GUILSBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Guilsborough Parish Council held at Guilsborough Village Hall, The Green, Guilsborough on Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7.15p.m.

In Attendance:

Councillors:	Cllr Anthony Hart (Chair of the meeting), Cllr David O'Neil, Cllr Lisa Phillips, Cllr Ian Miller, Cllr Sarah Harris & Cllr Caroline Smith.
Others:	Ciara Wanstall (Clerk), Cllr Christine Ware (Ward Cllr)
Apologies:	Cllr Sarah Edwards

99.2026 – Public Forum

Cllr Ware reported prior to the meeting:

- WNC Latest - The out turn figures for West Northamptonshire Council have been published for the year ended March 2026 (subject to final audit). The figures show an overspend of circa £7 million which for the first time will have to be funded from a council risk reserve fund rather than through efficiencies or savings. This will reduce the overall reserves funds to around £95 million. The figures continue to show pressures from demand led services, specifically the children's trust, adult social care and temporary accommodation. It is also noted that council borrowings have increased.

- Local Plan Draft - A Local Plan Workshop has taken place for rural ward councillors. I attended this on 14 May and also a second briefing on the Local plan was on 11 June for all members. The plan deadline for submission is 31 December and the planning team are working with the results of the consultation to finalise the draft.

- Future Planning Changes - You may be aware that the government are introducing changes to the planning system from the 31st October 2026. The key changes are:
    - Elected planning committees will only review major or genuinely significant applications. All other applications will be delegated directly to officers.
    - When committees do meet to decide qualifying applications, their maximum size is capped at 13 members
    - Unitary Councillors lose the right of call-in

  The new system creates two broad categories:
    - Schedule 1 – applications that must be decided by planning officers in all cases.
    - Schedule 2 – applications are presumed to be officer-decided, unless specific referral tests are met and senior decision-makers agree they should go to committee Committee referral will be exceptional, not routine.

  At least one of these tests below must be passed to apply for a referral to planning committee:
    - a significant planning matter in relation to the development plan or material considerations; or
    - a significant economic, social, or environmental issue for the local area

  The guidance says cases are unlikely to justify committee referral if they broadly comply with an adopted local plan and technical concerns (e.g. highways or flooding) have been resolved. We don't know what these changes will mean for the planning committees at WNC however, it may mean that the Strategic and Non Strategic Committees merge.

- White lines at Crow Hill - The Chair asked me to explore whether we can install double white lines at Crow Hill. Officers have responded as follows:
  'Double white line markings are used to prevent drivers from crossing into the area of carriageway used by opposing traffic. They are typically installed where overtaking visibility is restricted or where specific road conditions, such as climbing lanes on hills, require additional safety measures. Where double white lines are introduced due to limited visibility, each direction of travel is assessed separately, as visibility can differ depending on the direction of approach. The required visibility standard is linked to vehicle speeds on the road and is determined through surveys undertaken during both summer and winter months, as vegetation growth can significantly affect sightlines. In locations where visibility is only marginally above the minimum standard, but where overtaking could still present a safety risk, double white lines may also be considered. Although double white lines are generally well respected by motorists, they can place restrictions on drivers who may naturally have a better field of vision, such as those driving larger vehicles. For this reason, it is important that they are only used where the prescribed criteria are clearly met. Unnecessary use can undermine their credibility and reduce compliance. In situations where overtaking may be hazardous, but visibility remains above the threshold for prohibition, warning lines are used instead. As the Highway Authority, we must ensure that any new double white line system complies with the criteria set out by the Department for Transport. The guidance places a strong emphasis on using these markings only where there is a clear and evidenced need, both at the specific location and within the wider route context. Furthermore, as crossing a solid white line is an endorsable offence under Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and may result in penalty points, the police must be consulted before any new double white line system is introduced. Having considered the location in question, we are satisfied that the existing road marking arrangement complies with the relevant guidance. The road layout is also supported by advance warning signs, including turning traffic and directional signage, which help to alert drivers to potential hazards ahead. We will, however, continue to monitor the road network and review collision data for any emerging trends or patterns. Where issues are identified, appropriate measures will be considered through our road safety programme.' I shall continue to raise this at my next meeting with officers to explore what 'monitor the road network' may include. In the short term, the white lines won't be extended when the repainting of the resurfaced A5199 happens.

- Pre Planning Consultation - I have received a pre planning consultation letter from the agent for Arquiva's Smart Meter Network for Anglian Water proposed development at Guilsborough HL, West Haddon Road, Guilsborough, NN6 8SG. I have responded to this letter and the clerk has a copy of my response. I have indicated to the agent that Guilsborough Parish Council should be consulted on this matter. The agent included Thornby Parish but not Guilsborough. Given the proximity to both I think it important that you are included. I understand that the clerk has not had any response from the agent. I also have had no further communication from them following my response to their letter. I have forwarded the original correspondence to the clerk which includes site maps. This is a pre planning consultation so not an application as at now. I will keep you informed of any response I receive.

100.2026 – Apologies for absence and acceptance of any apologies

Cllr Sarah Edwards gave her apologies. They were accepted.

101.2026 - Declarations of Interest on agenda items only

There were no declarations of interest to report.

102.2026 – Resolution to consider written requests for dispensations on agenda items

None received.

103.2026 – Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th June 2026

Resolved: *to accept the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Council on 8th June 2026 as true and accurate records. The minutes were signed by the Chair.*

104.2026 – Matters arising (for information only)

- Finance strategy to be put on the September agenda
- Cob Barn reinstatement cost assessment (Cllr Lisa Phillips to report back to Clerk). ***Action: Cllr Phillips***

105.2026 – No Planning Applications for comment or updates to report

2026/2514/LBC - 2 The Old Grammar School High Street Guilsborough NN6 8PY. Listed Building Consent Removal of fire grate and fire hood Installation of Clock Blithfield 5 multi-fuel burning stove, Installation of a stainless steel twin-wall flexible flue liner, Installation of a steel register plate at the fireplace throat. Like-for-like replacement of existing bird cap.

Resolved: *to respond no comment.* ***Action: Clerk***

106.2026 – Consider a grant request for £2,300 + VAT from the GPFA for treeworks

Discussions took place noting:-

- a 3rd quote from Barges and Branches for £2,000 + VAT
- Q1 overspend of £2,103.70 (trees, playground repairs). Q1 underspend of £732.65 (payroll, website, NCALC, Annual Parish event). So true overspend = £1,371.05
- the 26/27 budget includes a £4,500 village contingency fund
- There is no budget allocation for the bus subsidy (roughly £1,500) so this may need to be borne from the village contingency if there is parishioner support from the consultation
- £3,800 was donated to the GPFA last year for treeworks
- Cllr Phillips will send CDM regulations to the Clerk

Resolved: *to instruct Barges and Branches to fell the Beech tree at the Guilsborough Playing Field at a cost of £2,000 + VAT, on the basis the GPFA carry out the other tree works identified (grinding out an existing root and felling the other Beech tree in the far corner) within a reasonable timeframe.*
Action: Clerk

107.2026 – Governance – consider adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Resolved*: to defer consideration of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to September.*
Action: Clerk

108.2026 – Consider clearing the leaves on the footpath at the top of the High Street

Resolved: *to ask Cllr Lisa Phillips to request pavement cleansing on Street Doctor.*
Action: Cllr Phillips

109.2026 – Councillor Reports

a) Playground – Clerk
- Cllr Tony Hart has carried out a visual inspection and signed his report.
- Concrete blocks have become exposed in the grass near the aerial run way. He has sought a quote from Mark Hazle to make the area safe.
- Wicksteed quoted £438 + VAT to survey the new equipment. The Clerk was able to obtain a quote from Playfix Ltd for £350 + VAT.
- During a site visit with Playdale on 9th July 2026, it was noted that the ropes on the activity net required tightening. Playdale agreed they would lay more top soil around the four chambers of the activity net to eliminate any trip hazard and the edge of the grasslock matting.
- On 12th July Cllr Hart noted the ropes were tighter and there was more top soil around the chambers simply laid at a sloping angle and it had not been compacted down. There was no additional soil around the grasslock matting as agreed.

Resolved: *to instruct Playfix to carry out a survey of the play equipment on 17th July at a cost of £350 + VAT and deduct this cost from Playdale's final invoice if any issues are found. The Clerk to ask the surveyor to note any reinstatement costs, where possible.* ***Action: Clerk***

b) Highways – Cllr Phillips

Resolved: *to ask Cllr Phillips and Cllr Ware to raise the issue of speeding cars on Cold Ashby Road with Highways again as it is limiting amenities for villagers. Tt is not safe to run or walk in this area and recently 5 cats have recently been run over.* ***Action: Cllr Phillips & Cllr Ware***

Resolved: *to ask the Clerk to write to SHDC Baby Barn & Little Paddocks noting an increase in speeding cars since the nursery opened and ask them to remind users about speeding.* ***Action: Clerk***

c) Street Lights – Clerk / Cllr Miller

- All remaining lights have now been upgraded to LED. The Clerk is to inform National Grid so they can update the UMS Certificate. ***Action: Clerk***
- EON were unable to locate the photo sensor for lights 45 and 46 due to overgrown vegetation. The Clerk to inform E.ON the homeowner has now cut it and enquire whether it can be moved.

d) Village Trees – Cllr Edwards

Nothing to report.

e) Parish Assets including updates on Speed Awareness Devices – Cllr Miller

Nothing to report.

f) Footpaths and Rights of Way – Cllr Edwards

Nothing to report.

g) Police Liaison – Cllr Harris

Nothing to report.

h) GPFA Liaison – Cllr O'Neil

Nothing to report.

i) School Liaison – Cllr Smith

Nothing to report.

j) Climate and Nature (CAN) Champion – Cllr Smith

Nothing to report.

110.2026 – Finance/Legal

a) Note income received and payments from the last meeting up to 30th June 2026:-

Date	Description	Receipts (£)	Payments (£)
05.06.26	Interest	£100.73	
08.06.26	YU Energy – street light supply		£199.58

b) Note and approve proposed payments for July 2026:-

Payee	Description	Amount (£)	VAT (£)
Ciara Wanstall	July 26 salary & expenses	£596.20	n.a
Guilsborough Village Hall	Hall Hire June 26	£20	n.a
Elm Tree Grounds Maintenance	Mowing Village, Churchyard & cemetery	£600	n.a
Anthony Hart	Pressure Washer	£59.99	n.a
E.ON	LED lantern upgrade	£7,831	£1,566.20
Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited	Additional Insurance Premium for new play equipment	£63.32	n.a
E.ON	Q1 Street Light Maintenance	£153	£30.60
Maximow	Mowing	£150.66	n.a

Resolved: *to note the Council's insurance policy has been updated to reflect the new play equipment. The Clerk is to update the asset register accordingly.* ***Action: Clerk***

c) Note and approve proposed payments for August 2026:-

Payee	Description	Amount (£)	VAT (£)
Ciara Wanstall	August 26 salary & expenses	£596.20	n.a
Guilsborough Village Hall	Hall Hire July 26	£20	n.a
Elm Tree Grounds Maintenance	Mowing Village, Churchyard & cemetery	£600	n.a
Maximow	Mowing	£150.66	n.a

Resolved: *to approve the proposed payments for July and August 2026.* ***Action: Clerk***

a) Bank Reconciliation for period ending 30 June 2026

Resolved: *to note the signed Bank Reconciliations for Q1 26-27, copies to be put on the website.*

b) Review 2025/26 year end and Q1 2026/27

Resolved: *to note the Internal Control Councillor has carried out on random sample of records for Q1 26/27 noting; all anticipated income is received, expenditure is broadly in line with budgets, expenses are properly authorised before payment is made and the record of receipts and payments is kept up to date and that a monthly bank reconciliation is carried out.*

111.2026 - Items for Village Link

Reminder parishioners to keep homes secure during the heatwave and if eligible to register with Anglian water for priority service.

112.2026 – Note correspondence and items for next Meeting – Wednesday 2 September 2026

- Finance Strategy
- Weed spraying and leaves at the top of the High Street.
- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The meeting closed at 19.55pm.

Chair …….. Date: