



Minutes of the General Meeting of Spratton Parish Council

16th June 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: 2 members of public in attendance.

60.26 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.

61.26 Members' declaration of interest in items on the agenda

To receive:

Pecuniary: Cllr Matts 66.26 (2026/1532/MAF), (Landowner)

Nonpecuniary: None

62.26 PUBLIC FORUM:

- A resident suggested 3 properties were not receiving the village newsletter.

63.26 Report from Ward Councillor

- Cllr Christine Ware – West Northamptonshire Council Update

Cllr Ware reported that the temporary traffic signals at the crossroads had now been removed following completion of the works.

She provided an update on West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), noting that following the Council's Annual Meeting:

- Cllr Fiona Baker (Conservative, Brackley Ward) has been elected Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.
- Cllr Anthony Lock (Reform UK, Daventry South Ward) has been elected Vice-Chairman.
- Cllr Charlie Hastie (Reform UK, Woodford and Weedon Ward) has been appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.
- Cllr Kamala Guliyeva (Reform UK, Daventry South Ward) has been appointed to the Culture and Leisure portfolio.

Cllr Ware advised that recruitment for a new Chief Executive is commencing.

She also reported that a new waste collection contract is being developed to bring all areas of West Northamptonshire into line with the "123+" waste collection service already operating in parts of the authority.

A Local Plan workshop was held in May, and the Council remains on course to submit the Regulation 19 Local Plan by the end of the year.

At the June Cabinet meeting, the final financial figures for 2025/26 were presented. The Council reported an overspend of £7 million, funded from risk reserves. After the use of contingencies of £11.4 million.

Cllr Beynon enquired about the current position regarding planning enforcement matters at Spratton Organic Farm. Cllr Ware advised that the matter remains ongoing and that a meeting is expected to take place shortly.

64.26 Approval of Minutes

On the proposition of Cllr Beynon, seconded by Cllr Vallam, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 19th May 2026.

65.26 Resources

The Bank Balances, Bank Reconciliations to 31 May 2026, and Receipts and Payments report 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.

- a) On the proposition of Cllr Beynon, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve bank reconciliations to 31st May 2026.
- b) On the proposition of Cllr Beynon, it was **RESOLVED**: to approve payments June 2026 totalling £5540.31.
- c) On the proposition of Cllr Beynon, it was **RESOLVED**: to note receipts June 2026 totalling £460.

66.26 Planning

Planning Applications to consider and make resolution:

Cllr Matts declared an interest in this item, left the meeting, and took no part in the discussion or voting.

<u>2026/1532/MAF</u>	Land at Matts Lodge Farm Grooms Lane Creaton NN6 8NN	Change of use of land to create a dog walking area, including boundary fencing – <i>Comment: we note proposed site open to 9pm, so some form of lighting likely required, could the applicant please include details</i>
<u>2026/2224/LDE</u>	Dale House 19 Yew Tree Lane Spratton NN6 8HL	Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land for garden amenity space, to include a tennis court. – <i>No comment</i>

67.26 Bus Shelter Provision – Welford Road (A5199)

The Chair updated members following a resident request to consider the provision of a bus shelter at the Northampton-bound bus stop on Welford Road (A5199).

The Chair reported that, following discussions with Ward Cllr Ware, the shelter may be capable of being provided through the West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Bus Service Improvement Programme at no cost to the Parish Council. Any shelter would be designed, funded, owned and maintained by WNC. WNC would undertake a site survey should an application be submitted with satisfactory supporting information.

Members noted that the Parish Council would be required to provide information regarding passenger usage, the proposed location and the outcome of consultation with local residents. It was further noted that consultation responses should identify whether respondents currently use the bus service to assist in assessing demand.

On the proposition of the Chair, it was **RESOLVED**: that the Council:

1. Supports, in principle, the erection of a bus shelter at the Northampton-bound bus stop on Welford Road (A5199), of a design and specification to be determined by West Northamptonshire Council and approved by the Parish Council, on the basis that the shelter will be funded, owned and maintained by West Northamptonshire Council; and
2. Liaise with West Northamptonshire Council and take such administrative steps as may be necessary to progress the proposal.

This resolution is subject to:

- a) The satisfactory fulfilment of any requirements imposed by West Northamptonshire Council, including the provision of information relating to the proposed location and usage of the bus stop; and
- b) Consultation with, and no material objection from, any residents directly affected by the proposed siting of the shelter.

On the proposition of the Chair, it was further **RESOLVED** that the Council undertake a local consultation exercise regarding the proposed bus shelter and:

1. Write to the owners and occupiers of properties closest to the proposed location of the shelter, providing information on the proposal and an illustrative image of a typical shelter;
2. Display notices in the vicinity of the proposed site seeking the views of residents and bus users; and
3. Publish a survey on the Parish Council website, and promote it via the Council's social media channels, seeking information on:
 - o Whether respondents use the bus service;
 - o Whether respondents support the provision of a bus shelter; and
 - o The direction of travel for which respondents would be most likely to use a shelter.

68.26 Cemetery Condition and Upkeep

Cllr Young provided an update regarding complaints received concerning the condition of the cemetery, including the length of the grass and the presence of thistles and weeds. It was reported that the grounds maintenance contractor had attended the cemetery earlier that day and that the general condition had subsequently improved.

The Chair advised that complaints regarding grass cutting extended beyond the cemetery to other areas maintained by the Council and confirmed that Cllr Ashton is acting as liaison with the grounds maintenance contractor. It was anticipated that these matters would be discussed with the contractor upon his return.

The Clerk advised that any complaints received regarding grounds maintenance are forwarded to Cllr Ashton for action, with Cllr Young copied into those relating specifically to the cemetery for information.

69.26 St Andrew's Churchyard Wall – Condition and Proposed Works

Cllr Beynon reported that the survey team had attended site and commenced the installation of monitoring equipment to enable movement of the churchyard wall to be assessed.

The Clerk advised that formal contracts had been issued to Tim Foster for the churchyard wall maintenance and repair works and to Global Surveys for the churchyard wall monitoring works.

The Chair thanked Cllr Beynon for his work on the project.

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

- a) **Village Handyman:** *No update.*
- b) **Cemetery Issues:** *None.*

71.26 Community Issues

- a) **Defibrillator checks:** *Complete as of 9th June 2026.*
- b) **Highway Safety:** *None.*

72.26 Consultations Requiring a Response: *None.*

73.26 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, that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for agenda items 74.26.

Cllr Matts declared an interest in this item, left the meeting, and took no part in the discussion or voting.

74.26 Litigation Update

The Clerk reported that the Council's solicitor had been instructed in relation to the matter. Members received the update.

No further resolution was required.

75.26 Date of next meeting

21st July 2026, Meeting of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed: 20:07

Signed:  21/07/2026