MINUTES OF PLANNING AND FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18th AUGUST 2026 AT 7.00PM at MILLFIELDS PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH

PRESENT:

Cllr A Whyte (Chairman)
Cllr N Dyne
Cllr L Fisher
Cllr G Fisher
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr S Martin
Cllr S Mortlock
Cllr C Norman
Cllr G Norman
Cllr C Pearce (7.15pm onwards)
Cllr M Wetherfield (7.08pm onwards)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

18. To Receive Apologies for absence.
Cllr J Neish – Business
Resolved: That the apologies be accepted (prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour.

19. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 21st July 2026.
Cllr Martin pointed out a typo "Aston" should read "Ashton" item 17.
Resolved: That with above amendment the minutes of 21st July be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting (Prop Cllr Whyte,2nd Cllr Martin) 9 in favour 3 abstentions.

20. To note declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda.
None.

21. Public Forum.
To allow any member of the public to address the council on matters on the agenda.
Time Allowed 10 minutes.
Resident spoke regarding his correspondence relating to Odour issues (item 24(iv) explaining the research undertaken and how he has tracked the wind direction to the incidents of odour so potentially identifying the source. Resident also confirmed that he has been reporting to the Environment Agency & Environmental health at HDC.

Cllr Wetherfield arrives 7.08pm

22. Finance & Risk.

22.1 To approve insurance renewal as at 1st September 2026.Year 2 of 3-year agreement.
Clerk spoke to advise that on checking the renewal she had found multiple errors which were reported to the brokers. Most were confirmed as corrected 18th August 2026 however the tractor shed (Nissan hut) has been excluded. Information has been sent over and revision awaited. Clerk suggests paying the premium requested with any amendment being dealt with at a later date.
Resolved: That the premium of £3405.39 be paid based on the above advice (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour.

22.2 To approve payments made within Clerk delegated powers.
None.

22.3 To approve accounts for payment on 20th August 2026
Resolved: That payments to CAPALC, Chairmanship Training, Inv. No. 6284 - £50.00CAPALC, Annual conference, - £75.00, KTS computers, IT support, £94.89 Impressions, Millfields sign, - £277.20 Total: £497.09 be approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr L Fisher) All in favour.

22.4 To approve salaries & HMRC for payment on 24th August 2026.
Resolved: That Salaries - £6573.44 & HMRC - £2044.99 payments for 24th August be approved (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr Mortlock) All in favour

23. Planning.

15.1 To consider the following planning applications **received:**

(i) Reference: 20/02527/FUL Provision of a marquee for events, pergola and additional car parking space
Pike And Eel Overcote Lane Needingworth
Cllr Pearce arrives 7.15 pm

A lengthy discussion took place over the long delay in dealing with this application and the actions since Parish Councils original objection was lodged with HDC.
Cllr Fountain did not consider that the matter of development in the flood plain had changed therefore he saw no merits in approving.
Cllr Mortlock considered that the highway issues had been addressed so long as the passing places were of “good standard” not full of potholes. Cllr Martin was concerned over ongoing maintenance.
Cllr Wetherfield considered that a good business case had been presented.
Cllr Norman sought clarification that this was retrospective as the marquee has been in situ for 6 years.
Cllr Whyte reported on the numerous complaints received regarding noise levels and speeding.
Cllr Pearce reminded Council that it has been necessary to walk on boards to access the building when the river is in flood.
Resolved: That the application be refused due to location in the flood plain and reasons already given. (Prop Cllr Fountain 2nd Cllr L Fisher) 5 in favour 5 against 1 abstention (not passed)
Resolved: That the application be supported subject to:
Properly constructed passing places being installed along Overcote Lane.
A request that a 30-mph speed limit be implemented to assist with road safety.
That the verges are cut on a regular basis to help with road safety.
That the new parking places at the site are constructed with a permeable surface to assist with drainage.
That the licence is reviewed to reduce the noise nuisance to residents.
That a cut of time for music be 12 midnight.
That the marquee is constructed to current health & safety requirements e.g. toughened safety glass in windows.
(Prop Cllr Wetherfield 2nd Cllr Mortlock) 7 in favour 4 against.

24. Correspondence:

To receive the following correspondence and agree any actions:

(i) To consider the email from a resident regarding odour emanating from Envar.
Cllr Fountain asked how the application for refurbishment of Envar is going as once completed this may help with odour issues.
Clerk was asked to investigate.
Cllr Wetherfield reported he was aware that this was a much talked about subject around the Parish.
Cllr L Fisher mentioned that the fire at Holme Fen may also be an issue at this time.

Resolved: That the Clerk write to the resident in response advising that Council is aware of the matter. Encourage all residents to report to Environment Agency/Environmental Health.
Confirm that the Parish Council has no representation in the matter. (Prop Cllr Wetherfield.2nd Cllr Dyne) 9 in favour 3 abstentions.

(ii) To note the update on replacement streetlighting Bramley Avenue/Priory Road.
Noted

(iii) To consider the invitation to Civic Sunday Service and Parade – 20th September 2026 and agree representation.
It was agreed that Cllr C Norman and Cllr G Norman will attend.

(iv) To consider resident report on local odour issues.
Resident spoke in public forum. Cllr Mortlock thanked the resident for his presentation and work on the subject.
Cllr L Fisher asked if the information had been shared with BluntishaM PC.
Resolved: Clerk to write to resident requesting on going updates and to suggest sharing of information.
Advise of Facebook action group.
(Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour.

(v) To consider "A proposed reservoir in the Fens - invitation to Teams briefing - 14 September 2026"
Cllr Mortlock reported that bore holes are being dug in the field adjacent to Millfield's. Cllr L Fisher advised of an ecology exclusion zone in the same field.
Cllr Mortlock, Cllr Wetherfield and Clerk will accept the invitation.

(vi) To consider correspondence relating to the slip way Holywell Front and agree any actions.
Clerk provided responses made to resident and also letter from Environment agency supplied by complainant.
Resolved; that the Clerk reply to the email stating that the Parish Council consider that Council owned land is being maintained.
The issue is with the landowner on the opposite bank.
(Prop Cllr Wetherfield 2nd Cllr Mortlock) 11 In favour 1 against.

25. Items to report.
- Cllr Mortlock advised of the passing of Mr T Brydon. Terry had always supported the Council in fund raising and with the installation of the defibrillator.
Clerk was asked to send a condolence card on behalf of Council.
- Clerk advised of roadworks Park View 19/8/26.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chairman Date