25
ALDI STORES	Meeting catering & wipes	LA2011S1-8	4.52
URBASER ECTON LANE	Wood waste to refuge centre	LA2011S1-8	70.35
BP PETROL STATION	Fuel for GSM truck	LA2011S1-8	110.61

b It was RESOLVED that the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to Budget up to 31st August 2026 be APPROVED.

c RESOLVED that the July and August 2026 bank reconciliation statements for the Natwest Current, Natwest Reserve, Unity Trust Current and Unity Trust Reserve and CCLA account be APPROVED and were duly signed by Cllr. Burbidge. The account balances as 31st August 2026 were:

Natwest Current Account	£0,00
Natwest Reserve Account	£1.39
Unity Trust Current Account	£52,227.26
Unity Trust Reserve Account	£20,000.00
Investment Account	£345,862.25

d RESOLVED that the following works authorised by the clerk under the agreed Scheme of Delegation in July and August be APPROVED:

Contractor	Works	Reason	Cost (inc. vat)	Date Agreed by Clerk	Budget Codes		
Lonsdale Direct	Printing	Printing Newsletter	£ 643.00	14/07/2026	4205 Printing	120 Newsletter	
Lonsdale Direct	Artwork	Artwork for newsletter	£ 250.00	14/07/2026	420 Artwork	120 Newsletter	
Local Leaflet Drop	Delivery	Delivery of Newsletters	£ 351.00	14/07/2026	4210 Delivery	120 Newsletter	
D F Phipps	Plinth and plaque installation	To commemorate Graeme Gardner	£ 99.00	23/07/2026	4325 Fencing	320 The Garden of Reflection	
Darren Williams Signwriter	Sign writing the chairman's board	To update the chairs details	£ 90.00	29/07/2026	4300 Repairs & maintenance	200 Pavilion	

Item no		Action
122 d	***Finance (continued)***	

Contractor	Works	Reason	Cost (inc. vat)	Date Agreed by Clerk	Budget Codes		
Eason Electrical	Disconnect outside electrical supply. Replace light in hall and light sensor in wc.	Faulty sensor and light. To aid workshop renovation.	£ 165.00	30/07/2026	4300 Repairs & maintenance	200 Pavilion	
Forde & McHugh	Streetlight repairs	Lights 89 & 93	£ 390.00	04/08/2026	4300 Repairs & maintenance	180 Street Lighting	
Parish Online	Mapping Software	Annual renewal	£ 280.00	08/08/2026	4145 Subscriptions	100 Administration	
Thomas Haulage Ltd	Soil collection	To aid groundwork	£260.00	12/08/2026	4300 Tools & Consumables	520 Tools & Consumables	
NCALC	eLearning courses	Councillor / Staff Development Framework	£ 112.00	17/08/2026	4095 Training Staff	100 Administration	
Bell Fencing Services	To supply & install gate posts at the Graden of Reflection	Gate posts rotten and gate hanging	£ 450.00	19/08/2026	4325 Fencing	320 The Garden of Reflection	
Thomas Haulage Ltd	Soil collection	To aid groundwork	£ 260.00	26/08/2026	4300 Tools & Consumables	520 Tools & Consumables	

e	**RESOLVED** that the Internal Control Report and comments for Quarter 1 2026/2027 be **APPROVED**.	
f	**RESOLVED** that a further donation of £500.00 be made to the Royal British Legion in addition to the purchase of wreaths at £54.00 including vat be **APPROVED**. Clerk to arrange.	Clerk
g	Members considered the review of grant funding for the Cre8Change Grant and noted that there had been a significant surplus of grant funding remaining at the end of the previous financial year, which had been carried forward into the current financial year. In light of the available carried-forward funds, Members agreed that any further grant funding should be restricted to venue hire costs only, with no additional staffing, administration, equipment or operational costs to be funded. Members noted the venue hire costs of £60 per day which are the venue hire rates applied at the start of the current financial year. However, Rachel Clarke advised that she had been informed by Mo at Community Spaces Northampton that venue hire charges are likely increasing by 8% from October 2026, although the revised hourly rates were not yet available. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £60.00 per day plus up to an additional 8% towards venue hire costs only for the period October 2026 to March 2027, based on a two-day delivery model, including Bank Holiday sessions should these proceed (52 sessions). The grant will be funded from the Bellinge Community House Earmarked Reserve. Rachel Clarke has been asked to provide attendee sign-in sheets, a spreadsheet of accounts and supporting receipts/invoices for monitoring purposes. The Clerk will contact Community Spaces Northampton to obtain confirmation of the revised hourly hire charges and then make the necessary payment.	Clerk
h	It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the purchase of a replacement parish line marker from Sports Equip at a cost of £265.00 plus VAT. The GSM will arrange the replacement.	GSM

Item no		Action
122	***Finance (continued)***	
i	In accordance with the Council's Crime & Disorder Policy and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, consideration was given to the crime and disorder implications of the proposal. As the existing noticeboards are being replaced on a like-for-like basis, no impact on crime and disorder is anticipated. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the purchase and installation of two external parish noticeboards from Broxap at a total cost of £3,105.00 plus VAT (including carriage), to be funded from the Asset Earmarked Reserve. The Clerk was instructed to place the order.	Clerk
123	***Other Matters***	
a	**Future Use of Storage Container** Members considered the future use of the storage container and discussed the potential for it to be retained for use by the football teams for the storage of goal equipment. It was noted that the container cannot remain in its current location due to its position on the boundary of the cricket field and would therefore require relocation. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that if the football teams can successfully accommodate their goals within the container, the container will be allocated for their use and a budget of £350.00 be approved to cover the cost of relocating it. If it is not possible to store the goals within the container, the container will be advertised for free, with any interested party responsible for all costs associated with its removal and relocation. Cllr. Nock advised that there are companies willing to collect containers free of charge and agreed to provide the relevant contact details to the Clerk should the football teams be unable to make use of the container.	PN GSM Clerk
b	**Projects, Priorities and Objectives Meeting 2027/28** Members agreed to hold a meeting of all councillors on 12th October 6.30pm to discuss potential projects, priorities and objectives for the 2027/28 financial year to inform the budget and work programme.	
c	**Finance Working Group Budget Meeting 2027/28** Members agreed that the Finance Working Group budget meeting would be held on 15th October at 11am to consider the draft budget and precept requirements for 2027/28, with all councillors welcome to attend.	
d	**Valley Road Traffic Calming Request** Members considered residents' concerns regarding traffic levels, vehicle speeds and pedestrian safety on Valley Road and Valley Crescent. It was **RESOLVED** to support the residents' request and ask West Northamptonshire Council Highways to review the area and assess whether traffic calming or other highway safety measures are appropriate. The Clerk was authorised to liaise with the residents and West Northamptonshire Council and report back to a future meeting.	Clerk
e	**HR Working Group** **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for the HR Committee be **APPROVED**. Following the adoption of the Terms of Reference, it was further **RESOLVED** that the existing HR Working Group, comprising Cllrs. Johnson, Marlow and Rockall, be reconstituted as an HR Committee. It was also RESOLVED that Cllr. Marsh be appointed as an additional member of the Committee.	
f	**Disposal of Assets** It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the disposal of the following assets in accordance with the Council's Asset and Disposal Policy: • **Shed:** Disposed of following the replacement of the workshop building, as it was no longer required. • **Chairs:** Gifted/donated following the purchase of replacement chairs. • **Tea Urn:** Disposed of as it was beyond economical repair.	

Item no		Action
123	***Other Matters (continued)***	
g	**Possible Bus Shelter on Wellingborough Road** Cllr. Brede advised that discussions had taken place with West Northamptonshire Council regarding the provision of a bus shelter on Wellingborough Road. Members were informed that, should the Parish Council fund its installation, the cost of the shelter proposed would be £16,647.00 plus VAT. Members questioned whether the Parish Council would be required to install that specific shelter or whether a more cost-effective alternative could be considered. It was also noted that a site visit with West Northamptonshire Council had not yet taken place to confirm the suitability of the proposed location. The Clerk advised that no decision on expenditure could be made under the agenda item and that there was insufficient provision within the 2026/27 budget to fund the shelter at the quoted cost. Should the specific shelter be required, funding would need to be considered as part of the 2027/28 budget-setting process. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer consideration of the matter until the site visit had been undertaken and clarification received regarding the shelter options available.	DB
h	**Pavilion Renovations** The Clerk reported that Cllr. Chamberlin had advised that he was not willing to prepare the required drawings and considered that a specialist company should be appointed to undertake the work. Members noted that suitable CAD drawings and any required Building Regulations application would need to be completed before the project could proceed to the tender stage. A quotation had been received from Arctek Designs for the preparation of CAD drawings at a cost of £400 plus VAT, with optional additional services available for the submission of a Building Regulations application and preparation of tender documentation at a rate of £90 per hour plus VAT. Following discussion, Members agreed that the quotation represented good value and **RESOLVED** to proceed with the appointment of Arctek Designs for the preparation of the CAD drawings at a cost of £400 plus VAT. It was further **RESOLVED** that, once the drawings had been received, two additional builders be approached to provide indicative cost estimates for the works, enabling Members to better assess the likely project costs before progressing to the tender stage. Cllr. Chamberlin to progress.	RC
i	**Grass Cutting Contract** Members considered the Internal Auditor's recommendation that the Council review the Grass Cutting Contract and undertake a tender exercise, noting that a formal review of the contract had not been carried out for a number of years. The Clerk advised that this recommendation was not a reflection on the performance of the current contractor, D F Phipps, who continues to provide excellent value for money, a high level of customer service, and consistently delivers work of an exceptional standard. Members noted that the contractor has developed detailed knowledge of the Council's sites and requirements, takes pride in the work undertaken, and maintains the grounds to a standard that is second to none. Whilst the Clerk recommended that the contract be tendered in line with good procurement practice, Members considered the quality of the existing service and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that, subject to D F Phipps being willing to continue providing the service, the Council would not proceed with a tender exercise at this time. The Clerk was requested to obtain updated costs for the 2027 season and ensure that the necessary insurance and liability documentation is in place.	Clerk
j	**West Northamptonshire Council Fly Tipping Signage** Members considered the request from the West Northamptonshire Billing Ward Councillors, for the installation of multilingual fly-tipping prevention signage highlighting the penalties that may be imposed on offenders, on Parish Council-owned lamp posts. Members were supportive of measures to reduce fly-tipping and raise awareness within the community. However, it was noted that the locations identified for the proposed signage (Bellinge and Ecton Brook) do not contain Parish Council-owned lamp posts and, therefore, any permissions required for installation would need to be obtained from West Northamptonshire Council. Members did **RESOLVE** however that	SH Clerk

Item no		Action
123 j	***Other Matters (continued)*** a copy of the signage provided by Cllr. Hays could be published in the Parish magazine to support the campaign and help increase public awareness.	
k	**Defibrillator Replacement Request** Members considered a request regarding the defibrillator located at the Elwes Arms. It was noted that the original defibrillator had been purchased through funds raised by a group of individuals and donated to the public house. The make and model of the unit are currently unknown; however, if it is an older model similar to two of the Parish Council's existing defibrillators, replacement batteries may no longer be available, which could necessitate replacement of the entire unit. Members also noted that the defibrillator is located approximately 140 yards from the Parish Council-owned defibrillator on the High Street and approximately 300 yards from the unit at the Sports Pavilion. In addition, access to the device is restricted to the opening hours of the public house. Members further noted that the landlord of the Elwes Arms is a serving Parish Councillor and, whilst no conflict had arisen, this was a relevant consideration in the Council's deliberations. Having considered the proximity of alternative publicly accessible defibrillators and the limited accessibility of the unit, it was resolved that, should investigation confirm that only a replacement battery is required, the Parish Council will fund the purchase of the battery. However, should the unit require full replacement, the matter is to be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration and agreement before any commitment to expenditure is made.	Clerk
124	***Updates***	
a	**Sporting Update** Members noted that one cricket match remains of the current season and that football activities have recommenced.	
b	**Bellinge Field Goals** Members noted that the painting of the goals remains outstanding and is being progressed by the Green Space Manager.	
c	**Lakes (including Cottage Gardens, Watkers and Ecton Brook)** Members noted that a site meeting was held at Watkers Lake on 24 August 2026. It was further reported that the Nene River Trust is currently unable to undertake work at Ecton Brook Lake as a project but has reconfirmed that ownership rests with West Northamptonshire Council. No further updates were available regarding Cottage Gardens.	
d	**Repair / Replacement of External Parish Noticeboards** Members noted that repairs to the Valley Road noticeboard remain outstanding, that a like-for-like replacement quotation is required for the High Street noticeboard in Great Billing, and that relocation options are being considered for the Ecton Brook noticeboard.	
e	**Great Billing Pocket Park Kick Wall Area** Members noted that one quotation had been received for the kick wall project and that additional quotations are being sought before the matter progresses further.	
f	**Great Billing Playground Renovations – Gate & Signage** Members noted that the associated tree works have been completed. A quotation has been received for the replacement gate, and two further quotations are required, whilst the playground signage remains outstanding.	
g	**War Memorial Repair – Great Billing** Members noted that the repair works to the Great Billing War Memorial have been completed.	

Item no		Action
124	***Updates (continued)***	
h	**Trees in St Andrews Churchyard** Members noted that a planning application has been submitted to West Northamptonshire Council and is currently still awaiting determination by the planning authority.	
i	**Internal Parish Noticeboard** Members noted that the installation of the internal parish noticeboard has been completed.	
j	**Police Commissioners Grant for New Speed Sign** Members noted that an update on the grant application remains outstanding from the clerk.	
k	**Pavilion Chairs** Members noted that the replacement of the pavilion chairs has been completed.	
l	**Financial Review** Members noted that the ongoing financial review continues.	
m	**Bin Request at Ecton Brook Lake** Members noted that correspondence had been sent to the resident and that a request for bin installation has been submitted to West Northamptonshire Council under reference HQKDHTT.	
n	**Bellinge Playground** Members noted that the playground project has been completed.	
o	**Bellinge MUGA** Members noted that contractors have visited the site to assess the area; however, no further update has been received from West Northamptonshire Council.	
p	**Ecogrids on the Entrance to The Leys** Members noted that the installation of the ecogrids by thr Green Space Manager remains outstanding.	
q	**Clearing of Linear Park** Members noted that the bridge adjacent to the lake has been reported for repair and is being actively pursued with the park ranger. No clearing works have yet been undertaken.	
r	**Refurbishment of Path from Old School Close to Kingscroft Court** Members noted that the project remains outstanding and quotations are being sought.	
s	**Christmas Community Event** Members noted that initial planning discussions have taken place, with provisional events proposed for 21 and 22 December 2026. The events are intended for residents of pensionable age and may include an afternoon tea or two-course meal together with festive entertainment.	
t	**Land Registry** Members noted that this matter is currently on hold pending confirmation from Michael Clasper as to whether the original transfer documents for Little Billing Pocket Park can be located.	
u	**Tree Preservation Order Request** Members noted that Michael Venton, Tree Officer at West Northamptonshire Council, has advised that a report will be prepared once workload permits.	

Item no		Action
124	***Updates (continued)***	
v	**Section 106 – Ecton Brook Playground behind Dandelion Close** Members noted that West Northamptonshire Council is awaiting quotations from Wicksteed Leisure in relation to the project.	
w	**Health & Safety Training** Members noted that health and safety training has commenced.	
x	**Definitive Map** No further update from WNC.	
y	**Health and Wellbeing Plan** Members noted that details of the plan were included within the Summer Magazine, that thirteen responses have been received to date, and that a meeting with West Northamptonshire Council regarding the Ageing Well Project is scheduled for October 2026.	
z	**Additional Lighting – Bernard Weston Pavilion Driveway** Members noted that the lighting installation requires commissioning and switching on.	
aa	**Truck Recall** Members noted that the vehicle recall remains on hold with the garage.	
bb	**NALC Bronze Award** Members noted that the application has been submitted and is awaiting completion of the triage process.	
cc	**Summer Magazine** Members noted that the Summer Magazine has been printed and distributed.	
dd	**Workshop Update** Members noted that the groundworks have been completed and the building installation is underway. Electrical works and the internal fit-out remain outstanding.	
ee	**Heritage Boards** Members noted that progress on the heritage boards remains on hold due to budget constraints.	
ff	**Bank Account Signatories** Members noted that the banking transfer has been completed, new account details have been provided to CCLA, and the remaining paperwork has tonight been signed by Cllr. Brede.	
gg	**Bench for Little Billing Pocket Park** Members noted that the bench has been received and is awaiting installation by the Green Space Manager.	
hh	**Land off Fishponds Road, adjacent to The Leys** Members noted that Cllr. Marlow will arrange a meeting regarding the site.	
ii	**Tree Works within Great Billing Playground and Bizzy Bears Compound** Members noted that the tree works have been completed.	
jj	**Cllr. Gardner's Plaque** Members noted that the plaque and plinth have been ordered and installation is awaited.	

Item no		Action
124	***Updates (continued)***	
kk	**Pavilion Electricity Renewal** Members noted that further discount had been secured from Yu Energy and a three-year contract has been agreed, commencing on 18 October 2026, with the transfer being managed by Bionic.	
ll	**NPH Request to Remove Trees at Campion Court** Members noted that Northampton Partnership Homes has been contacted and an up-to-date assessment report from a tree specialist has been requested.	
mm	**Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the Year Ended 31 March 2026** Members noted that the external audit conclusion has been received with no recommendations, and that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been displayed and inspection rights may be exercised.	
125	***Councillor Statements***	
a	Cllrs. Mr. D. Brede reported that the drain at Orchard Hill has been jetted.	
b	Mr. S. Ward reported that he has contacted the Community Payback Team to enquire whether they have any availability to assist with ongoing clearance works along Linear Park. He also advised that he has spoken with the Green Space Manager regarding the continuation of clearing activities within the area. In addition, he reported issues in Ecton Brook involving children using catapults to damage street lighting by smashing lamp fittings. However, he noted that Balfour Beatty have been extremely efficient in responding to and replacing the damaged streetlights.	
126	**Exclusion of the press and public – due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public are excluded from the next item on the agenda:**	
127	**Street Lighting Tender** Members considered the proposed tender documentation for the Street Lighting Repair, Refurbishment and Column Replacement Works. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the tender specification, pricing structure, submission requirements and associated terms for issue to prospective contractors in accordance with the Council's procurement procedures. It was further resolved that the tender submission deadline be set for 12:00 noon on 31 December 2026 and that, subject to the tender process, works would be programmed to commence in April 2027 within the new financial year, as additional budget provision will be required. Clerk will advertise accordingly.	Clerk
	It was further **RESOLVED** that resolved that all tender submissions received in respect of the Street Lighting Repair, Refurbishment and Column Replacement Works be opened on Thursday 14 January 2027 by the Clerk and Cllr. Chamberlin. In the event that Cllr. Chamberlin is unable to attend, Cllr. Johnson shall act as the nominated substitute for the tender opening process.	Clerk RC SJ
128	**Staff Matters**	
a	**RESOLVED** a pay increase be awarded (backdated to 1st April 2026) to Parish Council employee based on the agreed NJC pay scale be **APPROVED**. Clerk to advise Small Business Payroll.	Clerk
b	A confidential staff matter was discussed and managed in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures.	
129	**Date of Next Meeting and Closure** There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21:45pm. The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 12th October 2026 at Bernard Weston Pavilion, Penfold Lane, Northampton, NN3 9EF	