



**Minutes of the Parish Meeting of BRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Wednesday 15 January 2025, Reading Room, Great Brington**

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**Present:** Cllrs K White (Chair), J Milne (Vice Chair), S Beeusaert, M Roach and N Tompkins.

**Also Present:** Clerk, Ward Cllrs Bignell and Morton. Althorp Rep. and 6 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr R Gardner, Ward Cllr Bignell and Ward Cllr Lister.

**Meeting Started at 7.45pm**

<b>105/2024</b>	<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>	Action
	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.	
<b>106/2024</b>	<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllr R Gardner, Ward Cllr Bignell for lateness and Ward Cllr Lister and were approved by acclamation.	Clerk
<b>107/2024</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> No Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda were received.	Clerk
<b>108/2024</b>	<b>Traffic Issues - Presentation from the Road Safety Officer at Keir / West Northamptonshire Council</b> The Road Safety Officer advised the Council of the options and approximate costs for various battery, solar and mains powered VAS and Speed Indicator Devices. It was noted that most Parish Councils use self-purchase schemes. Battery Operated Devices range from £2500 -£3200. If required, posts would be from £700 to £1000 depending on the amount of traffic management needed. Solar Powered Devices , as above plus £500- £700 for the panel. More substantial posts to cope with extra weight would be approx. £1000 each. Mains Powered Devices – about £3000 for the “Head”, around £1000 for the post, and about £1000 for the connections at the post and the cable, and approx. £300 per linear metre to connect the post to the mains supply, usually from lamp posts. Section 50 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) required Licence was£350.00.  The next step would be for the Road Safety Officer to survey possible locations with parish councillor or the Clerk. Other options for traffic calming included Dragons Teeth and Chicanes which had to be approved by WNC Highways. However Chicanes were not recommended in rural areas as they get damaged by large farm machinery. The Clerk was asked to forward the recent speed data surveys to the Road Safety Officer to consider alongside data from Northants Police. The Chair advised that any progress would be budget dependant.	Clerk
<b>109/2024</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>	
	A resident asked why the Parish Council felt that security was an issue at the Reading Rooms and was advised that the door to the adjacent dwelling had been opened by accident during a recent meeting and this should have a lock on it on both sides to make both totally secure.	

110/2024	<p><b>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024</b>  The Minutes of the 20 November 2024 meeting were approved and signed as a true and correct record; this was agreed by acclamation.</p>	Clerk
111/2024	<p><b>To Note Reports</b>  The Councillors noted Reports from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Chair advised he had nothing to report.</li> <li>2. West Northamptonshire Council Long Buckby Ward – Cllr P Bignell (at annex).</li> <li>3. The Parish Clerk (at annex).</li> <li>4. Northamptonshire Police – No report had been received.</li> </ol>	
112/2024	<p>Reading Room Lease Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. It was noted that the draft Lease was almost ready to be signed, subject to the Parish Council receiving clarification from Althorp Estate about some technical issues including one about named Trustees.</li> <li>b. The Althorp Rep. indicated that their Electrical specialist would be carrying out a survey of the electrical issues identified by the Reading Room Trustee electrical inspection the following week.</li> <li>c. The Reading Room Trustees Interim Chair indicated that the electrical issues required replacing/repairing by 5 March 2025 which was a deadline set by their Insurers and that it was planned to also redecorate the Reading Rooms imminently.</li> <li>d. Cllr White indicated that the Parish Council did not have a representative on the Reading Rooms Committee and Cllr Roache volunteered to undertake this role which was agreed unanimously.</li> <li>e. The Councillors noted that invoices for outstanding Rent payments had been received from Althorp Estate and the Clerk was asked to check these.</li> <li>f. It was noted that the new lease was a standard self maintaining commercial lease.</li> </ol>	<p>Chair/Vice  Chair/  HF –  Althorp</p> <p>Clerk</p>
113/2024	<p><b>To consider the following Planning Applications and Decisions and any additional application(s) presented after the publication of the agenda):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="#">2024/5670/NMA</a> Workshop and Premises East Haddon Road Great Brington NN7 4JF (Waddy’s Yard) Non-material amendment to WND/2022/0930 (Demolition of existing commercial buildings and construction of single dwelling (resubmission) for internal reconfiguration and elevational changes.  The Councillors noted that the Amendment reduced the roof ridge line and that the internal reconfiguration did not make a great difference to the overall appearance. No objection or comments were advised.</li> <li>b. <a href="#">2024/4921/FULL</a> Land to East side of East Haddon Road, Great Brington, Northamptonshire for New self-build rural worker’s dwelling Extended to 17 January 2025.  The Councillors noted that this was a resubmission of the previous application following various amendments requested to slightly change the location to take it out of the surface water flood zone, raise the floor level above 600mm above ground level and add a double garage. The applicant had submitted a presentation and following a discussion by the Councillors, it was unanimously agreed that in principle the Council had no objections to the planning application subject to the same condition being added:</li> </ol>	

	<p>That any changes to the development be subject to separate planning permissions being obtained – to ensure that the associated dwelling be linked /tied to the activity that the dwelling is being used for and cannot be separated at a later date. Agreed Unanimously</p> <p>c. <a href="#">2024/5440/FULL</a> 3 &amp; 4 The Green Great Brington NN7 4JD Replace 2No (each dwelling) front timber windows with new UPVC casement windows. Extension to deadline for comments extended to 30/01/2025. No objections or comments were advised.</p> <p>d. <a href="#">2024/5756/FULL</a> Orchard House 2 Fermoy Court Little Brington NN7 4JP for new gates and front walls, single storey store, single storey rear porch and single storey outdoor kitchen. Comments Deadline extended to 17/01/2025. The Councillors noted a representation from a neighbouring property in objection to the application. The Applicant gave a presentation and answered questions from Councillors about the planned size of the outdoor porch and eating area, and no objections or comments were advised.</p> <p>e. <a href="#">2024/5383/FULL</a> at The Manse Chapel View Little Brington NN7 4HX for Single storey rear, two storey front/side extensions and widening of access to include rebuild of access wall. Following discussion, no objections or comments were advised.</p> <p>f. <a href="#">2024/0672/MAO</a> Hybrid Planning Application for Land North West of Upper High St Harpole. Councillors noted that there was no contribution to improving the Duston- Nobottle Road which was collapsing due to the increased traffic levels and that the S1016 agreement requested that the infrastructure (Education, Doctors Dentists) were implemented in staged phases. The Ward Councillors indicated that they had requested that the potholes on the Duston / Nobottle road be repaired. It was unanimously agreed that similar comments to those last submitted on 18/04/2024 be re-submitted.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>114/2024</b></p>	<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>The following updates from Althorp Estate were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ditches were being repaired and the Estate was recovering from recent flooding.</li> <li>ii. Nigel Shields has been appointed as Estate Director.</li> </ul> <p>The following updates from the Parish Council were noted:</p> <p>Parish Council Memorial Cross</p> <p>The Clerk advised that WNC is still investigating ownership of the Medieval Cross, however Althorp Estates advised they do not own the site or the Cross and quoted that their records showed the Green was not owned by the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl at his death and although they did not have an Assets List, everything they owned had been registered with the Land Registry.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to contact a resident for more details and also investigate costs and grants to repair the Cross.</p> <p>Ward Councillor Bignell arrived.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

115/2024	<p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>The following consultations were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provide your views on Solid Fuel Burning</b>  <a href="#">Provide your views on Solid Fuel Burning</a>. The deadline was midnight 31 January 2025.</li> <li>• <b>West Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2025 to 2026 Consultation</b>  please visit <a href="#">West Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2025 to 2026 Consultation</a> The deadline was midnight Tuesday 21 January 2025</li> </ul>	
116/2024	<p><b>Village Volunteer Award Nomination Form</b></p> <p>Following a discussion, the Volunteer Award Nomination Form was approved unanimously. It was noted that the Post Office had agreed to have a post box for this on their counter and this was provided by the Clerk. The closing date for entries was noted as 5pm 14 March 2025.</p>	Clerk
117/2024	<p><b>Parish Council Equal Opportunities Policy</b></p> <p>Following a discussion, adoption of the Equal Opportunities Policy was Adopted - approved unanimously.</p>	Clerk
118/2024	<p><b>Landscape Maintenance Contract Renewal</b></p> <p>Landscape Maintenance specification for 2025-2028 was agreed unanimously with a minimum of 3 tenders being invited and the addition of an extra mowing of the Churchyard in August.</p>	Clerk
119/2024	<p><b>Finance</b></p>	
(a)	<p><b>To Note the Bank Reconciliation and Approve Payments made in December 2024 and to be made in January 2025 (See Annexes)</b></p>	
	<p>The Payments for December 2024 were noted and the Payments for January 2025 were approved.(At Annex)  The Bank Reconciliation was noted. Cllr Milne (Vice Chair) agreed the Bank Balances.</p>	Clerk
(b)	<p><b>To consider changing the Electricity Energy Supplier from Yu Energy</b></p> <p>Councillors noted that the contract for the Electricity Supplier for Streetlighting was due to be renewed in January 2025 and that NCalc had advised alternative suppliers. It was agreed unanimously that the supplier be changed to the Tomato 2 year rate.</p>	Clerk
120/2024	<p><b>Budget and Precept requirement for 2025-26</b></p> <p>Councillors noted the draft proposed budget Precept requirement for 2025/26 and following a discussion, unanimously agreed that the Precept be increased by the inflation rate (2.5%) to £23,790.25  The Chair and the Clerk signed the WNC PR1 – Estimated Precept Form for that amount to be submitted wo WNC.</p>	Clerk
121/2024	<p><b>Play Area Equipment Project Update</b></p> <p>1. To note actions to facilitate progress of the project.  It was noted that the preferred supplier had confirmed the lead time of around 6 weeks from order to installation, at a date to suit. Payment terms were a standard 50% on order and 50% after completion sign off.   It was unanimously agreed that Rhino Play were the preferred supplier and that that the works in Quote QU-3697 be confirmed.</p>	Clerk

	<p>Councillors also requested that copies of the Audited Accounts for Rhino Play be circulated.</p> <p>2. To note an update on funding applications for the project. The Clerk confirmed that an application for funding of £15,000 had been submitted to Lottery Awards for All. The outcome should be known at the end of March 2025.</p>	Clerk
<b>122/2024</b>	<p><b>Local Government Consultation from NCalc</b> The Local Government Consultation from NCalc to strengthen the standards and conduct framework for Local Authorities in England for Councillors to respond to was noted.</p>	

Meeting closed: 21.50pm

Signed: Cllr K White (Chair)

Dated: 19 February 2025

*Keith White*

## CLERKS REPORT

1. **Play Area Project - L**  
Funding information received from Finding Fitness Ltd, being investigated with Parishes in West Northants who had recommended it.
2. **Compete 366** Planned price from Microsoft UK on all O365 licenses. This is for a 5-6% reduction on all O365 Modern Work licenses effective from February 1st, 2025.  
On all monthly licenses this will take effect in February invoices and will be applied to all annual renewals from February 1st 2025.
3. **New Parish Council Laptop** – ordered from Dell and delivered. Clerk paid by personal Visa as it was an online purchase. ReadyTec will be setting this up and migrating files on 13/01/25
4. **Kimbells Field Bookings** – Booking tbc received from Rob Baymen (Motorcycle Event 31 May -1 June 2025) with several overnight campers.
5. **Althorp Parish Meeting** The new Chair of the Althorp Parish Meeting is PHILIPPUS STEENKAMP, and lives on the Estate. Lord Spencer has stepped down as Chair but is still involved with Parish business.
6. **Dog Bin Hamilton Lane** Problems with emptying new Dog Bin in Hamilton Lane – contractor has apologised and will not drive down the lane in future.
7. **Wood Chippings from WNC** - Kier, as WNC's contractor for environmental services, currently has a rather large surplus of wood chippings. Rather than simply disposing of these, they'd like to know if any parish council could use some – looking at possibly March for delivery.  
The Clerk has contacted Keir confirming that BPC would be interested.
8. **WNC agrees to pursue South Midlands devolution bid**  
Councillors met on Thursday 9 January and decided the Council should submit an expression of interest to ministers today for a new strategic mayoral authority covering West Northamptonshire, Bedford, Central

## LONG BUCKBY WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT

1.	<b>Devolution</b> – a recent Government white paper was released outlining new Unitary authorities similar to Manchester and under Mayoral control. A proposed area is WNC, NNC, Bedford, MK, South Bedfordshire and Luton. At a special Council meeting WNC expressed an interest of being part of this South Midland Unitary. However four of the Councils have rejected the inclusion of WNC & NNC and want to go as a four. The Government will decide so watch this space.
2.	<b>Budget</b> – the budget for 25/26 was discussed at WNC Cabinet. A balance budget for 25/26 has been achieved with rise in Council Tax being kept at 5% in line with Government restrictions. Green bin charge will rise by only £2.
3.	<b>Roads</b> – Government is going to give WNC an extra £3.88m making total of £14.6m for the year. If we were to repair every road in district to good condition it would cost in region of £350m!
4.	<b>Housing</b> – The Government have set new housing targets for WNC meaning we need to deliver 2,500 houses/year an increase of 25%.

3. Payments for Noting 15 December 2025

Supplier	code	Detail	Invoice No	Invoice Total	VAT
S Muir	BT	Salary November		452.07	0
S Muir	BT	HMRC October		113.00	0
R&G Landscape	BT	Grass cutting	12142	360.00	60.00
Yu Energy	DD	Street Lighting	02083255	118.09	5.62
Yu Energy	DD	Street Lighting	02083256	15.95	0.76
Compete 366	DD	365 Data Back Up	21979	2.16	2.16
West Northants Norse Ltd	BT	Emptying 2 new Dogbins 2024-25	52IN-001104	805.92	134.32
J Bord	BT	New Noticeboard		1050.00	
NCALC	BT	Procurement Act Training	4062	42.00	7.00
DM Payroll	BT	Payroll Admin Charge	3966	60.00	
EON Energy Credit Note	DD	Kimbles Pavilion Electricity Invoice	KI-EA4D0588-0036	17.37	

(b) Receipts to Note

Date	Detail	Invoice Total
No receipts		Nil

Bank Balances & Reconciliation December 2024

Bank Reconciliation at 30 November 2024

Net balances as at 30/12/24 Bank Reconciliation	Bank Balance	Cash Book
Brought Forward 01/04/24	35837.59	Opening 01/04/24 Balance 35,837.59
Balance in Current Account YTD	1938.98	
Value of payments yet to clear	0	
Reserve Account Bank Balance YTD	42363.17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 44,302.15</b>	Expenditure to date -16,328.10 Income to date 24,792.66 <b>Total £ 44,302.15</b>

## 2. Payments Approved 15 January 2025

Supplier	code	Detail	Invoice No	Invoice Total	VAT
S Muir	BT	Salary January		452.07	0
S Muir	BT	HMRC January		117.00	0
S Muir	BT	Expenses		50.95	0
Yu Energy	DD	Street Lighting	02233623	142.84	6.80
Yu Energy	DD	Street Lighting	02233624	16.11	0.78
Compete 366	DD	365 Data Back Up	21979	2.16	2.16
			4062		7.00
NCALC	BT	Procurement Training November		42.00	
Ready Tech	BT	New Lap Top Set up	5059	253.44	42.00
<b>EON Energy Credit Note</b>	<b>DD</b>	<b>Kimbles Pavilion Electricity Invoice</b>	<b>KI- EA4D0588- 0036</b>	<b>17.37</b>	

### Receipts to Note

	Date	Detail	Invoice Total	
Barclays Bank	02/12/24	Bank Interest	152.05	£152.05

### Bank Balances & Reconciliation 09 January 2024

#### Bank Reconciliation at 31 December 2024

Net balances as at 31/12/24 Bank Reconciliation	Bank Balance	Cash Book
Brought Forward 01/04/24		Opening 01/04/24 35,837.59 Balance
Balance in Current Account YTD	3055.13	
Value of payments yet to clear	0	Expenditure to date -21,211.85
Reserve Account Bank Balance YTD	36515.22	Income to date 24,944.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 39570.35</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>£ 39570.35</b>

### Bank Balance 09 January 2025

Current Account £ 3055.13

Business Account £36515.22