



## Minutes of the General Meeting of Spratton Parish Council

21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at Spratton Village Hall, Spratton at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Marshall (Chair), Ashton, Beynon, Gaywood, Matts, Young & Vellam.

**CLERK:** Alan Youel.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr: McDonald-Walker

**PUBLIC:** 7 members of public in attendance.

### 01.26 Resolution to approve apologies for absence

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED:** to approve apologies for absence received from Cllr McDonald-Walker.

### 02.26 Members' declaration of interest in items on the agenda

#### To receive:

Pecuniary: Cllr Matts 14.26, (Landowner)  
Cllr Matts 17.26(b)(a), (Landowner)

Nonpecuniary: Cllr Young 11.26, (Member of Village Hall Committee)  
Cllr Ashton, (Member of Rec Committee)  
Cllr Gaywood, (Member of Rec Committee)

### 03.26 Public Forum

- A resident, Steve Holt, spoke regarding a recent leaflet distributed to all properties by Spratton Organic Farm. He questioned the validity of the information contained within the leaflet and asked for the Parish Council's view.

Cllr Ware declared her involvement at West Northamptonshire Council and advised that, should the matter be referred to the Planning Committee, she would formally declare this interest.

Cllr Ashton noted that the Parish Council had previously considered matters relating to Spratton Organic Farm and had resolved that any such issues fall within the remit of the planning authority.

### 04.26 Report from Ward Councillor

#### - Cllr Christine Ware – West Northamptonshire Council Update

Cllr Ware reported that she had visited Spratton earlier in the day to review poorly maintained allotments and to consider possible measures to return them to a usable condition.

### 05.26 Approval of Minutes

Cllr Gaywood queried a wording within the minutes at item 281.25, on behalf of Cllr Matts, who had been absent for that item due to a declared pecuniary interest.

The Clerk advised that it was not appropriate for clarification to be sought on behalf of a Councillor who had been absent from the item due to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

Cllr Young pointed out the word in question makes no material difference to the decision made as such the minute does not require further consideration.

On the proposition of Cllr Young, seconded by the Chair, it was **RESOLVED:** to approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### 06.26 Receipt of Committee Minutes

To receive the redacted draft minutes of HR Committee meeting 15th April 2026.

#### Item 21.26

## 07.26 Resources

The Bank Balances, Bank Reconciliations, and Receipts and Payments report to 31 March 2026 were presented, along with confirmation of internal control checks. The finance checks had been completed by Cllrs Beynon & Matts. The bank statements and bank reconciliation were approved by Council and signed.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve all finance papers.

On the proposition of Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr Beynon, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve payments for April to May 2026.

On the proposition of the Chair, seconded by Cllr Ashton, it was **RESOLVED**: to note receipts for April to May 2026 - £2,455.02 VAT reclaim.

## 08.26 Budget Expenditure Report Qtr 4 2025-26

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: To receive quarterly report on expenditure against budget to Mar 2026.

## 09.26 Financial Year End

Clerk updated on year-end and AGAR process.

## 10.26 Planning

Planning Applications to consider and make resolution:

|                                |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">2026/1468/TCA</a>  | 12 School Road Spratton NN6 8HY                                        | Blue Spruce tree - remove completely as is in close proximity to the dwelling house and beginning to encroach on public pathway. <b>No comments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <a href="#">2026/1234/COND</a> | Grange Farm Holdenby Road Spratton NN6 8LA                             | Discharge of Conditions 4 [CEMP], 6 [Enclosures], 13 [Biodiversity] and 14 [Ecology] of Planning Permission 2025/2105/FULL [Conversion of two stables to create two new dwellings with associated landscaping and transport works. The proposal also includes the demolition of two modern steel framed barns and the erection of two double garages] <b>No comments</b> |
| <a href="#">2026/1085/TCA</a>  | Spratton Church Of England Primary School School Road Spratton NN6 8HY | Two Lime trees (T10, T11): Re-pollard to previous points (2.5 to 3 metres). <b>No comments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## 11.26 Village Hall Wi-Fi

Members considered a request for financial support towards a scoping exercise for Wi-Fi provision at the Village Hall, at a cost of £59.99.

It was noted that a router and SIM card had been installed to assess usage by hall users, with access details available on site. It was further noted that the Parish Council had previously expressed interest in Wi-Fi provision to support Council meetings, and it had been understood that the Parish Council may contribute towards the cost of internet provision.

Members considered whether to provide full or partial funding for the installation.

On the proposition of Cllr Ashton, seconded by Cllr Beynon, it was **RESOLVED**: to support the scoping exercise undertaken by the Village Hall Committee, with a contribution of £59.99 towards associated costs.

## 12.26 Cemetery Condition and Upkeep

The Clerk reported that memorial safety remedial works have now been completed, with all identified unsafe memorials at East View Cemetery repaired.

At Brixworth Road Cemetery, one of the three identified memorials has been repaired, with the remaining two deemed beyond economical repair and subsequently laid flat.

The Chair advised that the repaired memorial at Brixworth Road Cemetery is that of a decorated soldier. Both the local history society and relatives have expressed thanks to the Parish Council for the work undertaken.

### **13.26 St Andrew's Churchyard Wall – Condition & Proposed Works**

Members received an update.

Cllr Beynon reported that four quotes had been requested for monitoring potential movement of the wall, with one quote received to date. It was noted that there was some uncertainty as to whether the Church would permit the installation of small metal targets within the wall for monitoring purposes. Confirmation from the Church is awaited. Mr Foster has contacted West Northamptonshire Council Conservation Officer, Rachel Booth, who advised that the installation of galvanised steel monitoring bolts would not require conservation consent.

It was further reported that the wall to the right of the entrance gate has deteriorated. Tim Foster has been identified as the preferred contractor for repair works, and Cllr Beynon will request a formal quotation.

### **14.26 Smith Street – Pedestrian Access Gate**

Cllr Matts declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and left the room, taking no part in the discussion or decision.

The Clerk advised that, in light of information received earlier that day, the item should be deferred. It was recommended that the Clerk be authorised to refer the matter to the Council's legal advisers.

On the proposition of Cllr Ashton, seconded by Cllr Young, it was **RESOLVED**: to defer the item and to authorise the Clerk to seek and instruct legal advice in light of the information received.

### **15.26 Consideration of Steps to Monitor and Address Issues Raised by the Draft Local Plan**

The Chair provided an update following the Parish Council's agreed response to the Draft Local Plan consultation. It was noted that concerns had been raised regarding the alignment of the Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) with the proposed housing numbers within the emerging West Northamptonshire Council Local Plan.

Members discussed the need to monitor the progression of the Draft Local Plan and to consider the implications for the Parish, including whether it may be appropriate to review the Neighbourhood Plan, either at this stage or following adoption of the Local Plan.

Members considered the establishment of a working group to review the Draft Local Plan and related matters, including taking advice where appropriate and reporting back to Full Council. A draft Terms of Reference, prepared by the Chair, was noted and will be circulated for further consideration.

On the proposition of the Chair, seconded by Cllr Ashton, it was **RESOLVED**: to establish a working party, including members of the community, to monitor the Draft Local Plan, consider its implications for the Parish, and report back to the Council with recommendations.

It was further noted that:

- The working party may be promoted as part of a proposed volunteering initiative in June.
- Draft Terms of Reference will be circulated following the meeting.
- Councillors will be invited to volunteer for the working party at the May meeting.

### **16.26 Welcome Packs**

Cllr Ashton reported on the delivery of welcome packs to new residents and noted the need for a more formalised process for printing.

The Clerk advised that the Council does not have its own printer and that, whilst his personal printer is adequate for routine Council business, it is not suitable for printing in larger quantities. A quotation has been obtained from the current newsletter printer and circulated.

On the proposition of Cllr Ashton, it was **RESOLVED** to set aside an annual printing budget of £50 for welcome packs, with Cllr Ashton authorised to arrange the most cost-effective printing within this budget.

**17.26 Churchyards, Cemeteries and Open Spaces – Mowing/Maintenance Issues (if any):**

- a) **Village Handyman:** Contract awarded for rabbit-proof fencing at East View Cemetery.
- b) **Cemetery Issues:**
  - a. Cllr Ashton updated on Broken fence at East View Cemetery entrance gates from Roly Banks.

On the proposition of Cllr Ashton, seconded by Cllr Young, it was **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk will request the Village Handyman to confirm whether this section will be repaired as part of the rabbit-proof fencing works and, if not, to provide a quotation for stock-proof fencing repair.

- b. The Chair gave an update on Brixworth Road Cemetery.

The Chair provided an update following approval of the new management arrangements for the Pocket Park and a subsequent meeting with the group. A risk assessment has been requested from the group.

Repairs are required to the bench and lychgate, for which a quotation of £600 has been received. The History Society intends to raise funds for the restoration of graves. The Chair expressed appreciation for the group's commitment.

It was further reported that moss will be removed from graves to aid identification, and a laminated map will be installed in the lychgate to assist visitors in locating graves.

On the proposition of the Chair, seconded by Cllr Ashton, it was **RESOLVED:** to accept the quotation of £600 for repairs to the lychgate and bench, and to authorise the Chair to pursue matters relating to risk and insurance.

**18.26 Community Issues**

- a) **Defibrillator checks:** *Complete as of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026.*
- b) **Highway Safety:** *None.*

**19.26 Consultations Requiring a Response:**

None

**20.26 Exclusion of press and public**

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED:** Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted to consider, it is proposed that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for agenda items 21.26 & 22.26.

**21.26 To receive HR Committee report.**

Cllr Young reported that the HR Committee had met to consider a grievance in accordance with the Council's adopted procedures. It was noted that further action would be taken as appropriate.

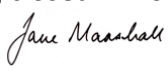
**22.26 Confidential Staffing Matters**

Cllr Young reported that a staffing matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's adopted policies and procedures.

**23.26 Date of next meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed: 21:00

Signed:  19/05/2026