



Minutes of the Meeting of BRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 15 October 2025, at the Reading Room, Great Brington

Present: Cllr K White, (Chair), Cllrs N Tompkins, S Beeusaert, R Gardner, J James, D Kennedy, M Roach and R Welsford.

Also Present: Clerk and Althorp Representative and 1 member of public.

Apologies: Cllr J James, Cllr Roach (For lateness) and Ward Cllr D Lister

Meeting: Started at 7.45pm

109/2025	Welcome and Announcements Cllr White (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.	Action
110/2025	To receive apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr James and Cllr Roach (for lateness) and from Ward Cllr D Lister . These were agreed unanimously.	Clerk
111/2025	To receive declarations for interest on items on the Agenda Cllr Tompkins advised a personal interest in Item 16 (Finance) as she was related to a payee.	Clerk
112/2025	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 19 September 2025 Subject to the following corrections proposed by Cllr Kennedy: At Minute 95/2025 “footpaths had not been reinstated”, At Minute100/2025 the words “ as the Parish Council had spent £2240 so far in the current financial year and £2145 in the previous financial year in rent and back rent to Althorp Estates and electrical maintenance work ” be deleted. At Minute 105/2025 the words “and red tape” be changed to due diligence ” These were agreed by acclamation.	Clerk
113/2025	Public Participation 1. A resident asked the Parish Council to consider awarding a £300 budget for the planting of daffodil bulbs in the grass verges, and that if possible the school could assist with planting. The Clerk responded that as the request required the Council to make a financial decision that was not on the agenda, as required under the Local Govt Act 1972 the Council was unable to consider the request for funding. The Chair and Councillors, whilst they thought this was a good idea felt for practical reasons it was not able to agree the request at this time as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it was too late in the season to plant daffodil bulbs, • the Gardening Club should be involved, • the Parish Council could not make decisions on behalf of the school, • The grass verges were the responsibility of West Northamptonshire Council, and • Cars parked on some of the grass verges and may damage the bulbs. The resident was advised to re- submit the request next year in good time for planting.	
114/2025	To Note Reports a) The Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulated Helen Burvill (nee Frampton) the Althorp representative, 	

	<p>on her recent marriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed that he had received a draft job description and advert for the position of Clerk and RFO. <p>b) The Clerk – At Annex. With reference to Item 8, draft Clerk & RFO Job Description, Cllr Kennedy requested that the draft Job Description and Person Specification be circulated to all Councillors. Cllr White requested that the Job Advert be forwarded to NCALC, SLCC and circulated in the Village Newsletter.</p> <p>c) Police – A report had not been received.</p> <p>d) Ward Councillors-Cllr Morton advised that the Sandy Lane has reopened but the link road by Harlestone was not open yet.</p>	Clerk
115/2025	<p>To Consider and Agree a Proposal to Host and Monitor the Effectiveness of 6 x 20mph Advisory Speed Limit Notices in Little and Great Brington</p> <p>Cllr Tompkins stated that at Minute 95 of 17 September 2025, it had not been agreed to bring this item to the October meeting although holding a consultation to canvass opinion about having such signs had been suggested. It was disappointing that no members of the public were in attendance to give their views.</p> <p>It was noted that the Parish Council had undertaken 3 monitoring exercises with Northamptonshire Police in the recent past and the evidence showed that although the volumes of traffic had increased, the speeds had not.</p> <p>It was commented that many residents had a perception that there was a speeding issue in the villages and putting up 20mph Advisory Signs would demonstrate that the Parish Council was listening.</p> <p>Councillors discussed undertaking a consultation to find out all the traffic issues in the villages, including speeding and parking, in tandem with the temporary signs being in place and be included in Village Newsletter article. The Chair advised that he had contacted other Parish Councils in the area who had used the signs, for their feedback on the effectiveness of the signs. Councillors commented that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the signs should be put up in tandem with a Police monitoring exercise to provide empirical evidence, due to the number of obstacles on the roads, traffic went slower, the signs may not slow all the drivers but it would remind them, parking is also an issue, HGV signs had been requested that should help with issues. <p>If it was agreed to go ahead with having temporary signs, Cllrs Kennedy and Welsford volunteered to have the signs delivered to them and display around the villages using WNC instructions..</p> <p>It was proposed by the Chair that the Parish Council host and monitor the effectiveness of 20 mph advisory signs in tandem with a traffic consultation. Seconded by Cllr Kennedy.</p> <p>Votes in favour: 6 Votes against: 1 Agreed.</p>	Clerk
116/2025	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Planning Applications</p> <p>i. 2025/3628/FULL at Stonecroft Main Street Little Brington NN7 4HS for Construction of single storey rear extension. Deadline for Comments 24/10/25, No objections noted</p> <p>ii. 2025/3432/TCA at Birchfield Farmhouse Hamilton Lane Great Brington NN7 4HZ for various tree maintenance works No objections noted</p> <p>iii. 2025/3697/COND at Workshop And Premises, East Haddon Road, Great Brington NN7 4JF for Discharge of Condition 6 (BNG and Landscaping) of</p>	

	<p>Planning Permission 2025/0626/S73 (Demolition of existing commercial buildings and construction of single dwelling) at Workshop and Premises, East Haddon Road, Great Brington NN7 4JF). Deadline for Comments 17/10/2025 No objections noted.</p> <p>b) Previous Planning Application Decisions. 2024/0672/MAO - Land North West of Upper High Street, Harpole considered at WNC Planning Committee 23/09/25 it was noted that this had been deferred, reasons to be set out in the Minutes. (not yet published at 6/10/25) West Northamptonshire Strategic Planning Committee 23 September 2025 - Decisions</p> <p>c) Planning related issues (if any). It was noted that the West Northamptonshire Infrastructure and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), was not yet open for comments.</p>	
117/2025	<p>To Note Consultations from West Northamptonshire Council at West Northamptonshire Consultation Hub The Consultations were noted. Councillor Roach joined the meeting.</p>	
118/2025	<p>Environment</p> <p>a) Althorp The Althorp Rep. reported that the railings around the War Memorial had been painted by Althorp, their contractor Metcalfs, and students and apprentices from Northampton College as part of their learning supervised by their tutors from the College.</p> <p>b) Parish Council Footpath Issues The list of footpath issues from a member of the public at the September meeting had been forwarded to the Althorp Rep.</p>	<p>Althorp</p> <p>Clerk</p>
119/2025	<p>Reading Room Sub Committee Update Cllr Roach indicated that he had not yet arranged a further meeting but one was due at the end of November 2025. He also indicated that Reading Room Trustees should be contacted direct for their availability and he would draft an email inviting them. Cllr Roach also drew the Council's attention to a CCTV/ Ring type camera in the corner of the hall that appeared to be working and recording the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that there was legislation in place allowing the recording of meetings but there were guidelines in place to safeguard Data Protection and identities. She would investigate a suitable policy to be adopted and notices to be displayed whilst Council meetings were in progress. Cllr Roach indicated that he would bring the issue of recording events in the Hall and required protocols, to the attention of the Secretary to the Reading Room Trustees. The Chair commented that as Landlord of the building the Parish Council was required to ensure the building was managed in accordance with legislation.</p>	<p>Cllr Roach/Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Roach</p>
120/2025	<p>Play Area Equipment Working Group Update Cllr Tompkins stated that the Working Group has received several quotes for a Zip Wire as an addition to the Play Area equipment. Copies of the quotes had been circulated to Councillors and one was within the budget of £15000.00 which was the Awards for All grant. The Clerk had circulated to Councillors advice from other public play management organisations that confirmed the Parish Council's concerns which included Health and Safety protocols, the issue of public liability insurance cover in the event of an accident and suitably worded signs for users.</p>	Clerk

	<p>It was noted that Risk cannot be completely managed, but that the Parish Council should adopt a Play Policy that addressed the issues that had been raised.</p> <p>Cllr White (Chair) requested that Daventry Council be contacted for advice as they had similar equipment in their Play Areas.</p> <p>Cllr White proposed that in principle on the basis that all the necessary documentation and Insurance was in place, the Parish Council should agree the addition of a Zip Wire to the Play Area</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr Tompkins</p> <p>Agree: Unanimously</p>	Working Group/Clerk
121/2025	<p>Remembrance Sunday Working Group Update.</p> <p>Cllr Kennedy reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rector would not be leading the service and that it would be taken by a retired priest, The Rector was happy that Earl Spencer and a DL be invited to the service and memorial event; the Road Closure Notice had not yet been approved by WNC but attendees could stand out of the way of traffic if required. <p>Cllr Welsford requested that a further wreath be ordered for the Evergreens and the Parish Council would be reimbursed; this was agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>Cllr Kennedy</p> <p>Clerk/Cllr Welsford</p>
122/2025	<p>To note the Health & Safety Inspections Report from Wicksteed Leisure for Kimbells Field Outdoor Gym</p> <p>Councillors noted the Inspections report and noted the advised actions. It was also noted that with the exception of the piece of equipment that had been taped off, low risk repairs only were required.</p> <p>Cllr Roach proposed that Wicksteed Leisure be asked to provide a quote for the repairs; Agreed by all.</p>	Clerk
123/2025	<p>To Note an Update concerning an offer of a Grant from a Resident</p> <p>Cllr Tompkins reported that she had met with the resident and explained the Parish Council's position. The resident had thanked Cllr Tompkins and the Parish Council for discussing this and for the explanation which they fully understood. They also indicated they would give consideration to a suitable project taking into account the Council's advice.</p>	
124/2025	<p>Finance</p> <p>To Note the Bank Reconciliation and Approve Payments made for September 2025</p> <p>The Payments for October 2025 were approved unanimously and the Bank reconciliation was noted.(At Annex)</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to pay a discretionary grant to the Bringtons Newsletter for 2 Editions at £190 each.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
125/2025	<p>To Note the Draft Budget 2025-2026 to date</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated to Councillors the revised spreadsheet showing the Councils financial position at 30 September 2025 unfortunately Cllr James was not present to comment.</p> <p>Cllr White (Chair) stated his concerns that the Bank Mandate giving Cllr James access to monitor the Bank Accounts had not yet been forwarded to Barclays Bank and that this was becoming urgent following the Parish Clerk's announcement that she would be leaving the Council.</p>	Clerk/Cllr James

Meeting Closed 21.10

Signed:*N Tompkins*

Dated: 19 November 2025

Cllr N Tompkins (Vice Chair)

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</p> <p>Update from Utility Solutions</p> <p>We 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>We 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>We have asked they communicate to myself once this has been actioned so we 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>We have attached the updated certificate for you also.</p> <p>We 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</p>

	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.
6.	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.
7.	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.
8.	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.
9.	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.

PAYMENTS LIST at 15 October 2025

Minute 124/2025 refers

1. (b) Payments for Noting 15 October 2025

Supplier	code	Detail	Invoice No	Invoice Total	VAT
S Muir	BT	Salary October	0	605.40	
S Muir	BT	S Muir HMRC to 25 October	0	153.99	
Third Avenue	BT	Website Support (1 Month)	2443	62.40	52.00
R & G Invoice Date	BT	Kimbells Field, gang mow, triple Mow Village Greens	122144	577.20	96.20
EON	DD	Cricket Pavilion Electricity	KI-EA4D0588- 0048	31.50	1.50
Tesco	DD	Mobile Phone Subscription October	8 October 2025	1.00	
Brington & Nobottle News		Grant (Cost of 2 Editions)		390.00	
TOMATO Electricity	DD	1100039910750 Meter Serial Number UNMETERED SUPPLY	12621658086	318.97	
Rhino Play Ltd	BT	Outstanding Balance from Invoices under query included in 2024-25 Accounts	INV-202110	1560.00	260.00
Rhino Play Ltd	BT	Outstanding Balance from Invoices under query included in 2024-25 Accounts	INV-202112	1662.00	277.00
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	BT	Annual Inspection Outdoor Gym Equipment	0000829604	180.00	
West Northamptonshire Norse Ltd	BT	Annual litter bin - Church car park. October 25 - October 26	52IN-001298	423.11	70.52
Compete 366	BT	Azure NCE Plan	25653	5.46	.91

TOMATO Electricity	DD	1100039910740 MPan Number UNMETERED SUPPLY	12817634834	9.22	
--------------------	----	---	-------------	------	--

(b) Receipts to Note Total

	DD			
	Date	Detail		Bank Credit Total
WNC	23/09/2025	Precept		11895.50
Barclays Bank	30/09/2025	Bank Interest		80.99
			£	11976.49

(c) Bank Reconciliation

Nett balances as at 30/09/2025 Bank Reconciliation				
Bank Balances Balance in Current Account YTD Value of payments yet to clear Reserve Account Bank Balance YTD Total		Cash Book Opening Balance Expenditure to date Income to date Total		
	£3,365.15		33,197.88	
	0		-32,189.44	
	£31,584.94		33,941.65	
	£ 34,950.09		34,950.09	