

GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 17th September 2026, held in the Village Hall, 7.30 pm.

Present: **Mr C Hamilton Chairman**
 Mr A Anderson
 Mr R Goddard
 Mr R Clarke
 Mrs R Billing

Cllr S Tolley – WNC

6 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES RECEIVED AND APROVED – Cllrs Hollin and A Goddard

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – To receive declarations made under the Council’s Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda – none

3. PUBLIC VOICE:

- i) Colin Simmonds asked whether a Traffic Control Order would be incorporated in the Gayton Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Council agreed it should be incorporated and the Chairman requested that he put the suggestion directly to the GNDP group.
- ii) Richard Akers reported that he had attended the Tove Valley Centre for the Police, Fire and Crime Commission. Various topics including Women’s safety, the Safe and Sound manifesto for young people, Speed Watch, Fly tipping, and Wildlife crime. A new website is being set up for individuals to report an issue. It would seem Northampton North is better served than the South, however a Police Station is to be opened in Towcester and a knife amnesty is taking place. The Chairman and other councillors thanked Richard for all his work with Neighbourhood Watch and for attending the Police meetings.
- iii) Queries arose concerning the encampment in Tiffield Road and so item 15 was discussed at length at this point in the meeting. Cllr Tolley reported that he had received the letters from the concerned Gayton residents via the Clerk. He agreed a legal Enforcement Order needs to be put in place. He was disappointed that the main resident at the encampment had been invited to two Parish Council meetings but he had not attended. Safety concerns were raised again in particular with the darker nights. Cllr Tolley agreed to talk to the Travellers Unit, inform them of the lack of communication and stress that the Parish Council needs a definitive date for when they are moving on.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING –16.7.26 - received, and approved for signature .

Signed-----

Date-----

5. WNC REPORT FROM CLLR TARBUN :

The Local Plan had been withdrawn by the Reform Council on 14th September but on 15th September the Government had intervened and reinstated it. Without the Local Plan Northamptonshire would be much more vulnerable to unsatisfactory planning. Cllr Clarke asked if he knew when the Solar Farm would go to Strategic Planning and Cllr Tolley agreed to enquire.

6. CLERK'S REPORT – Any issues raised since agenda sent out –

Jenny Hinds had spoken to the Clerk and is keen to carry out a litter pick (It had been on the July agenda). The Council unanimously agreed to support a litter pick. It may be possible to borrow the equipment from WNC, the Clerk pointed out this is not always straight forward as many parties need the equipment at the same time. Clerk to inform Jenny that the PC is in support and Clerk will enquire about borrowing the equipment or if not straight forward that she can go ahead and buy the necessary equipment – high vis jackets, pickers and gloves.

7. PLAY AREA –

- Any issues arising from 2 weekly inspections – Cllr Anderson reported there were no issues. It was agreed that the equipment needed painting – **Clerk** to contact Liam Hollin and request another quote for the next meeting.

8. SPINNEY

- Any issues arising from 2 weekly inspections** – Cllr Anderson to report – no further issues since sign had been removed which had upset a lot of residents in the village who had been instrumental in planting and nurturing the Spinney in the past.

Update from Working Group – Glenyss Woodcock and Sue Simmonds

- Glenyss Woodcock reported that the Terms of Reference for the Group are still in place. The group is hoping to liaise with the School in the New Year. The Maintenance Plan will go on the Village Website. Glenyss was keen to state that if the people wanted the spinney space to be used for other purposes (eg bike ramps for teenagers etc) they had no objection in principle but risk assessments and the insurance would need covering by the Council.
- Council to consider quote submitted by Colin Ellis to improve safety within Spinney, Grind out stumps where trees have been felled and coppice Hazels as discussed – total of £710 + VAT** – the Council agreed that the work should go ahead. Glenyss explained that the trees should have been thinned about 10 years after they were planted.
- Council to consider replacement of sign further to removal of previous one** - The Parish Council is keen to replace the sign, The Chairman will obtain a quote for replacing the wooden part of the sign, the writing is still available and a 'picture' will need to be considered.

Signed-----

Date-----

9. UPDATE ON LATEST STAGE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN from Cllrs Clarke/Hamilton – discussion on recent document and report from latest Village Meeting held on 12th September.

The presentation had been well attended, a report is on the website with a document about the Call for Sites from ACRE. A draft copy of the Neighbourhood Plan has also been added. A pack will go to every door with information, Housing Needs Survey and the Call for Sites which will help provide evidence for what is needed.

10. PROVISION OF BUS SHELTER – Council to consider QUOTES –

Cllr R Goddard had 2 quotes one for £7000 and the other for £3168. The spec was for a timber framed one with a tiled roof. It was agreed that the cheaper quote be explored and site survey to take place for the exact positioning -(backing on to the school house hedge of the Pound where the previous one had been where the concrete base may be of use). Clerk to check whether a Highways Licence for the structure is required. Information circulated about planning permission necessary on Common Land did not seem to be relevant in this case.

It was suggested that the Parish Notice Board could be attached to the wall of the bus shelter.

11. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A ‘TOMMY’ ON THE POUND FROM THE GUMBALL CHARITY – COUNCIL TO DISCUSS.

The Council agreed to this – proposed by Cllr Clarke and seconded by Cllr Anderson. The suggestion from Colin Simmonds (in attendance) was that it is positioned between the seats on the Pound

12. COUNCIL TO EXPLORE WAYS TO SUPPORT TEENAGERS IN THE VILLAGE. (Possibly to request Gayton and Tiffeld minibus to provide a service on a Saturday)

A general discussion took place about this. It was felt WIFI in the hall might be helpful and the bus shelter beneficial. It was agreed that the youngsters should be encouraged to attend a meeting with their ideas for improvements. Also suggestions could be invited through social media. Cllr Billing had a contact she will ask. This item to remain on the agenda.

13. NOTABLE CORRESPONDENCE - IN AND CIRCULATED including NCALC – Updates

14. ADOPTION OF IT POLICY – Council agreed to adopt the amended policy, proposed by Cllr Clarke and seconded by Cllr Hamilton. – Clerk to put on website.

15. TIFFIELD ROAD ENCAMPMENT – update on latest position – see 3 Public Voice

16. SOLAR FARM APPLICATION - Update if any on latest position – awaiting date when appeal goes to Strategic Committee. (May be December?)

17. PLANNING – no recent items in register for consideration.

18. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF ANOTHER NOTICE

Signed-----

Date-----

**BOARD ON THE VILLAGE HALL WALL (NEXT TO DEFIBRILLATOR)
TO REPLACE PLAY AREA ONE**

– the Chairman hoped this would be for play area notices, advertising and lost cats etc it was agreed that the **Clerk** obtain quotes.

19. FINANCE - The following Payments were agreed – Total of £4999.75

Details	Ref	Gross £p	Net £p	VAT
Barbara Osborne – pay roll	15	78.00	-	-
Bank charges – 2 months	DD	8.50	-	-
Texprep – printing of Gayton News	16	210.20	-	-
Sim's Mowing – grass cutting, Invs 15482, 15645 and 13380	17	2256.00	1920.00	384.00
PKF Littlejohn	18	252.00	210.00	42.00
Mobile – Aug	DD	7.86	-	-
Mobile – Sept	DD	7.86	-	-
Electrex Installations – set up of new VAS, Back Ln and removal of old one	19	342.00	285.00	57.00
V Hartley–Salary July- Sept, including back pay of £92.20	20	1635.24	-	-
V Hartley – reimburse for McFee Virus protection	21	49.99	-	-
SADS UK – defibrillator pads and battery	22	152.10	126.75	25.35

- **Monies in – Gigaclear - £50 towards Village Hall hub, £32 from Adams Family - possibly for advertising in Gayton News.**
- **Bank Reconciliation :**
Bal at 10.9.26 - £45145.00
Calculated Bank bal at 17.9.26 after above payments £40145.25
- **External Audit by PKF completed. Notice of Completion on website. Need to adopt IT Policy (see item10) – Council noted the above**
- **Internal Control Report – Cllr A Goddard to be put on next agenda**

20. STREET LIGHTING - Reports of any faults

- No reports of any lights out
- Survey of lights to be upgraded still to be completed (approximately 5). A map of the lights using 'What 3 Words' is being made by Leandra Bramham.

Signed-----

Date-----

21. HIGHWAYS and RIGHTS OF WAY –

- Chairman agreed to complete NCALC survey to find out if there is sufficient interest to develop a Parish Highways Representative Scheme which would enable participating councils to nominate a councillor, member of staff, or community volunteer to act as a link between the council, the local community, and WNC Highways.
- VAS machine in Bugbrooke Road is not working.

22. COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS, including items for a future agenda**23. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday November 19th**

DRAFT

Signed-----

Date-----