

1.	<p>Footpath at Vicarage – In response to a query from the Rev. Andrea about who has responsibility for maintaining this public footpath down the side of her vicarage? She's sure it's not her and wants to stop mowing it, Helen Frampton of Althorp Estates has confirmed it is an Althorp Estates responsibility and she has asked the grounds maintenance team investigate.</p>
2.	<p>Tomato Energy – The Parish Council have raised their concerns with Utility Solutions both about the charges being raised for Streetlighting by Tomato Energy and further concerns following a news report on 01/10/25 that Tomato have been given 3 months by Ofgem to sort out their finances. They have already been banned from taking on new customers. The possibility here would be that if they cannot sort out their liquidity then Ofgem could remove their license. In past cases the customers have been passed on to other providers with time limited protection, and these have been acknowledged. The Parish Council is unable to share the correspondence as it has been provided in the strictest confidence.</p> <p>8 October 2025 Update from Utility Solutions</p> <p>I have some good news about the query with tomato; I have reached out to National Grid to get an updated UMS Certificate and the updated certificate I have been provided clearly evidence's a lower usage than tomato have been billing you to.</p> <p>I have sent the updated UMS certificate to Tomato and asked them to submit a rebill for any over estimated charges they have billed.</p> <p>I have asked they communicate to myself once this has been actioned so I can update you as soon as this has been done, you may see the rebill come through yourself but make sure we are aware also.</p> <p>This will ensure moving forward you will be billed to the correct usage as per the UMS certificate I have provided Tomato.</p> <p>I have attached the updated certificate for you also.</p> <p>I will keep this open my end until we have confirmation of a rebill and the updated certificate has been applied.</p> <p>Many Thanks, Utility Solutions</p>
3.	<p>Response from Parks Trust Milton Keynes about Health and Safety responsibilities in Play Areas “We have around 50 play areas to manage on our land in MK. They form part of our charitable activity so are covered by our insurance policy. While there are no legal requirements for managing play areas, there are conventions that are likely to be referred to in the event of an accident. I'd suggest at minimum you'd want to be inspecting the play area weekly and having it inspected quarterly by someone with the RPII Operational Inspection qualification. This could be a member of staff or someone external. Gaining the qualification is not onerous for someone sensible. An annual inspection is also required but this must be external. You should keep all inspection records for 21 years.</p> <p>Signage-wise, we normally have a sign on entrance explaining the same of the site and a contact number in the event of any issues, plus any prohibitions e.g. dogs, scooters etc. There's some useful information at the links below:</p> <p>Risk in Play HSE Guidance “</p>

4.	<p>WNC have advised a further boost to bus services A series of improvements have been introduced to local bus services connecting Brackley, Silverstone, Towcester and Northampton. They include the introduction of the X88 - a new limited-stop express route from Brackley to Northampton via Silverstone and Towcester, plus an extension of the 88 Brackley to Northampton service, which now also serves Silverstone Business Park and Syresham.</p>
5.	<p>Time to Apply for School Places WNC have advised that Parents and carers of children living in West Northamptonshire can now apply for school places for the next academic year. People can apply for a place in reception if their child will be four years old on or before 31 August 2026, with a closing date for applications of midnight 15 January 2026. Applications for Year 3 at junior school must also be made by the same deadline. The closing date for applications for Year 7 places is midnight on 31 October 2025.</p>
6.	<p>Postal Vote Reminders going out – WNC Elections have advised they’re reminding people who vote by post that they may need to re-apply to keep this arrangement in place for future elections. Changes to the law introduced in 2022 mean postal votes are now only valid for a maximum of three years. It means that if you applied before 31 October 2023, you will need to re-apply by 31 January 2026 to keep voting by post. Over the coming months they will send reminders to everyone who needs to update their postal vote. This will be done via text message, email, or letter, depending on the contact details they provided.</p>
7.	<p>West Northamptonshire Council booking details of the new booking system that we are introducing at our Household Waste Recycling Centres. Details have been shared with residents via the Bringtons News email, the Parish Council website and noticeboards.</p>
8.	<p>Clerk and RFO Job Description The Clerk advised that she had circulated to the HR Committee, an updated version of the Clerk and RFO Job Description.</p>
9.	<p>Rhino Play Invoices – Invoices totalling £3222.00 were withheld from payment by the Parish Council as the area was not cleared properly after the installation. – Minute 32/2025 of 15 April 2025 refers. These have been included in the Play Area Costs that have been reported but following a final demand and a threat of court action from Rhino Play, were paid on 1 October 2025. The Chair was informed.</p>