



DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of BRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 19 November 2025, at the Reading Room, Great Brington

Present: Cllrs N Tompkins (Vice Chair), R Gardner, , D Kennedy and M Roach

Also Present: Clerk and 1 member of public.

Apologies: Cllrs K White, (Chair), S Beeusaert, J James and R Welsford. Cllr Kennedy (For lateness) Ward Cllrs D Lister and C Morton, Althorp Rep., Police Rep.

Meeting: Started at 7.45pm

126/2025	Welcome and Announcements Cllr Tompkins (Vice Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.	Action
127/2025	To receive apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs K White, (Chair), S Beeusaert, J James and R Welsford. Cllr Kennedy (For lateness) These were agreed unanimously.	Clerk
128/2025	To receive declarations for interest on items on the Agenda Cllr Tompkins advised a personal interest in Item 15 (Finance) as she was related to a payee.	Clerk
129/2025	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 19 September 2025 These were agreed by acclamation.	Clerk
130/2025	Public Participation A resident had a query about Ring Doorbell cameras at domestic houses. Cllr Kennedy arrived.	
131/2025	To Note Reports a) The Chair A report had not been received due to holiday absence b) The Clerk – At Annex. c) Ward Councillors- A report had not been received. d) Police – T Cooksammy's (7012 PCSO) written report advised that she and a colleague had attended and completed a fraud talk to residents which was well received and they were praised on how informative it was. Cllr Welsford kept in touch, and she would contact him direct if anything arose.	
132/2025	To note a report from Cllr Kennedy about the Communications Training Course. Item deferred to January 2026 meeting.	Cllr Kennedy
133/2025	Planning a) Planning Applications 2025/4471/NMA at Church Farm Barns Steeple Lane Little Brington NN7 4HN for Non-Material Amendment is sought to replace the timber finish to all walls with reclaimed facing brick and doors to be finished in steel to match other garage doors to application 2024/3332/FULL [Proposed detached storage building]. Advisory only. Noted b) Previous Planning Application Decisions. 2025/3212/FULL at The Green Nobottle Road Little Brington NN7 4HJ for Demolition of existing outbuildings, to the rear, construction of a single storey rear extension, replacement of all windows to the main house at the rear and side, and rebuilding of the existing garage - Noted as Approved 2025/3628/FULL at Stonecroft Main Street Little Brington NN7 4HS for Construction of single storey rear extension - Noted as Approved	

	c) Planning related issues (if any). None Received	
134/2025	<p>To Note Consultations from West Northamptonshire Council at West Northamptonshire Consultation Hub</p> <p>a) Infrastructure and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The consultation runs until 21 December 2025 at: Have your say on delivering infrastructure and services to help mitigate development - West Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space Noted</p> <p>b) Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone has launched an online consultation to ask how much people are willing to pay to support police and fire services in Northamptonshire next year (2026/27) at: Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Public Consultation: Precept and Public Confidence Survey 2026/2027</p>	
135/2025	<p>Reading Room Sub Committee</p> <p>a) Cllr Roach indicated that he had arranged a meeting for 26 November 2025. He also indicated that Reading Room Trustees would be contacted direct for their availability and he would draft an email inviting them. Cllr Roach confirmed that the Ring Camera had been removed although wiring was left in situ. Cllr Roach also confirmed that the neighbouring tenant had passed away and the property was empty.</p> <p>b) To receive nominations for a third Councillor to be elected to the Reading Room Committee Cllr Tompkins was nominated and dully elected by acclamation as a temporary Reading Room Sub Committee member. Cllr Tompkins agreed.</p> <p>c) To receive nominations for a named Substitute Parish Councillor to be elected to the Reading Room Sub Committee Cllr Gardener was nominated and dully elected by acclamation as a temporary Reading Room Sub Committee member. Cllr Gardner agreed.</p>	<p>Cllr Roach/Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
136/2025	<p>Play Area Equipment Working Group Update</p> <p>Cllr Tompkins reported that she had received a Play Policy from Wickstead Leisure and she was drafting a similar Policy for the Parish Council with a Risk and Benefits Assessment.</p> <p>Cllr Tompkins advised that she had received an article from the Clerk about a similar Play Area installation in Cheshire and examples of signage.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that with reference to Zip Wire Insurance premium she had investigated and the insurance premium would be from £39. It was difficult to find an exact amount until the Insurance Policy Premium with Zurich was advised in February/March 2026, but she would continue investigating.</p>	
137/2025	<p>Remembrance Sunday Working Group Update</p> <p>Cllr Kennedy reported that the event was well received and many positive comments had been received. The Reading Room Trustees had provided chairs for those who needed them and refreshments afterwards. Cllrs Tompkins Gardner, Roach and Welsford had helped with the event. The presence of a Deputy Lieutenant had been welcomed and about 50 residents had attended the Church Service.</p> <p>Cllr Kennedy states that the road closure Notice had worked well and should be next time.</p>	
138/2025	<p>To consider adopting the Bringtons Parish Council Data Protection Policy & Privacy Notice</p> <p>Following brief discussion, Cllr Tompkins proposed and Cllr Roach seconded that the Bringtons Parish Council Data Protection Policy & Privacy Notice be Agreed.</p>	Clerk

139/2025	<p>To Adopt the Filming, Photographing, Audio recording and Social media recording of Public Parish Council Meetings Policy</p> <p>Following brief discussion, Cllr Tompkins proposed and Cllr Roach seconded that the Bringtons Parish Council Data Protection Policy & Privacy Notice be Agreed.</p>	Clerk
140/2025	Finance	
	<p>To Note the Bank Reconciliation and Approve Payments made for November 2025</p> <p>The Payments for November 2025 were approved unanimously and the Bank reconciliation was noted.(At Annex).</p> <p>Cllr Tompkins read out the bank balances for 19 November as Barclays Bank Community Account £4417.76 and Premium Account £24411.74.</p>	Clerk
141/2025	<p>To agree the Parish Clerk & RFO Job Description and Person Specification</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated the documents to the Councillors however Cllr Kennedy advised that he had not received these and the matter should be deferred to a later meeting.</p> <p>A discussion took place about the process and Cllr Kennedy indicated that a longer deadline of 30 November 2025 should have been given and proposed that the issue be discussed at a December meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Roach commented that he was content with the current process.</p> <p>Cllr Kennedy proposed that the process and the appointment of a new Clerk and RFO be delegated to the Chair and Vice -Chair. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal. Voting: 2 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.</p> <p>It was therefore resolved that that the process and the appointment of a new Clerk and RFO be delegated to the Chair and Vice -Chair</p> <p>Cllr Tompkins asked that the documents be re-circulated to all Councillors for comment with a 26 November 2025 deadline.</p>	<p>Chair/Vice-Chair</p> <p>Clerk</p>
142/2025	<p>i. To Note the Parish Council Budget</p> <p>Cllr Kennedy commented that the Budget setting process was detailed in the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and proposed that the item be deferred to the January 2026 meeting to be able to ascertain Councillors ideas and aspirations at an informal meeting and that Cllr James as the Councillor lead on Finance, be asked to present a budget for 2026.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr Gardner and agreed by all.</p> <p>Cllr Kennedy advised that he would advise Cllr James.</p> <p>ii. To consider the level of Parish Precept request from West Northamptonshire Council for 2026- 27</p> <p>It was resolved to defer this until the January 2026 as part of the Budget decision.</p>	<p>Cllr James</p> <p>Cllr Kennedy</p>
143/2025	<p>i. To consider a full market review of Electricity Supplier from Utility Solutions following the collapse of Tomato Energy, and</p> <p>ii. To adopt a new Electricity Provider</p> <p>Following the lateness of receiving papers for this item due to the collapse of Tomato Energy and OFGEM advising an emergency supplier, it was resolved that this item be deferred to an additional meeting in December.</p>	Clerk

Meeting Closed 21.45

1.	Tomato Electricity The Clerk has requested a copy of the Credit note with a breakdown on the calculation.
2.	<p>Update from British Gas received 15 November 2025</p> <p>“We’ve been chosen by the industry regulator, Ofgem, to supply your energy now that Tomato Energy has stopped trading.</p> <p>We understand that this can all be a bit unsettling, so we’d like to offer you a warm welcome to British Gas and let you know that you’re in safe hands. There's nothing you need to do for now - we'll take care of everything for you and your business.”</p> <p>The Clerk has asked Utility Solutions to comment.</p> <hr/> <p>Tomato Energy – Update from Utility Solutions - Tomato Energy your current electricity supplier has now collapsed, and this has been confirmed by OFGEM. Ofgem has already intervened and suspended Tomato Energy from taking on any new supply. Given the situation, we strongly recommend taking proactive steps now to mitigate disruption and avoid unnecessary costs. You have two main options:</p> <hr/> <p>Option 1 – Proactive Switch to a New Supplier: We can conduct a full market review on your behalf and help you agree on competitive rates with a new, stable supplier. This ensures a seamless transition with no interruption to your energy supply.</p> <p>Option 2 – Wait for Collapse and Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR): If Tomato Energy does go bust, Ofgem will appoint a Supplier of Last Resort who will automatically take over the customer base. However, under this route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be placed on out-of-contract emergency tariffs for a minimum of 4 weeks. • You will not be able to negotiate new rates or switch suppliers during this time. • Only after the initial 4-week period will you be allowed to explore new options. <hr/> <p>Waiting could expose you to significantly higher costs and unnecessary uncertainty. We strongly advise considering Option 1 to protect your operations and budgets.</p> <p>On the Agenda at Item 18</p>
3.	<p>Minute 115/2025 To order 6 x 20mph Temporary Advisory Speed Limit Notices for Little and Great Brington</p> <p>9 signs have been ordered to be delivered to Cllr Welsford to display round the villages. A draft traffic consultation document has been forwarded to Councillors for comment.</p>
4.	<p>Northampton Library Exhibition</p> <p>Details of an exhibition taking place in Northampton in November. This exhibition focuses on the experience of Ukrainian children through their stories, drawings and other media are attached. It will be in the Central Library in Northampton from 20th November. Please see attached flyer. Alan Burns Connected Communities Coordinator Housing and Communities WNC</p>
5.	<p>Wicksteed Leisure – Wicksteed are unable to carry out repairs to the Outdoor Gym Equipment as the equipment is not theirs. The Clerk has asked the original suppliers to quote.</p>
6.	<p>Thanks from The Bringtons Newsletter for the Discretionary Grant. Shelagh, et al: SO pleased - for all of us! In the Yorkshire Dales at present and will be in touch on my return next week. Thanks again! As ever, Gary.</p>

7.	<p>Play Area Phase II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Clerk has contacted the Councils Insurers Zurich Insurance to request a quote for the addition of a Zip Wire but they have advised that this should be done when the Insurance is renewed in March 2026. ii. The Clerk has provided Cllr Tompkins with examples of Warning notices and costs of these for the Play Area.
8.	<p>AGE UK Northamptonshire AGM Councillors have been invited to Age UK Northamptonshire's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26th November 2025 commencing at 10am at Moulton Community Centre in person or via Zoom.</p>
9.	<p>Consultation letter from Police and Fire and Resue Services in Northamptonshire 10 November 2025</p> <p>Have your say on funding for policing and fire and rescue services in Northamptonshire</p> <p>Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone is asking for views before setting the council tax precept – the amount of the council tax bill that goes towards funding Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>Local police and fire services are funded through a combination of central government grants and the council tax precept. The precept is about 18% of a total council tax bill in Northamptonshire.</p> <p>A consultation has now been launched to ask how much people are willing to pay to support their police and fire services next year (2026/27).</p> <p>Government guidance on what level of precept increase is available to Commissioner's is expected soon, but we are asking for views on an expected increase of £14 a year for policing and £5 a year for fire for a Band D property.</p> <p>Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone said that these increases are needed to balance the budgets of both organisations and to invest in policing and fire services.</p> <p>"It's never easy to ask for more money, but it's my responsibility to set the precept for Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. I must balance the impact on taxpayers against the need to invest in these important public services so that they can deliver on the public's priorities," Danielle said.</p> <p>"We have made a commitment to create new policing hubs in key towns and there will be two new fire stations and new appliances to ensure we continue to meet the risks that face the county. I am genuinely excited by the developments we are seeing.</p> <p>"Without the contribution that local people make through their council tax, we can't deliver better services," Danielle added.</p> <p>The strategic priorities for both Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service are set out in Danielle's Safe and Sound Plan, which is based on the results of a wide-ranging public consultation.</p> <p>The Plan aims to deliver police and fire services that are visible, accessible and engaged with their local communities – so that they deliver on public priorities.</p> <p>In the coming year, new investments in both services will include keeping police officer</p>

	<p>and firefighter numbers and creating better town centre police bases in Corby, Kettering and Towcester. For fire, there will be new fire stations in Moulton and Kettering and new fire appliances.</p> <p>Danielle said: “As Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, I am committed to pressing the government on the historic underfunding and underinvestment in Northamptonshire.</p> <p>“The council tax precept is a significant part of our funding and before I set the level for next year, I really want to hear from the public.”</p> <p>The survey is now open and runs until midday on Monday 5 January 2026. It can be completed by clicking here: https://www.research.net/r/OPFCCPR25</p>
10.	<p>Barclays Bank have advised that the Bank Mandate has been updated with a new signatory (Cllr James).</p>
11.	<p>Voluntary 20 mph Speed Signs</p> <p>Cllr Stephan Beeusaert has emailed the constable in charge of the speed surveys at Northamptonshire Police to get his take on the voluntary 20mph limit.</p> <p>He is currently out of the office and will be back next week Monday, I will pick this up with him once he is back.</p>
12.	<p>Footpath Reinstatements e.g. Little Brington Bodfish</p> <p>The Parish Council’s Footpaths Warden has advised as follows:</p> <p>“I am abroad at the moment and will give a full response when I get back. However in short, the right of way is unchanged and the resident may still use the direct route across the field. Sadly there are lots of instances where land owners choose not to mark the route of paths across their land.”</p>
13.	<p>West Northamptonshire Council SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL (SWEP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>OPERATING TONIGHT, Wednesday 19th November 2025 UNTIL AT LEAST 9.00AM Thursday 20th November 2025.</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council’s SWEP will be activated tonight in response to the Met Office’s forecast of low overnight temperatures.</p> <p>Please note that whilst the threshold of 3 consecutive nights with a temperature of 0 degrees or below has not been met at this point, SWEP is being triggered due to a current forecast of low overnight temperatures across West Northamptonshire.</p> <p>For at least the next 1 night, people who are sleeping rough in the West Northants area will be provided with somewhere that is warm and dry to stay overnight. The last admission will be at 11.00pm.</p> <p>On Thursday morning, the Met Office weather forecast will be reviewed, and a decision will be made on whether or not the SWEP provision will continue to operate.</p>

PAYMENTS LIST at 19 November 2025

Minute 140/2025 refers

1. (a) Payments for Noting 19 November 2025

Supplier	code	Detail	Invoice No	Invoice Total	VAT
S Muir	BT	Salary November	0	202.37	0
S Muir	BT	S Muir HMRC to 25 November	0	510.46	0
S Muir	BT	S Muir National Insurance Contributions (NIC) to 5 October	120PY00552763	256.22	0
Third Avenue	BT	Website Support (1 Month)	2458	62.40	52.00
Tesco	DD	Mobile Phone Subscription	28/10/25	10.50	
EON	DD	Cricket Pavilion Electricity Supply	KI-EA4D0588-0049	32.55	1.55
TOMATO Electricity	DD	1100039910740 MPan Number UNMETERED SUPPLY Street Lights	12818388326	74.42	0
Compete 366	BT	Azure NCE Plan	25653	5.46	0.91
PKF Littlejohn	BT	Audit Fees	SB20251023	252.00	42.00
WNC Electoral Services	BT	Uncontested Election Fees	424003098268	80.50	0

(b) Bank Reconciliation at 31 October 2025

31/10/2025 Bank Reconciliation			
Bank Balances		Cash Book	
Balance in Current Account YTD	£ 1,158.12	Opening Balance	33,197.88
Value of payments yet to clear		Expenditure to date	-38,604.47
Reserve Account Bank Balance	£28,411.74	Income to date	34,976.45
	£29,569.86		£29,569.04