

MINUTES OF PLANNING AND FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18th
NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM at MILLFIELDS PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH

PRESENT:

Cllr A Whyte (Chairman)
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr E McNeill
Cllr J Neish
Cllr C Pearce

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)
1 member of the public.

124. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Cllr N Dyne – Personal
Cllr S Martin – Personal
Cllr S Mortlock – Personal
Cllr C Norman – Personal
Cllr G Norman - Personal

125. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 21st October 2025.

Resolved: That the minutes of 21st October 2025 be signed as a true and correct record.
(Prop Cllr McNeill, 2nd Cllr MacPherson) 4 in favour, 2 abstentions.

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

Cllr Pearce item 128.3- pecuniary wife of member of staff.

127. Public Forum.

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

Time Allowed 10 minutes.

Chair of Houghton & Wyton Parish Council was invited to speak by PC Chairman.

In acknowledging certain good things within the local plan, he wished to high light problems specifically, the speed at which the plan is being pushed through and the unrealistic housing target with such high concentrations of housing bringing associated issues not least lack of infrastructure. In his opinion the plan needs to be paused to give time for suitable consultation (the current consultation is only 6 weeks) for Government to settle on the choice of unitary authority and for housing numbers to be challenged.

He tabled a leaflet for those present to consider.

128. Finance & Risk:

128.1 To approve payments made within Clerk delegated powers

None

128.2 To approve accounts for payment on 20th November 2025.

Clerk advised that due to transfer limits the payment to Wicksteed will be made in 2 transactions.

Resolved: That the following payments be approved G W Bevan, Repair & restore fire hooks, Inv. No. 2025 - £500.00, Wicksteed, Resurfacing of U12's play area, Inv. No. 0000829990 - £37432.96, STARK Building Materials UK Limited, Postfix, Inv. No. 3402/01303557 - £39.60, KTS Computers Limited, IT Support, Inv. No. 250871 - £94.89, RBL, Poppy wreath, Ref ECD17 - £20.00, Core Synergy Limited, Website

compliance fees, Inv. No. 18017 - £288.00 and STARK Building Materials UK Limited, Padlocks & chains, Inv. No. 3402/01303797 - £25.86 Totalling £38401.31 (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour.

Cllr Pearce left the meeting 7.12pm

128.3 To approve salaries for payment on 24th November 2025.

Resolved: That salaries and PAYE totalling £8868.68 be approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Neish) All in favour.

Cllr Pearce returns to the meeting 7.13pm

128.4 To approve the transfer of £25,000 from Co-Op PSR to current account

Resolved: That the transfer of £25000 from Co-op PSR to current account be approved (Prop Cllr McNeill, 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour.

129. To receive a verbal update and approval for literature to be produced relating to the future management of the Village Hall

Cllr Whyte spoke stating that the Village hall Trustees welcome assistance from the Parish Council to promote the need for new Trustees.

Draft flyer tabled for issue with December edition of the Villager. The flyer and poster for use on lampposts/shop etc have been approved by the Trustees.

Resolved: That the flyer and poster be approved (Prop Cllr McNeill, 2nd Cllr MacPherson) 5 in favour 1 abstention.

130. Correspondence.

(i) To note the updated report following re inspection of Millfield's by Cambs Fire brigade.

Noted

(ii) To consider request for NFEST 2026 Friday 26th June -Saturday 27th June 2026.

Cllr Fountain spoke to say that the request did not come from the VHT but an independent body which reported to the trust on 17/11/25. As the future of the trust is uncertain the VHT did not support at this time.

Cllr Whyte asked, if the trust does not exist by date of event, where will the funds go?

Clerk pointed out change of days to a Friday and Saturday.

Resolved: That the request be supported subject to the viability of the village hall trust, and that it is still up and running. (Prop Cllr Neish, 2nd Cllr MacPherson) 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

(iii) To note correspondence relating to Tomato energy ceasing trading.

Noted

131. Items to report.

- Cllr MacPherson asked when the Christmas tree was going up. Clerk advised by 1st December.
- Cllr Neish reported on DMC which the Clerk attended on behalf of Council. Application 24/01802/out was supported although he personally had voted against.
- Clerk spoke reporting on DMC stating that members acknowledged concerns over traffic and flooding in the locality but that they had to work with reports as submitted by CCC Highways and Environment Agency. In Clerks opinion residents are being let down by both parties.

Clerk also raised a letter from leader of HDC dated 14th November asking Council opinion on preferences for LGR. This letter missed the agenda and as responses are required by 21st November cannot go to Full Council on 2nd December.

A discussion took place around options and whilst not everyone was in attendance those present support option E. Clerk to respond to that effect.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm

Chairman

Date