MINUTES OF PLANNING AND FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.15PM 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 Mortlock
Cllr J Neish
Cllr C Pearce
Cllr M Wetherfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

35. To Receive Apologies for absence.
    Cllr S Martin -Personal
    Cllr C Norman – Personal
    Cllr G Norman – Personal
    Resolved: That the apologies be accepted (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr L Fisher) All in favour.

36. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 15th September 2026.
    Cllr Wetherfield pointed out a typo "t" had been missed from the word brought
    Resolved: That with the above correction the minutes of 15th September 2026 be signed as a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr Wetherfield) 5 In favour 5 abstentions

37. To note declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda.
    Cllr C Pearce item 39.3 Wife is a member of staff.

38. Public Forum.
    To allow any member of the public to address the council on matters on the agenda.
    Time Allowed 10 minutes.
    None

39. Finance & Risk.

    39.1 To approve payments made within Clerk delegated powers.
    Resolved : That payments for return of over payment for annual rent plot 7b £24.50. Baxters tractors £485.29 total £509.79 (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour

    39.2 To approve accounts for payment on 22nd October 2026.
    Resolved: That the following payments be approved for payment STARK Building, Materials UK Limited, Hacksaw & blades Inv. No. 3402/01315527 - £33.64,STARK Building Materials UK Limited, Postfix Inv. No. 3402/01315573 - £23.80, KTS computers, IT support, Inv. No. 260763 - £94.89,
    ESPO, Tape, cloths, bin liners, Inv. No. 8203472 - £33.72, Total £186.05 (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr McPherson) All In favour

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Cllr Pearce leaves the meeting 7.15pm

39.3 To approve salaries & HMRC for payment on 23rd October2026.
Cllr Whyte advised of an error in the salaries which is before HR committee for rectification.
Resolved: That October salaries totalling Salaries - £7736.64 and HMRC - £2968.19 totalling £10704.83 be approved. (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour.

Cllr Pearce return to the meeting 7.16pm

39.4 To ratify the decision of HR committee 15th September 2026 for groundsmen's additional hours.
Resolved: That the decision of HR committee be ratified (Prop Cllr Dyne 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour.

39.5 To approve the virement of funds to cover shortfall on salaries budget.
Clerk provide expected figure for overspend and suggested the virement is taken from elections budget line.
Cllr Wetherfield asked why the elections budget had not been utilised. Clerk explained that the provision was for a contested election. As the election in May 2026 had been uncontested HDC levied a smaller invoice.
Resolved: That the virement of £1000.00 from elections budget to salaries be approved. (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr Neish) All in favour.

39.6 To consider quotes for renewal of streetlighting energy contract.
Members provided with quotes from 2 brokers for consideration.
All agreed anticipating future market changes are extremely difficult.
Resolved: That the quote for a 36m contract from SSE be accepted £2697.05 pa (Prop Cllr MacPherson 2nd Cllr Neish) All in favour.

40. Planning.

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

(i) Application ref: 26/01778/HHFUL Part 2 storey and single storey rear extensions and front extensions, with new graphite grey windows throughout and white render to original brickwork
5A High Street Needingworth St Ives
Resolved: That the application be approved (Prop Cllr Mortlock 2nd Cllr MacPherson) 9 in favour.1 Abstention.

40.2 To consider the following appeal decision which is upheld.
Appeal reference number: 6009048
Land South Of Lodel Farm Overcote Lane, Needingworth, Huntingdon, PE27 4TN,
Planning application reference: 26/00274/PIP
Cllr Neish advised that HDC are reviewing all applications lost on appeal.
In this case the main reason is that the new NPPF gives more reasons to accept.
Cllr MacPherson did say that the report states the inspector visited the site.
Cllr Neish confirmed that access is not a planning matter.
Cllr Whyte stated that the lane does not belong to the farm. Ownership is uncertain.
No other comments.

41. Correspondence:

To receive the following correspondence and agree any actions:

(i) To note the renewal by HDC of PSPO (Dog Control) 2026.
Noted

(ii) To approve the locations of the "Tommy" statues and poppy display for 2026.
Members considered the request from the yarn bombers and agreed to the locations as per 2025.

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Resolved: That the statues be placed, Pound Hill, Turnpike Close, & Holywell Back Lane junction with Mill Way. (Prop Cllr McPherson 2nd Cllr Wetherfield) All in favour,

(iii) To consider contributing content to new online magazine.
Councillors were concerned about the new publication possibly devaluing the Villager.
Cllr Mortlock wondered if with the wider catchment area if Needingworth would "get lost"
Cllr MacPherson asked if they would promote Christmas Bazaar.
Cllr Dyne felt that we should promote and share as much information as possible by whatever method. He also stated that Councillors could submit article via the Clerk.
Resolved: That if a Councillor has an article, it can be submitted via the Clerk (Prop Cllr Mortlock 2nd Cllr Wetherfield) 6 in favour 3 against 1 abstention.

42. Items to report.

- Cllr Morlock reported that removal of unauthorised sign from roundabout fencing has left a mess.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm

Chairman
Date

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