

MINUTES OF PLANNING AND FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17th MARCH
2026 AT 7.00PM at MILLFIELDS PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH

PRESENT:

Cllr A Whyte (Chairman)
Cllr N Dyne
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr E McNeill
Cllr S Martin
Cllr S Mortlock
Cllr C Pearce

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)
3 members of the public.

146. To Receive Apologies for absence.

Cllr J Neish-Personal
Cllr C Norman-personal
Cllr G Norman-personal

147. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 17th February 2026.

Resolved: That the minutes be signed as a true and correct record (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr MacPherson) 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

148. To note declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda.

Cllr Pearce item 150.5 pecuniary wife is a member of staff.

149. Public Forum.

To allow any member of the public to address the council on matters on the agenda.

Time Allowed 10 minutes.

First resident spoke as the applicant for planning application 26/00227/OUT. He outlined the work to date and the consultation with HDC. The proposal is to be sympathetic with the history of the property being low density and "non estate".

Cllr Mortlock sought clarification over the number of properties. It was confirmed as 5 houses and 1 bungalow.

Second resident spoke to express concerns over the potential loss of privacy for Egret Close and the change to quality of life although he did think that the plans were well considered.

150. Finance & Risk:

- 150.1 To note correspondence from CAPALC relating to renewal of subscription 2026/27 and approve annual subscription.

Clerk confirmed that the fee does include DPO service.

Resolved: That the renewal of the membership of 774.66 be approved for 2026/27 (Prop Cllr Martin 2nd Cllr Mortlock) 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

- 150.2 To approve refund of £776.83 to central England co-op to correct their error.

Clerk explained that Co-Op had overpaid an invoice of £101 by this amount and as the end of the financial year is on 31st March funds need returning.

Resolved: That a refund of £776.83 is made on 19th March 2026 (Prop Cllr Mortlock 2nd Cllr McNeill) All in favour.

7.20pm Cllr Dyne declared an interest as a Director of CAPALC and left the meeting.

- 150.3 To approve payments made within Clerk delegated powers.

Resolved: That payments of £45.00 are approved (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr Mortlock) All in favour, abstentions.

150.4 To approve accounts for payment on 19th March 2026.

Cllr Fountain asked what the payment to Dalrod was for. Clerk advised that the Balmoral tank had been emptied. Chairman asked that this is carried out on a more regular basis.

Resolved: That payments of £5538.38 are approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr Martin) 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

Cllr Dyne returns to the meeting 7.23pm

Cllr Pearce leaves the meeting 7.23pm

150.5 To approve salaries & HMRC for payment on 24th March 2026

Resolved: That salaries and HMRC with a total of 8625.77 are approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr Martin) All in favour.

Cllr Pearce returns to the meeting 7.24pm

151. Planning.

151.1 To consider the following planning application **received:**

(i) Application ref: 26/00292/HHFUL

Erection of single storey rear extension and porch infill.

17 Russett Avenue Needingworth St Ives.

Resolved: That the application be approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr McNeill) All in favour.

(ii) Application ref:26/00227/OUT

Hybrid planning application: Full planning permission for demolition of existing outbuildings, creation of a new vehicular and pedestrian access, creation of a new driveway and garaging to Victoria House, and conversion of existing annexe to a dwelling (including extensions, remodelling and re-landscaping). Outline planning permission (with all matters reserved except for access) for 5No. dwellings and associated works.

Land At And Including Victoria House Bluntisham Road Needingworth.

A lengthy debate took place with members expressing concerns over:

- Parking provision and HDC comment on the subject. Members felt that the provision could not be reduced for fear of roadside parking on a bend.
- Access needs to be two lanes.
- Sewage treatment – unknown
- No comments from CCC Highways.
- Lack of information with regards to neighbour privacy.

It was noted that the plot was of a good size and in principle could accommodate 5 dwellings but as this part of the application is “outline” it is not definite.

Resolved: That the application be objected to for the aforementioned reasons with members wanting a “full” application for consideration. (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Fountain) All in favour.

151.2 To note the following applications that have been **withdrawn:**

(i) Application Ref: 25/02421/LBC

Installation of air source heat pump and associated works

Spring Cottage Holywell Front Holywell St Ives PE27 4TG

Noted.

.152. Correspondence.

- (i) To consider request for the holding of Dog shows on common land Holywell Front. Cllr McNeill expressed concerns over parking and the additional pressure on one of the busiest Bank Holidays. Cllr Martin wanted to know who was going to be responsible for clearing the site.

Cllr Mortlock spoke to say that Council cannot guarantee that the land will be empty as many use it on a regular basis including boats.

Cllr McPherson considered it a nice idea

Cllr Dyne felt that a plan of the project was required to be properly assessed.

Cllr Whyte spoke to say that common land cannot be fenced.

All agreed that they did not wish to stifle enterprise, but this idea has many flaws.

Resolved: That the request be declined (Prop Cllr Pearce 2nd Cllr Fountain) 5 in favour 2 against 1 abstention.

- (ii) To consider request from Cam Valley cricket club to use facilities at Millfield's 2026 season.

Members discussed and felt that it was unfair on the local team who own all of the equipment. It was also noted that Needingworth cricket club do not have any rights to sub lease the pitch.

Resolved: That the request be declined (Prop Cllr Pearce 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour.

- (iii) To consider request from U3A Pétanque to weed and gravel overflow car park.

Resolved; That the Clerk obtain quotes for weed spraying and re gravelling the area. 9 Prop Cllr Martin 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour.

- (iv) To approve the signing of AWA licence to carry out non-intrusive surveys, Millfield's, as part of the Fens reservoir project.

Resolved: That the agreement be signed (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr McNeill) All in favour.

153. Items to report.

- Cllr McNeill reported the fallen road sign Back Lan Holywell and the pothole outside of "Hadley" back Lane following witnessing a cyclist fall off his bike having hit the pothole. Chairman confirmed that both have been reported to CCC Highways.
- Cllr Dyne advised he had spoken to CCC Highways staff who had advised that there will be no pothole repairs until the new financial year.
- Cllr Pearce asked if the red car in the hedge along Harrison Way was going to be removed.
- Cllr Mortlock asked if the sewage flue pipe on Mill Way has been repaired by AWA. Clerk confirmed that AWA will be sending a specialist team to site, but date is unknown.
- Clerk reported that Copleys have been in receipt of correspondence relating to the purchase of Falklands and hopefully there will be more information for the April agenda.
- Clerk also reminded members of the deadline for nomination papers for 7th may elections.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Chairman

Date