

NASEBY'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 07:00pm
Held at The Methodist Chapel, Gynwell, Naseby, Northamptonshire

Present:

Parish Council Members : Cllr Reedman, Cllr Williams, Cllr Rodi and Cllr Antonia Collins

Parish Clerk: Josie Flavell

Members of Public: 17

MINUTES

1.0

APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted as follows:

- Cllr Earl Harrison
- Cllr Stephen Davies

2.0

OPENING OF MEETING

The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Paul Reedman, opened and welcomed all to the meeting. The Parish Councillors and Clerk introduced themselves to all present, along with the WNC Ward Councillors, Cllr Christine Ware and Cllr Jonathan Harris.

3.0

APPROVE 2025 APM MEETING MINUTES

All present, agreed to the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Reedman, approving the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11th of March 2025, as true and accurate record.

4.0

WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

WNC Cllr Ware reported that she has been honoured to serve the community since being elected to Ward Councillor last May. Cllr Ware oversees 11 Parishes within her ward - 8 of those are parish councils, with 3 parish meetings – and she tries to attend as many of the parish meetings as possible. Due to not always being able to attend all meetings, Cllr Jonathan Harris regularly steps in when needed to act as substitute.

Cllr Ware explained that she has WNC duties in addition to parish duties, as she has to attend all full council meetings at WNC and is also a member of the WNC Non-Strategic Planning Committee and also attends the Democracy and Standards Committee as a substitute, along with being a member of the Adult Social Care and Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Ware is also appointed to outside bodies as a Trustee to the Spratton Town and Charity Trust and Clipston School Trust.

Case work has been wide and varied – lots of reporting of potholes and fly tipping including other items. Rural transport continues to be a focus working with bus providers ensuring infrastructure remains, with the current bus contract for the rural routes of the 59/60 services remaining in place for the foreseeable future.

A member of the public queried the capping of the council tax moving forward. Cllr Harrison confirmed that for clarity Cllr Ware and himself are on the opposition to the current council, but for the new financial year, council tax will increase by 4.95%. The maximum that the council tax could have increased it to is 4.99%, so there is a small saving. The reason for the increase is that the council will miss out on £110k each year, which is required over a 10-year period to afford to continue to provide its services and bridge the financial gap. It is also very difficult for any council to cut its tax as it relies heavily on the council tax to fund its services along with government funding and grants. There will always be a gap in terms of pressures on services growing every year and the financing of such. The key issue we should concentrate on are how well are the taxes that are raised being spent. A decrease will not happen any time soon due to increasing costs.

A member of the public asked if Cllr Harrison is satisfied there is a good work culture amongst the staff at WNC. Cllr Harrison confirmed there are challenges for sure. There are contractual costs with pockets of issues. The member of public stated they do not believe there is a proper work culture and as there is no new CEO yet, a replacement is needed one, who has experience of building teams and is efficient in business. The current pension scheme and costs need to change, also. The remuneration of council workers vs the private section is lower, but when you consider the cost of the pension scheme it makes it more expensive and is wrong.

Cllr Ware explained that WNC is still a relatively young council since the unitary council was formed in May 2020. Local Government is very different to the private sector and needs to be run differently due to regulations. Rural communities need to be heard, and Cllr Ware is committed to ensuring this happens.

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S 2025/26 REPORT

All present received the hard copy of the Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report and also received a verbal report from Cllr Paul Reedman concerning some of the highlights of 2025 as follows, which will also appear in the next issue of Naseby News:

- The Parish Council lost two councillors this last year but gained one. Comments continue to be made to planning applications with two notable applications having been submitted in the last year – a grand designs house in July 2025 which received full planning permission, which was deemed as outstanding architectural design and a second application on Thornby Road which was refused, revised and submitted again. As there was an issue with the application process - WNC not making the decision in the time limit - the application was appealed was due to be submitted again in January. The Planning Officer's comments determined that the design was not good enough and looked like a barn conversation. These two developments do count towards the NHP quota – they are classed as windfall sites.
- Grass cutting contract (3 years) – the contract ran for 3 years and had to go back out to tender. Having fulfilled this process, the same two contractors have been awarded new contracts for the period of 2026 to 2028.
- Bus contracts (59 / 60 bus services) – the parish contributes to this service along with other parishes to keep this service going.

A statutory Saturday service has also been implemented to allow for longer time at the destinations – Northampton and Market Harborough.

- Market Cross – it is not looking fantastic; the plinth stones were replaced due to the last replacement not being to standard and the supplier not fulfilling their contract. Thanks were given to the stonemasons who recently completed the works.
- War Memorial Repairs – works were completed including the lettering on the war memorial, which were replaced with the majority of the costs being covered by grants from the War Memorial Trust and Kelmarsh Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (KWCB)
- Bench replacement – a new bench was installed at Thornby Road, with the costs again being covered by the KWCB grant.
- Bleedkit – a new bleed kit is due to be installed on the wall near to the defib at the Village Hall to help with large public events. The costs for this, was again, covered by the KWCB.
- Speed Indicator Devices (SID) – 2 new SIDs have been purchased and installed, funded by the Police Crime and Commissioner Road Safety Grant Fund. A third SID was funded by Kelmarsh Community Wind Farm Trust The SIDs record speed data coming in and out of the village and will be highlighted in the next issue of Naseby News.
- Naseby Reservoir – the access gates have to be locked due to the fisheries being rented to a new group which is a requirement of their new contract. The Parish Council offered to purchase and install a kissing gate, but this was declined by the Canal and River Trust.

5.0 ORGANISATION REPORTS

All present received the following reports from West Northants Councillors and local organisations as follows:

- a) Louise Cook (Headteacher) Primary Academy – part of your community – low student numbers due to a drop with only 33 children on roll but there are 8 more children joining the school soon. However, the school would like to see these numbers grow. The school has a lot to offer, with a very nurturing and caring ethos and small class sizes, including 3 Teachers and 3 Teaching Assistants. The school does have a lot to offer but struggles due to transportation challenges and is looking to create a pre-school or nursery setting and asked WNC Cllr Ware for her help with this. The Clerk agreed to send Cllr Ware's contact details to Mrs Cook.
The school wish to engage more with the community and are happy to be involved in any community events. As the school used to run Good Neighbours, they would like for members of the community to take part in this again – if any one has any ideas and would like to host something at the school please ask. The PTA holds various events throughout the year including the annual Egg Race and STEM project and celebrated local resident and Olympian Joshua O'Brien with a row race your egg to celebrate achieving a silver medal.
- b) Naseby WI – Antonia Collins reported that she has been President for 2 years and this year, it is the 80th anniversary of the WI as it has been in operation since 1946. Members will be celebrating by hosting an afternoon tea.
There are currently 44 members (young and old – age range 48 to 91 years). Funding raising events were held in November 2025 where the Naseby WI donated £500 to Rainbows Hospice. There will be another event held in November of this year. The WI continues to thrive and continues with a full programme for the year ahead. All new members are welcome.

- c) Margaret Diak All Saints Church Warden – Ms Diak reported that the Kelmarsh Wind Farm Fund generously donated funds for the repair of the church wall – the church are thankful and happy with the results.
The vestry door won't open due to flooring issues, so the church is looking to have repair works conducted to re-open this door and if anyone knows of a good carpenter to help with this, please make contact.
The part time Vicar is in-situ to help the resident Priest, Tom, who has a child at the village primary school. One service a month is held, and anyone can attend the 7 other churches in the local church group.
The church is working to gain younger members of the congregation and wish for any younger people and families from the village to attend. Due to this, they are working closely with the Methodist Church and now hold a service once a month a 4pm.
The church will be taking on an allotment to get children interested, which will be run by the Vicar's wife.
The WI help clean the church due to the age of the warden and helpers and are thanked for their work.
Anyone who lives in Naseby can also be buried at the churchyard and can also help with cleaning and tidying of the churchyard.
- d) Northamptonshire School of Dance – Natalie (owner) introduced herself and explained that the school holds various classes for all age groups and has been a part of the community for many years now.
- e) Café 1645 - Becky the owner reported she is next door to the dance school and that it is a family run business with all food/cakes made on site on a daily basis. The café is open to any involvement in the village – events etc.
- f) Compassion Direct – Ros a resident of Naseby and leader of this charity explained what her charity does, with the project based in in South Sudan – raising funds for much needed solar lighting, water harvesting and community kitchens, including garden tools and seeds.

6.0 NASEBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

All present received the following report the Vice Chair, Barry Roberts, of the Naseby Neighbourhood Plan Committee,

NHP was funded by central government, but this has now ceased which covered the cost of the consultant.

The Plan is well underway with the call for sites exercise completed and liaison with local landowners continuing.

As the plan still requires the need to go through several other phases before it can be made, the steering group are working hard to accomplish this as soon as possible.

7.0 WNC LOCAL PLAN

All present received the following report concerning the draft WNC Local Plan:

The new local plan is under preparation which will supersede the three local plans which currently govern development within the former administrative areas of Northampton Borough, Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils.

A second draft of the new plan was issued for consultation in early 2026 closing on the 27th of March. This draft includes a substantial increase in housing numbers compared

with the previous 2024 draft plan and has policies covering the whole of the West Northants Council's urban and rural areas.

Naseby is defined as a Rural Area Secondary Service Village which is considered to be capable of accommodating some new development. The plan stipulates that a minimum of 33 extra houses is required between 1st April 2025 and 2043.

West Northant's program anticipates that a final version of the plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2026 followed by an examination by an Inspector starting April 2027 and Adoption of the plan in November 2027.

In the absence of further business, the meeting closed at 20:06pm followed by an informal gathering with refreshments.

Signed:

Date:

Chair to the Parish Council