

MINUTES OF PLANNING AND FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 21st
APRIL 2026 AT 7.00PM at MILLFIELDS PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH

PRESENT:

Cllr A Whyte (Chairman)
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr E McNeill
Cllr S Martin
Cllr S Mortlock
Cllr J Neish
Cllr C Norman
Cllr G Norman
Cllr C Pearce

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)
No members of the public.

154. To Receive Apologies for absence.

Cllr N Dyne-Personal

155. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 17th March 2026

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2026 be signed as a true and correct record (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr McNeill) 7 in favour, 3 abstentions.

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

Cllr Pearce item 158.4 pecuniary wife is a member of staff.

157. Public Forum.

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

Time Allowed 10 minutes

None.

158. Finance & Risk.

- 158.1 To note the acquisition of Ethos by Aurora and approve set up of new direct debit.

Resolved: That the setup of new direct debit for Aurora is approved. (Prop Cllr Pearce, 2nd Cllr G Norman) All in favour.

- 158.2 To approve payments made within Clerk delegated powers.

None

- 158.3 To approve accounts for payment on 23rd April 2026.

Clerk advised that the transfer to Redwood Bank was for advice only as previously approved by full Council

Resolved: That payments of £129.60 are approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Martin) All in favour.

Cllr Pearce leaves the meeting 7.12pm

- 158.4 To approve salaries & HMRC for payment on 24th April 2026.

Resolved: That salaries and HMRC with a total of £8732.14 are approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr McNeill) All in favour.

Cllr Pearce returns to the meeting 7.13pm

158.4 To approve application to Company Barclays card to reflect legal status as Parish Council.

Clerk explained that the request had come from the company as they need to correct their records.

Resolved: That the application to Company Barclays card to reflect legal status as Parish Council be approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr McNeill) All in favour.

159. Planning.

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

(i) Application ref: 26/00639/S73: Variation of Condition 3 (temporary permission) of 23/00095/FUL

10 Needingworth Industrial Estate Needingworth Road Needingworth.

Cllr McPherson queried if approval would make an application for a permanent structure easier.

Cllr Mortlock asked if there had been any complaints. Clerk advised not.

Resolved: That the application be approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr G Norman) 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

(ii) Application ref: 26/00474/HHFUL Single storey side extension and reduction of windows

1 Russett Avenue Needingworth St Ives.

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

(iii) Application ref: 26/00605/PIP. Permission in principle for 4 dwellings.

Land North West Of Manor Farm Conger Lane Holywell.

Cllr McNeill strongly objected to the application stating it is:

- in open countryside,
- accessed across a public footpath
- It will cause harm to the environment – badger sets, grass snakes, hedgerows
- Water run off will make the path a quagmire.
- Conger Lane already in poor repair and the application will increase vehicles using it.
- Conservation area.

Cllr MacPherson sought clarification if the site extended beyond the recent application for a barn conversion.

Cllr Pearce felt that this was extending the built-up area by “creeping”. He also felt that the village was in danger of becoming 1 big development.

Cllr Whyte drew parallels with the recent application for PIP Lodel Lane Needingworth stating open countryside, arable land, visual harm.

Cllr Fountain was concerned about the general lack of infrastructure and surrounding area.

Resolved: That the application be objected to for the aforementioned reasons. (Prop Cllr McNeill, 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour.

160. To note comments from Parish Council surgery held 9th April 2026 and agree any actions.

Cllr Fountain felt that further debate should be held regarding the signage Holywell Front.

Cllr Mortlock asked where the pavement parking was occurring. The reply was several locations but it is not actually illegal unless restricting access when it becomes a Police matter.

Noted.

161. Items to report.

- Cllr McNeill asked about access to properties whilst road closures are in force Back Lane Holywell. Clerk will obtain a response from CCC Highways.
- Clerk handed out expenses claim forms for recent elections asking for them to be completed and returned.
- Clerk also advised that application 26/00274/PIP had been rejected by HDC.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 7.38 pm

Chairman

Date