LILBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at 19:00hrs in Lilbourne Village Hall.

Attendees: Chairman Councillor Pope, Councillors Newhouse, Porter, Morley and Alexander.
Clerk: Mrs C E Valentine and Minibus Administrator: Mrs F Howells-Palin
Members of public: 1 and Ward Cllr A Simpson.

26/1168	**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** Apologies of absence received and approved for Councillors Chow and Kempe. (Personal)
26/1169	**TO CONFIRM ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA & DISPENSATION REQUESTS** 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. Cllr Morley declared an interest in item 26/1182 newsletter donation. Cllrs Hoult, Porter and Alexander declarations 26/1179/b payments. Cllr Alexander declared interest in item 26/1178/d Grant – As a Church Warden.
26/1170	**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 24th June 2026 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 16th June 2026 as correct records.
26/1171	**COMMUNITY MINIBUS SERVICE – UPDATES AND DISCUSSION** 1. Drivers — Recruitment update, MIDAS training needs, volunteer rota planning. Job description and advert to be advertised imminently. Closing date 14th August 2026. 2. School and Town Services — Review of current routes, timetables, demand levels, and any proposed service adjustments. The Chairman and Minibus Administrator held a meeting with the school to update and agree on transport procedures for September. Matter to be followed up as new Headteacher is due to start at the school. 3. Vehicle Status — Update on maintenance and repair requirements, bodywork, window replacement, and mirror/light repairs. It was noted the next safety check is due end of August and repairs have been completed. 4. WNC Offer of extension of contract further 12 months. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the offer to extend the contract for a further 12 months, with a 3% increase. This will assist towards increases to running costs including vehicle upkeep, together with associated employment and contractor costs, accepted as the maximum offer. 5. Home To School Transport Inspector requested Audit Meeting. Noted Minibus Administrator action to complete.
26/1172	**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** Members of the public are invited to address the Council. Representations are limited to 3 minutes per person with a maximum of 15 minutes total. None.
26/1173	**WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT** Apologies were received from Ward Cllr Humphreys. A written report was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting and is appended to the minutes. Cllr Simpson has helped regarding the enquiry into repairs to the fencing around the perimeter of the village hall playing field, and an update is awaited. The request for the parcel of land adjacent to the playing field to be transferred to the Parish Council for community benefit is scheduled for consideration at a future WNC Cabinet meeting later in the year. A member of the public undertook a review of pedestrian safety concerns along Station Road and produced a report highlighting the absence of footpaths and the risks posed to children crossing the road. Highways have offered to design a potential footway over the grass verge and will supply a cost for the design study; installation of a path is estimated at £50,000.

	Highways confirmed that improved signage can be implemented within the current financial year, with installation expected during Autumn/Winter. The Parish Council with Cllr Simpson will also review whether the area could be designated as a 20mph advisory zone or whether the Parish Council may install a vehicle-activated sign to help slow traffic or warn drivers of pedestrians.
26/1174	**PLANNING APPLICATIONS** To consider any new planning applications and matters not otherwise on the agenda. None To view or comment on a West Northamptonshire Council planning application go to: https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/planning-applications-and-enforcement/view-and-comment-planning-application Most recent applications:

Reference No.▶	Location▶	Proposal / Description▶	Valid Date▲	Decision Issue Date▶	Decision▶
2026/2752/ADV	Prologis UK Ltd DC12 DIRFT III DiRFT Drive Crick Daventry NN6 7EB	Installation of 4 no. non illuminated fascia sign		Comments by 6th August 2026	
2025/4954/FULL	Land North of Lilbourne Road, Clay Coton, Northamptonshire NN6 6JX	Creation of a new vehicular access.	17/11/2025	24/06/2026	Approval

	2026/2752/ADV – It was **RESOLVED** as no comment.
26/1175	**JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS REGARDING PLANNING MATTERS** Joint meeting with Yelvertoft Parish Council representatives regarding the field north of Lilbourne Rd for decision. The Chairman advised of a meeting Yelvertoft PC has arranged for the end of July regarding special projects with a specialist regarding highway and traffic issues. Update to follow at the next meeting.
26/1176	**NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) ADVISORY COMMITTEE** The committee provided an update on progress for decision. The Lilbourne NDP is progressing well and is being brought together. A public meeting will be arranged to share information and consult residents as the process advances. The group noted that 1.4 acres of land are now for sale and that the NDP addresses such matters within its policies. Response to a query regarding mapping - archaeological status. YourLocale confirmed data queried in the Lilbourne NDP report is from West Northants Council and already published public information. Chairman to write and confirm the response to member of public and where to find the information.
26/1177	**HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**
	a) Speed limit placement for eastbound traffic entering Lilbourne from the A5- Any updates and timeline with the speed limit review panel request. The Chairman has submitted the report and await feedback from the panel. b) Lilbourne Highway Safety Concerns on Station Road. Covered in item 26/1173 above. c) Wills Lane, condition and surface of bridleway and heavy goods traffic along Station Road. Cllr Simpson is kindly progressing this again with Highways. The road surface of the bridleway has been queried again with WNC as unsuitable for horses. It appears to have been laid down following HGV use by a company accessing the bridleway. A response was received from highways that did not appear to attend to the issue, so the next plan is to request an on-site visit with Highways/Rights of Way officer to bring attention to the matter. d) Local fishing – crayfish. It was noted that this matter had recently been raised on village social media. As this is not a Parish Council issue, members agreed that the appropriate advice to the public is to follow Government guidance and Environment Agency regulations.
26/1178	**VILLAGE PROJECTS, MAINTENANCE BURIAL GROUND**
	a) Renewing the line (football) marking for consideration. Quotes for a new gate to replace locking hoop. Football marking – Carry forward – Cllr Chow. It was **RESOLVED** to approve quote obtained by Cllr Hoult for the supply of gate materials and lock at £235.00 plus VAT. Cllrs RH & CP kindly offered

to install the gate. A "No parking" sign to be purchased for the gate. Likely work to be carried out over winter. Concrete will be purchased separately.

b) Village maintenance tender. The tender is under review, there are a number of jobs not included in the existing contract to be considered requiring attention around the village including the village hall, jubilee meadow (pocket park) along with work outside nesting season/winter. Councillors to review tender suggestions and revisit/budget. Noted that the tree surgeons that attended to the burial ground trees have suggested a maintenance plan for the trees and the mowing contractor routinely attends to various hedges on request. Clerk to see if other councils have a grounds maintenance plan with schedules/frequency.

c) Biodiversity work and policy for Pocket Park (Jubilee Meadow) The Chairman has a draft policy in preparation for circulation. Some work is to be considered in the village maintenance tender.

d) GRANT

All Saint's Church has requested a grant of £1529.95 to cover the cost of the annual insurance. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant. Cllr Alexander left the meeting during the discussion.

26/1179 **FINANCE**

a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation and payments list for July 2026. Bank Balance at 15.07.26 £52,636.71 . Cllr Morley to complete internal control checks. Budget/finance data circulated.

INCOME

Date	Who	Amount
14/07/2026	WNC FINANCE Concessions	£54.00
10/07/2026	Access - WNC Minibus	£735.60
03/07/2026	Access - WNC Minibus	£735.60
25/06/2026	WCC COUNTY FUND Concessions	£21.86
22/06/2026	Access - WNC Minibus	£735.60

b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments

July 2026					
Date	Who	Reason	Amount	Payment	Powers To Pay
22.07.26	Staffing	July 2026	*****	BACS	LGA (1972) s112
22.07.26	HMRC	PAYE	*****	BACS	LGA (1972) s111
22.07.26	DCK Payroll Solutions Limited	Invoices payroll services 27412 and 27411	*****	BACS	LGA (1972) s111
22.07.26	Npower Commercial Gas Ltd	IN15877480 April – June 26 Street Lighting	193.50	BACS	LGA (1972) s142
22.07.26	Croner Ltd	Inv C0012608585 HR and H & S services	304.96	DD	LGA (19721) s134
22.07.26	Yelvertoft PTA	Grant - Friendship Garden Yelvertoft Primary School	300.00	BACS	Open Spaces Act 1906
22.07.26	Vodaphone	Monthly village hall broadband	45.00	DD	LGA (1972) s111
Minibus					LGA (1972) s133
22.07.26	DMR Training	Inv no 1325 MiDAS 1 driver	290.00	BACS	LGA (1972) s111
~~22.07.26~~	~~R Hoult~~ *duplicated*	~~Inv LPC 005 29.05 driving~~	~~75.00~~	~~BACS~~	~~LGA (1972) s111~~
~~22.07.26~~	~~R Hoult~~ *duplicated*	~~Inv LPC 006 30.05.26 driving~~	~~45.00~~	~~BACS~~	~~LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29~~
22.07.26	R Hoult	Inv LPC 007 Driving 19.06	75.00	BACS	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29
22.07.26	R Hoult	Inv LPC 002 Driving 05.06 & 12.06 School	60.00	BACS	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29
22.07.26	C Porter	Inv June Driving School 18hrs	270.00	BACS	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29
22.07.26	J Palmer	Inv June driving school 10 hrs	150.00	BACS	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29

	22.07.26	J Alexander	Inv June Driving 8 hrs	120.00	BACS	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29
	22.07.26	CW Chow	Inv June driving school	30.00	BACS	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29
	22.07.26	Check Safe	Minibus admin system subs	6.72	DD	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29
	22.07.26	DVLA	Vehicle tax monthly	14.96	DD	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29
	22.07.26	Butlers Leap Mobile Ltd/T/As Rugby Auto bodies	Body repairs to minibus	350.00	BACS	LG & Rating Act 1997 s.26-29

c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments during August where to Parish Council do not ordinarily meet.

26/1180 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Review correspondence received. Noted

- *From WNC: The National Conversation This is a survey to gauge what people value about community life and the kind of communities they want*https://share.google/LqRZtLzxmUA2knqlO
- *The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2030 is available to read on the West Northamptonshire Council website*
- *Star Council Awards 2026/27 – Council of the Year. Various categories, Nomination deadline: 25 September 2026 https://www.nalc.gov.uk/support/star-council-awards.html*
- *.NCALC: Parish and town councils may wish to consider what additional services, assets, or community leadership roles they could take on if the government's ambitions for community power become reality. Read the full speech at https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-government-association-conference-2026*

26/1181 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(For information only; no formal resolutions may be passed).
Mowing contract and map – circulated to Councillors pending review Autumn/Winter.
Cllr Morley is chasing approved repairs for the play area- contractor advised they have been delayed but urgent repairs are complete.
Telephone box painting started.
Finance reports and petty cash.
HR/employment and H&S over August

20:43 hrs Councillor Morley left the meeting.

26/1182 **NEWSLETTER**

Items for next edition: Driver advert, Station Road Signage and footpath feasibility study, Grants and Budget review September,
To consider the offer of regular payment or donation to cover monthly printing service. The Parish Council have been notified the newsletter printing costs have been paid for privately and not via Parish Council finances for the next 12 months.

26/1183 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** the next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 24th September** 2026 at 19:00 hrs.

Meeting closed at 21:05 hrs.

WNC Councillors Report

Braunston & Crick Ward

To:	**Lilbourne Parish Council Meeting**
Date:	**22nd July 2026**
From:	**Cllr Rosie Humphreys** **Cllr Andrew Simpson**

1) WNC Matters

a. Financial Outturn

WNC has reported its provisional financial outturn position for 2025-26 as an overspend of £7m against the Council's £431.8m net revenue budget - equivalent to 1.6% of total spending. The primary pressure continues to be the escalating costs of adult and social care.

WNC had previously forecast an overspend of £9.6m, but had reduced that figure by more than £2m over the course of the year. Risk reserve funding is being used to bridge the financial gap which is the first time that has happened.

b. Parking remains free for blue badge holders

WNC has u-turned on its decision to introduce parking charges for blue badge holders and at Northampton Country parks. Despite a public outcry these charges were to be implemented following the Budget meeting 2026/27 and WNC overlooked the need for a public consultation before the charges were imposed. The consultation generated on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order generated 660 responses and WNC has now relented and parking for blue badge holders and at Northampton Country parks will remain free.

Daventry and Towcester car parks remain free for the first three hours, after which fines are payable.

c. Barriers for People with Disabilities

There appears to be a lack of understanding of the barriers faced by disabled people and the extra expenses of their living costs. At the full council meeting the Liberal Democrat group presented a motion to address this. Measures included re-establishing the West Northants Disabled People's Forum (which has not convened for three years) and creating disability champions in all council service directorates. The motion was defeated by the Reform led administration who claimed existing measures were sufficient and that no other support was needed.

d. Northamptonshire Children's Trust Ofsted Report

The trust, which delivers children's services for both West and North Northants was set up in 2020 after the former Northants County Council's children's services were rated inadequate after the deaths of two children in their care. An Ofsted inspection in May rated the trust good across help and protection, children in care and care leavers and rated outstanding in leadership. This is a significant improvement from the last inspection in 2022 when the trust was rated as "requires improvement to be good". The trust was set up in 2020 after the former Northants County Council's children's services were rated inadequate after the deaths of two children in their care.

e. Heatwave Service Updates & Advice
WNC is posting regular service updates and advice for residents during the current heatwave. Please see here for details Heatwave service updates | West Northamptonshire Council
'Cool spaces' is an initiative like warms spaces in the winter and in our area WNC is promoting the Daventry Leisure Centre and the Daventry Community Larder as locations to visit.

f. Council Group Changes
A former Reform UK councillor who left the party earlier this year to sit as an Independent has now joined with another Reform councillor who has left the party to join the Restore Britain party so forming a group for that party on the council. This leaves the Reform UK party with 39 councillors to 37 for the combined opposition.

2) Local Issues

a. Traffic Lights at M1 Junction 18
We were disappointed to hear about these plans at the J18 meeting being proposed by Prologis to help with the traffic flow with the expansion of DIRFT. There has been no consultation over these proposals which would see traffic lights on the A428 entering the junction and for traffic exiting the M1.

b. Planning Application 2025/4954/FULL – Land North of Lilbourne Road, Clay Coton
This application was approved on 24/06/26.

c. WNC Land adjacent to Playing Field
The process of a possible transfer of this land from WNC to LPC will take some time and whilst we have asked for an update a similar situation at Crick has taken since October 2025 to July 2026 for the draft legal agreement to be provided.

d. Station Road Pedestrian Safety
A site visit with a WNC Highways Officer, the PC and the resident took place on 14th July with various options being discussed. The agreed actions were:

1. WNC to investigate possible installation of warning signs at the location for pedestrians likely to be in the road;
2. WNC to see what the costs of a feasibility study would be for installation of a short section of pavements down Station Road from the pub/car park entrance.

e. Wills Lane/Bridleway Surface
WNC have responded regarding various issues raised here including the resurfacing of the bridleway and its suitability for horses. Andrew has requested a site visit with highways Officers and a Rights of Way Officer to further address the concerns raised.

Get in Touch:

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