WOLLASTON PARISH COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLLASTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE OASIS, HIGH STREET, WOLLASTON ON THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2025.

PRESENT: Cllr Alvis, Atkinson, Barber, Carter, Farman, Gay, Goldsmith (left at 8.30pm), Hodson, Mitchell, Savage, Seager and Threadgold.

IN ATTENDANCE: No members of the public attended.

WARD COUNCILLORS: Cllr Gordon Dunsmuir.

25/105 – OPEN MEETING
No open meeting.

25/106 – WOLLASTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB
The Trustees of Wollaston Community Library attended the meeting to outline their current position and future plans. They reported that the library became a charitable trust two years ago and aims to expand on its existing successful user groups, encouraging wider community involvement and positioning the library as a Community Hub for all ages.
The library is entirely self-funded. The building was purchased in 2021 by Matthew Nicholas Estate Agents and is rented back at no cost. Its primary funding currently comes from the Thrift Shop, which is also owned and rented back free of charge. The Trustees noted that neighbouring Parish Councils cover the utility costs for their libraries and proposed that Wollaston Parish Council consider doing the same.
The Council requested a copy of the library's accounts and will review the request at next month's budget meeting as part of discussions on a long-term support plan. The Trustees also confirmed that S106 funds from the Bloor development are expected, which will contribute towards a significant refurbishment. The library currently holds some reserves.
The library reported that a volunteer had approached them with interest to install a Bleed Kit on site and asked whether the Parish Council would support this amenity. It was agreed that Cllr Farman will contact the Wellingborough organisation *Off the Streets* to obtain information on costs, maintenance requirements, and training. Cllr Farman will liaise with the volunteer and present the findings at the next meeting.

25/107 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies received from Cllr Jones (holiday).

25/108 – NORTH NORTHANTS COUNCIL – Apologies received from Cllr Carr and Cllr Partridge-Underwood. Cllr Dunsmuir reported that recent discussions had been held on Digital ID cards and pavement parking, no resolutions were reported.

25/109 - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
None relating to business on the agenda.

25/110 - MINUTES
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting from 16th October 2025 were agreed and signed as a true account. Unanimously agreed, motion carried.

25/111 WOLLASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP FOLLOW UP FROM CONSULTATION MEETING
An inaugural meeting was held on 10 November with Mike Haybyrne, the previous Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) consultant, to determine the requirements for reviewing and updating the Wollaston Neighbourhood Plan, which is nearing the end of its lifespan. The Consultant advised that a clearer basis for revision will be available once the draft NNC Local Plan is published, anticipated by February 2026. Until then, producing accurate budget estimates will be challenging, and grant funding is no longer available.
A briefing workshop hosted by NNC is scheduled for January. It was agreed that a Steering Group meeting will be convened within the next two weeks to appoint a Chair and introduce two members of the public who have volunteered to join the group. The Steering Committee's Terms of Reference were unanimously approved and signed by Cllr Atkinson.

25/112 - CLERK'S REPORT
Remembrance Day De-Brief - Feedback from the Churches indicated that Orders of Service should be available at the War Memorial next year for those who do not join the parade. The holding of the names of the fallen by the children did not work effectively this year, and the PA system—requiring equipment and electricity—was reliant entirely on goodwill. The Parish Council should consider alternative solutions for future events.
A small number of residents commented that, while the service followed the RBL format, it did not necessarily require a religious message; a personal story could instead be included. Parish Council feedback suggested placing the names of the fallen onto lamppost poppies and ensuring clearer explanation of the supported charities (RBL & BLESMA), although these details had been included on the poster. It was noted that the timings were perfect this year and that Councillors thought the service was excellent. The collection raised £154.41, which has been divided equally between RBL and BLESMA.

High Street Flats Bin Storage - The Clerk confirmed that the High Street flats do not have planning permission for bin storage. The bins had been delivered in error and have now been removed. Residents will instead be issued tags for their refuse bags, which will be left out on the pavement for collection.

The budget meeting will take place on Thursday 11 December at 7pm at Oasis. Apologies have been received from Cllrs Carter, Hodson, Mitchell, and Threadgold.

Nine Councillors now have .gov email addresses. The Clerk will arrange setup for Cllr Seager, which will complete the allocation of the current ten addresses. The remaining four Councillors will be set up once an additional block of ten addresses has been purchased.
The Clerk confirmed that website training had commenced.
Clerk holiday dates: Friday 28 November and Friday 12 December.

25/113 – FINANCES

Receipts circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to approve receipts for October 2025. Unanimously agreed, motion carried.

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	DESCRIPTION	NET AMOUNT	VAT ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
09/10/2025	Lloyds Bank *823	Interest	£36.93	£0.00	£36.93
31/10/2025	Nationwide Interest *607	Interest	£123.51	£0.00	£123.51
31/10/2025	Nationwide Interest *581	Interest	£281.86	£0.00	£281.86
02/10/2025	B&Q	Refund for online oos order	£4.42	£0.00	£4.42
10/10/2025	NNC Finance	S136 Grass Verge Grant	£1,255.50	£0.00	£1,255.50
09/10/2025	HMRC	VAT return	£0.00	£1,769.53	£1,769.53
		TOTAL:	**£1,702.22**	**£1,769.53**	**£3,471.75**

Payments Circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments for October 2025. Unanimously agreed, motion carried.

PAYMENT	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NETT OF VAT	VAT ELEMENT	TOTAL
DD204	Tesco Mobile	Monthly mobile Phone Contract	£15.99	£0.00	£15.99
DD205	HP Instant Ink	Monthly subscription for printer ink	£31.24	£6.25	£37.49
DD206	NPS Shoes	Office Hire & Internet Oct 2025	£318.75	£63.75	£382.50
DD207	WhiteStar Ltd	Monthly Website hosting fee	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
DD208	Yu Energy	Street Lighting 01.09.25 - 30.09.25	£63.29	£3.16	£66.45
DD209	LV Pension (NMPTL)	LV Pension S Grant WPC Contribution	£73.42	£0.00	£73.42
DD210	Lloyds Bank	Lloyds Community Account monthly charge ref 449342778		£4.25	£0.00 £4.25
DD211	Starboards Systems Ltd	Monthly subscription for Scribe accounts package	£51.00	£10.20	£61.20
DD212	Hayeswood Landscapes	September Grass Cutting	£2,006.10	£401.22	£2,407.32
DD213	ICO	Annual data protection/GDPR fee	£47.00	£0.00	£47.00
DD214	Tomato Energy	Tennis Court/Bollard Electricity 01.09.25 - 30.09.25	£2.71	£0.14	£2.85
BACS1075	Mrs Suzanne Grant	October 2025 salary	£1,449.50	£0.00	£1,449.50
BACS1076	HMRC	Employer NI employee NI Tax payment	£334.27	£0.00	£334.27
BACS1077	E-on	Street Lighting Maintenance 1/4 ending Sept 25	£77.50	£15.50	£93.00
BACS1078	Wilby Tree Surgeons	Health and Safety Tree Audit	£1,325.00	£265.00	£1,590.00
BACS1085	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Spring replacement & labour for Hen Rocker (pyghtles)	£631.13	£126.23	£757.36
BACS1086	B&Q	Jublilee Clips for VAS Units	£17.68	£0.00	£17.68
BACS1087	EM Pell & Partners Ltd	2 x VAS Posts	£583.00	£116.60	£699.60
BACS1088	Amazon	Cable Ties	£7.99	£0.00	£7.99
BACS1089	Amazon	Cable Ties	£10.99	£0.00	£10.99
Comm Grants S137					
BACS1079	Wollaston Library	Annual S137 Grant towards portable tables	£740.00	0.00	£740.00
BACS1080	Wollaston Brownies/Rainbows	Annual Parish Council Grant towards GG	£250.00	0.00	£250.00
BACS1081	St Mary's Church	Annual S137 Grant towards LED Lighting	£500.00	0.00	£500.00
BACS1082	Wollaston Methodist Church	Annual Grant towards Eldery lunches	£335.00	0.00	£335.00
BACS1083	Village Hall	Annual Parish Council Grant	£5,000.00	0.00	£5,000.00
BACS1084	First Response	Annual Parish Council Grant	£335.00	0.00	£335.00
		GRAND TOTAL:	£14,245.81	£1,008.05	£15,253.86

Bank Reconciliation as of 31.10.25 was circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the October Bank Reconciliation. Unanimously agreed, motion carried.

WOLLASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Bank Reconciliation as at 31/10/2025

Lloyds Current account - daily banking *832	
balance as at 31/10/2025	£7,812.67
Lloyds Instant access - General Reserves *823	
balance as at 31/10/2025	£61,717.09
Nationwide Business 95 day Saver *607	£43,534.88
Nationwide Business 95 day Saver *581	£99,344.97
Nationwide Building Society - S106 Monies *513	£71,437.42
Earmarked Reserves, Pyghtles, Neale Close	
In Accounts 31/10/2025	**£283,847.03**
From 2024/2025	£224,179.04
Figures incl VAT Receipts	£226,471.04
Payments	£166,803.05
	£283,847.03
	£0.00

25/114 – REPORTS

(a) New Community Centre/preschool update (MG/JM/GC) –A meeting is scheduled for 25th November with NNC S106 to establish whether the proposal can move forward with the Business Plan supplied by the Wollaston and Strixton preschool. This proposal increases the under 3 years capacity to 10 children aged 0-2 years and 18 children agreed 2-3 years.

(b) Playing fields & Parks Management Committee (TS) – new play equipment has been installed at the St Mary's play area and the urgent audit requirements are due to be carried out w/c 15th December (postponed from 19-21st November due to the weather) – this work will eliminate all immediate risks highlighted on the audit report. It was **RESOLVED** to use £9,000 from the historic S106 Pyghtles/Neale Close monies for new safety flooring at the Pyghtles play area (as per resolution from May 2024 to approve the spending of £20,117 Historic S106 monies for Sports Association/Playing Field Committee recommendations). Continued issues with bikes and rubbish/drinks on the new MUGA carpet. Cllr Savage confirmed that if this continues, then the courts will be locked and not available for free use. It was suggested that a bike rack is installed to relieve the issue. MUGA floodlights are currently being fixed. Environmental – London Road water leak and vegetation still not resolved. Duchy to be chased as they have agreed to ownership. Street Doctor – 80% of all white lines in the village have been re-painted and a number of potholes have been filled including the large one on Hinwick Road. Street Lighting – Irchester Road light reported as currently on continually and Park Street light out near OAP bungalows was currently undergoing a cable repair. Cllr Alvis and Savage conducted a tour of the village to

review the yellow lines, and it was established that a number of yellow lines were either confusing or unnecessary. Cllr Savage to contact Ben Wright (Kier) and also chase the outstanding yellow lines following the recent road repairs on London Road.

(c) Footpaths Update (AT) –Permissive footpath signage has been ordered for Shepherds Hill as Kexby Estates have agreed to the permissive path. Awaiting confirmation of a new gate and once arranged, an article will be placed in the Wollaston Together Magazine.

(d) Village Hall management Committee Update (MG) – Closing balance of £25,830.39 as of 31st October 2025. Urgent repairs are needed for the flooring and for a roof leak, quotes are being obtained. Cllr Goldsmith left the meeting at this point.

(e) Crime and Community Safety Update (NF) – figures provided by Northants Police confirmed that 11 crimes were reported in October and the Local Identified Priorities are vehicle crime, drug dealing and burglary.

(f) Summers Grange Update (JB). The 20mph restriction sign had been erected and there has been no issues with speeding since. Dogs on lead notices will go up once the safety barrier entrances are completed by Bloor. The path repairs have commenced, but currently on hold due to the weather. IO channels will be implanted to prevent flooding issues. The white rubble bag currently being used as a waste bag is actually needed for necessary work and therefore cannot be removed at present. The relocation of the waste bin in Hollowell Street is being chased. The dead trees in public spaces are being replaced, but Bloor will not be replacing resident's trees. Path weeds will be passed over to the service management company. There is a SORN vehicle on the estate in a parking bay that the Police have confirmed cannot be moved as it is a private road. Play area – Bloor have confirmed that the inadequate play area was signed off by Local Planning and therefore they will not be looking at extending to the agreed 200 sq ft or adding equipment. Cllr Mitchell to speak to Debbie Kirk and copy in Cllr Gordon Dunsmuir.

25/115 – PLANNING

(g) Applications

Schedule was circulated with Agenda

NW/24/00448/EXT – Green Hill Solar Farm - Consultation on draft statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). Awaiting decision.

NW/25/00096/FUL – Wollaston School, 100 Irchester Road – Formation of car park with associated drainage and biodiversity net gain planting. WPC – Letter sent for clarification response received 07.04.25. Application permitted 31.10.2025

NW/25/00195/FUL – 24 York Road, Wollaston – Change of use of pastureland to residential garden, including erection of wall, gates and boundary fencing. WPC – no objection. Awaiting decision.

NN/24/00021/WASFUL – Land between and rear 30 to 50 Doddington Road, Wollaston – proposed development of an industrial/commercial building including office space for

purpose of plastic, paper and metal recycling. WPC – strong objection letter sent 12/08/2025. Awaiting decision 22.10.2025. Clerk chased 06/11/2025, no updates available.

NW/25/00357/FUL – 6-8 Rotten Row, Wollaston – Single storey link between main dwelling and outbuilding with new windows, doors and skylight. WPC – no objection. Application refused 7.11.2025.

Cllr Atkinson confirmed that he will be attending a meeting at Wollaston Senior School in January 2026 to discuss his planning concerns with the new sports pavilion and extended car parking on behalf of the Playing Fields and Parks Management Committee.

25/116 - NEXT MEETING

Date of Draft Budget Meeting – Thursday 11th December 7pm, Oasis Building.

The next meeting of Wollaston Parish Council to take place on Thursday December 18th, 2025, 7pm, Oasis Building, High Street, Wollaston.

The Chair thanked Councillors for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

Chair…….. Date: …… ACTION