



SYWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Cllr John Amos

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sywell Parish Council  
held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 7:30pm** at Sywell Village Hall,

**In attendance:** Cllrs John Amos (Chairman), John Shenfield, Philip Bletsoe-Brown, Paul Groom, Jeanette Freeman.  
**Clerk:** Maureen Holliday

- 20/26 PUBLIC SESSION:** Cllr Weston and Lorna McGoldrick the Overstone Parish Clerk invited the SPC members to join in discussion regarding the proposed action by Overstone Parish Council. See 28/26 (d) below
- 21/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Were received and accepted from Cllrs Cozzolino and Muttock and WNC Cllr Vicki Jessop
- 22/26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- a) To consider any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests. None
  - b) To consider any dispensations or written requests for dispensation of DPI. None
- 23/26 RESOLVED TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS** Annual & Ordinary meetings 7 May 2026
- 24/26 NORTH NORTHANTS COUNCILLOR – Report:** Cllr Scott provided a full report to Council members.
- North Northamptonshire Council – July Report**
- There has been encouraging progress across a number of Council services during July.
- Children's Services**
- The Northamptonshire Children's Trust has received an **Ofsted rating of "Good" overall**, with **"Outstanding" for Leadership**. This represents a significant improvement on the previous inspection. In addition, the Council has appointed a permanent Executive Director of Children's Services to continue driving improvements.
- White Mills Bridge**
- Essential maintenance works to **White Mills Bridge (Station Road, Earls Barton)** have been completed on schedule. The bridge has now reopened, improving safety and reliability for local residents and road users.
- Planning Service**
- The Planning Department, including the Enforcement Team, is now fully staffed for the first time in some time. This should help improve response times and the handling of planning applications and enforcement cases.
- Council Chair**
- A new Chair of North Northamptonshire Council was elected in June but subsequently resigned. The position is currently vacant and a replacement will be elected at the next Full Council meeting.
- Local Transport Plan**
- Work has begun on preparing a new **North Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan**. Parish Councils will have opportunities to contribute to its development. The new plan is expected to be completed by **August 2027**. Until then, the Council will continue to operate under the former Northamptonshire County Council Transport Plan, adopted in 2012.
- Summer Activities**
- A wide range of summer activities is taking place across North Northamptonshire for children, young people and families. These include sports camps, reading challenges, countryside walks and a variety of community events.
- 25/26 CHAIRMAN, CLERK and COUNCILLOR REPORT** - items not on the agenda (verbal) were received.
- 26/26 RESOURCES: Resolved** to approve the following (a to f) Documents circulated
- a) **Bank Balances at 3 July 2026:** Current Account: £ 5378.39  
(Traffic Calming Funding) Reserve Account: £ 79147.75
  - b) **Income received since previous meeting:** S106 Funding for replacement Lamp £3,286.18  
Interest £359.27

- c) **Receipts & Payments: Budget Summary, Bank Rec for year to July 2026**, circulated
- d) **To approve payments made at and between meetings Appendix 1:**
- e) **Council to Review Village Hall Lease agreement to Committee.** The Chairman informed Cllrs of the request for confirmation of the details of the village hall lease with the Parish Council and the agreed response to register.
- f) **Error Correction:** By request from PKF Littlejohn, Auditors: To correct an error in the 2025/6 AGAR Section 2, box 11 submission. “Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?” “This should have been answered Yes. This wording was previously include, therefore the answer would be; No. Make correction and Chairman to sign. **The Clerk informed the Council** of the change of wording on the 2025/26 documentation. The change to the question has caused much confusion. The auditors confirm that the wording will be reverted for the year 2026/27.

**28/26 PLANNING: Resolved** to agree responses and actions (a – d).

a) **New Applications:**

**26/01749/FUL** 51 Overstone Road Sywell. Demolition of existing dwelling, construction of a replacement two storey 5-bedroom dwelling, including conversion & extension of existing garage to temporary habitable accommodation while the house is constructed and permanent ancillary habitable accommodation. No Observations

b) **Awaiting Decision:**

**26/00630/LBC** The Old School House 33 Sywell Village. Installation of EV charger on a metal pedestal secured on a concrete pad to the side of front porch No Observations

**26/01206/HFUL** 74 Overstone Road . Existing ridgeline raised, new dormer to front elevation, first floor rear extension and porch. No Observations

**NW/24/00346/OUT** 41 Ecton Lane, Approval of reserved matters pursuant to NW/24/00346/OUT (self-build dwelling) of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. Observations submitted.

SPC have been granted an extension to respond to the 26/00461/REM on this application. The Council/objector requests that careful consideration be given to whether the proposal remains consistent with the policy balance that originally justified this exception outside the village envelope. If permission was felt justified because it was **modest** and **tightly controlled**, the Reserved Matters details must genuinely reflect that modesty.

**26/00348/FUL** 51 Overstone Road Sywell, demolish bungalow and construct replacement self-build dwelling, including conversion and extension of the existing garage block. - Withdrawn

**25/01002/FUL** Hayes Lodge Farm, The Farm and Livery, 167 Ecton Lane, Sywell, Erection of Rural Workers Dwelling and Stables, hardstanding for access, parking and turning of vehicles and landscaping. The application was discussed in detail. Observations submitted.

c) **Applications Decided:**

**26/00780/HFUL** 112 Overstone Road Sywell NN6 0AW Replacement of existing rear kitchen projection with new single storey rear extension. Existing roof to be replaced with new roof including front and rear dormers to create first floor accommodation, to include raising of eaves. Proposed front porch extension, change to external materials, car port to side, replacement of existing garage, proposed garden outbuilding and proposed front boundary wall with sliding vehicular gate.

d) **Other Planning Matters:**

**Overstone Hall** - Following the Strategic Planning Committee’s deferral of application 2025/0710/MAF (enabling development for Overstone Hall), Council to consider the implications of the deferral and agree what actions, if any, should be taken in response to the deferral.

**Sywell Parish Council received a report during attendance in the Public Session** by Cllr Weston and Lorna McGoldrick the Overstone Parish Clerk. The meeting discussed various issues, including the potential involvement of North Northamptonshire Council in Overstone Hall and the influence of the council leader. Concerns were raised about WNC officer-led decisions and the need for strong political leadership.

Sywell Parish Council object to all three planning applications and offers its full support for the actions being taken by Overstone Parish Council. This position is also supported by the North Northants Ward Councillor Scott Brown who will engage with North Northants Council.

**29/26 HIGHWAYS, MOWING AND MAINTENANCE: Resolved** to approve items (i to v) further action or response.

**i) Sywell Village Sign – Restoration and Future Works**

- a. To acknowledge the excellent restoration of the village sign and express the Council's thanks to Valeria Medici (Artist & Restorer) who carried out the restoration project.

**Action:** Clerk to draft and send a formal letter of thanks to Valerie acknowledging her excellent restoration of the village sign work.

- b. To review the condition of the sign, post and surrounding area and consider any further works that may be required. None suggested.

- c. A suggestion has been received from Cllr Bletsoe-Brown to replace the concrete rubbish bin nearby with a modern green bin with lid to prevent the contents being blown around. Quotation received: £579.95, fitting to be carried out by Paul Thomas.

**Action:** Check with bin manufacturers for a suitable secure lid option for the existing concrete rubbish bins outside the Village Hall and Elliott Park so that contents cannot be blown away while still allowing easy access for refuse collection.

**ii) Ground surface outside the Church and Village Hall.** To discuss and decide action. Various options were discussed.

- a) Semilong Services completed a survey of the drains and reported a drain collapse in Church Lane **Action:** Clerk to chase the report made to NNC on FixMyStreet.

- b) Clerk requested quotations for the car park remedial works from Tripodcrest, Hewlett and Sons, and RayBell. **Action:** Council agreed that no remedial works should be carried out until the drain is repaired.

**iii) Lengthsman Report July 2026 from Peter Clayton.** Council members gratefully accepted the report as follows:

- I can report that all three speed signs are working and at the moment batteries are being changed every 2/3 weeks. Next charge is scheduled for week ending 10th July 26.
- The Council has re-instated the road markings by the aerodrome and the road has been resurfaced at this point with the road 30/40 markings.
- The hedge has been cut on the corner of Mears Ashby Road/Wellingborough Road towards the village hall as pedestrians need to step into the road .
- The volume of traffic has increased since the new development in Overstone at the Horseshoe Roundabout /Wellingborough Road/Overstone Road/Holcot Lane at peak times .
- Exiting Stonelea Road is becoming a problem with the increased volume of traffic, and we have a number of blind spots. View is restricted owing to the overgrown hedging on the private road and the large tree by the Horseshoe .
- The only issue we have with drains is being sorted by the council in the next 12 weeks (outside the Horseshoe) drain blocks causing water to go into the outreach road chamber with all the connections to phones etc., These connections are watertight but if the chamber flooded it would create a problem for the engineer if a repair is required.

**iv) Speed Indication Device cameras;** Update on proposal to convert the signs to solar.

Truvelo (provider). As solar panels will not work effectively in all of the desired locations it was decided to wire the cameras into lamp posts. Including one belonging to Overstone PC at the exit/entrance to the village. National Grid has confirmed that they do not need to be consulted on the works.

Council agreed £964.00 cost of installing the wired speed signs supplied by Truvelo,

**Action:** Pursue possible use of s106 funds to cover the cost.

**v) Defibrillator direction sign:** Quotation £39.00 received to replace with a larger and more weather resistant sign was accepted by Council. **Action:** Clerk to action purchase from Minuteman.

**20/26 ELLIOTT PARK: Resolved** to approve report to council. Circulated.

**a) Playground Maintenance Update.** Paul Thomas updated the Council on the condition of the Park and equipment. .

Discussion around the possibility of volunteer days to address small jobs in Elliot Park, such as painting and washing down equipment. Further thought to be given to this.

The removal of a chain from a play equipment piece due to safety concerns was discussed. Agreement was to have it reinstated as it was considered to be of little danger.

**21/26 TRAINING and Advice Sessions: Requests to be submitted.**

**Clerk Training:** AI Day Gov Assist subscription service which helps councils with administrative work and policy updates providing potential time savings and efficiency gains.

The Clerk explained the benefits of the subscription service, including AI-assisted policy updates and time-saving features of checking and updating policies, which is a very time-consuming, necessary, task. £20 per-month subscription agreed.

**22/26 URGENT MATTERS FOR REPORT ONLY (Notified to the Chairman before the meeting)****23/26 DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING – 10 Sept 2026 7:30pm, Village Hall, Sywell**

Chairman

Date : 10 Sept 2026

**Future meetings :** 2026:10 Sept, 12 Nov**Payments Approved Between Meetings**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Supplier</b>              | <b>Detail</b>                                     |    | <b>Total</b> | <b>VAT</b> | <b>Net</b> |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----|--------------|------------|------------|
| 19-May-26   | Valeria Medici               | SIGN REFURB - Balance                             | 11 | -780.00      | -          | -780.00    |
| 19-May-26   | Park Landscapes              | MOWING                                            | 12 | -661.50      | 110.25     | -551.25    |
| 19-May-26   | Paul Thomas                  | ELLIOTT PARK                                      | 13 | -182.07      |            | -182.07    |
| 26-May-26   | Direct Debit (GIGACLEAR PLC) | C301522 V Hall Internet                           | 15 | -67.26       | -11.21     | -56.05     |
| 28-May-26   | S/O to: Paul Thomas          | ELLIOTT PARK                                      | 17 | -182.07      |            | -182.07    |
| 31-May-26   | Service Charge               | Bank                                              | 19 | -7.00        |            | -7.00      |
| 02-Jun-26   | Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)    | SECURIFIRESY-9FF7C CCTV                           | 20 | -31.86       | -5.31      | -26.55     |
| 02-Jun-26   | Clear Insurance              | LCO01735 SYWELL PC                                | 21 | -1481.61     |            | -1481.61   |
| 02-Jun-26   | Seagrave Inspection          | Elliott INSPECTION 2446                           | 22 | -330.00      | -55.00     | -275.00    |
| 02-Jun-26   | Park Landscapes              | MOWING                                            | 23 | -820.8       | 136.80     | -684.00    |
| 15-Jun-26   | NALC                         | Training 1818                                     | 25 | -84          | -14.00     | -70.00     |
| 15-Jun-26   | E.ON                         | 6018819545                                        | 26 | -372         | -62.00     | -310.00    |
| 15-Jun-26   | Semilong Services            | Drain inspection 16710                            | 27 | -168         | -28.00     | -140.00    |
| 22-Jun-26   | M HOLLIDAY                   | Elliott Park Sand from Buckley<br>Garden Supplies | 28 | -1420.4      | 284.08     | -1136.32   |
| 22-Jun-26   | GIFFORDS RECYCLING           | Elliott- CUSHIONFLOOR                             | 29 | -1680        | 280.00     | -1400.00   |
| 25-Jun-26   | Direct Debit (GIGACLEAR PLC) | C301522 V Hall Internet                           | 31 | -67.26       | -11.21     | -56.05     |
| 29-Jun-26   | S/O to: Paul Thomas          | ELLIOTT PARK                                      | 33 | -182.07      |            | -182.07    |
| 30-Jun-26   | Service Charge               | Bank                                              | 34 | -7           |            | -7.00      |
| 02-Jul-26   | BLETSOE-BROWN LTD            | MATS FOR ELLIOTT                                  | 35 | -247.2       | -41.20     | -206.00    |
| 02-Jul-26   | Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)    | SECURIFIRESY-9FF7C CCTV                           | 36 | -31.86       | -5.31      | -26.55     |