

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH SCHOOLROOM ON 11th NOVEMBER 2025 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Mr Andy Anderson, Mrs Pat Curran, Mrs Hayley Cox, Mr Geoff Fellows,
Mr Tom Higginson, Mrs Joy Rippon, Mr John Thomason
0 Members of the public present
Unitary Cllr Mr Phil Bignell

Meeting Chair: Chair Mr Tom Higginson

Acceptance of Apologies for absence: Mrs Hayley Davies, Mr Nigel Strang

3007.0 Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct, regarding business tabled for discussion. Cllr Anderson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3015.5

3008.0 Public Forum.

- U/Cllr Bignell reminded all about appointments needed at the local tips.

3009.0 The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 14th October 2025 were confirmed as being accurate and signed by the Chair.

3010.0 Updates:

- Paperwork submitted and consent received to fill vacancy left by Freya Davies. Poster to be on notice board in January and to be included in the Messenger which is out at the end of January. If any applications received, to be considered in the February meeting. February agenda
- Streetlight in Sutton Street has been reported to be fixed.

3011.0 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

3011.1 Flooding - Working Group. Information has been in the Messenger but will also be repeated. Two people have been approached and are willing to help. Cllr Curran also volunteered to be part of the team. S19 still awaited. Millenium Hall Drain has been inspected. January agenda

3011.2 Annual Parish Community Award. Councillors to consider the proposed application form (especially the criteria section and who can apply/be consider ie single person, family, group of people etc) and put comments to Cllr Curran/Clerk. To be discussed further at the Jan meeting All January agenda

3011.3 Brodie Lodge Playing Field – Trustee. Cllrs Davies and Rippon will attend the AGM. To be confirmed who will take the position in January January agenda

3011.4 More streetlights in the village. Noted that this is too expensive and whilst some areas are dark it has not been requested by residents so will be put on hold.

3011.5 High Street proposals. Cllr Higginson advised all about the current dialogue with WNC regarding speed cushions which would avoid the issue over chicanes and are likely to be more cost effective. We are waiting to hear whether this proposal could be put forward for consideration.

A walkabout with Kier and Councillors will take place on 13th November (not linked to High Street)
3011.6 Consultation: Infrastructure & Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Cllr Higginson would look through this consultation and will make a comment about S106 (involving parishes before allocating funds to something they have no control over)

3012.0 FINANCIAL/ADMIN

3012.1 Finance update: Monthly figures submitted to the Councillors show payments for last few months including current (at time of agenda published).

Income received during October: Nothing received

VAT spent: October £144

Current ring-fenced reserves £20,000 plus £19,700 general reserves

3012.2 Internal control: Cllr Davies had confirmed that she has seen the Cashbook, monthly figures submitted to the Council and the current bank statements, and all is above board. Chair also has copy of bank statement which tallied with Councillor's monthly figure sheet.

3012.3 Precept papers received from WNC. Finance meeting to be held on the 10th December, 7.30 pm at 4 Brockhall Road.

3013.0 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

To whom paid	Reason	Total	VAT
SSE	Street light electricity (Variable Direct Debit)	138.15	6.58
	Late September payments	138.15	6.58
	Total September payments	3552.80	355.13
To whom paid	Reason	Total	VAT
Halkett	Salary £812.36, office rent £17	829.36	0
HMRC	PAYE	292.98	0
Design to Print	Messenger	195.00	0
LG Hedging & Grass Maint	Grass cutting	600.00	100.00
M Freeman	Grass cutting playing fields	264.00	44.00
PCC	Grass cutting donation	420.00	0
URC	Grass cutting donation	350.00	0
Unity Trust	Service charge	6.00	0
	Total	2957.34	144.00

Awaiting known invoices
SSE

3014.0 PLANNING

3014.1 Application: 2025/4172/TPO. Ashlawn, Bricketts Lane. To undertake work to remove a dead tree (retrospective for FPC). The Council had no objections in the removal of this tree for H&S reasons

3014.2 Application: 2025/4250/FULL. The Firs 58B High Street. Part ground floor and part first floor side extension with annexe above exiting garage Single storey rear extension and single storey porch extension. Changes to front boundary wall.

The Council does not object to the principle of this proposal but would like the following comments to be taken into account.

The proposed extension on the frontage of the property could have the benefit of more closely integrating the building into it's surrounding built environment by bringing it closer to the footpath and into a relationship with the neighbouring dwelling, providing details are carefully considered. In this regard we have suggested to the applicants that the staircase on the south end of the building could, for instance, be supported on a stone structure which references that on the the side of the old Royal Oak pub at the top of Spring Lane rather than presenting the appearance of an added-on fire escape.

We also have some concern about the increased height of garden walls and gates. Security is best served by visibility from and to the street, which also enhances community cohesion.

3014.3 Application: 2025/4358/FULL. The Pen Vicarage Farm, Brington Road. Single storey extension to existing dwelling house. The Council has no objections to this application which will not affect the street scene,

3014.4 Application: 2025/4403/LBC. 44 High Street. Listed building consent to run a fibre cable from the pavement to a connection box at a height of approx. 0.5m. Drill a hole through the wall to allow the cable into the dwelling. The Council has no objection to this application which will not affect the street scene

3014.5 Application: 2025/4477/TCA. 25A Sutton Street. Work to tree in a conservation area. The Council has no objections to this work being undertaken which will not affect the street scene and be beneficial to the tree.

3014.6 The Croft, Kings Lane. Work to tree in conservation area: Noted that work has been carried out on a tree with the permission of the Natural Environment Officer at WNC.

3015.0 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

3015.1 Brodie Lodge Playing Field. Will be installing a new skateboard ramp shortly. AGM on 13th November.

3015.2 Millennium Hall. An inspection of the drain alongside the Hall has been carried out, at the expense of the Hall Committee.

3015.3 Commonwealth Flags. Nothing to report.

3015.4 Charities. Flore Charity – Donations were given to 2 students and 2 relief in need. Richard Capell Educational Trust AGM - Mike Penn has been re-elected as the Chair.

3016.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a. WNC Permission to fill vacancy. 3010
 - b. Chair Brodie Lodge Thank you. 3011.3
 - c. WNC Consultation. 3011.6
 - d. WNC Precept papers. 3012.3
 - e. WNC 6 planning applications. 3014
 - f. MP Thank you for support. Noted
- NCALC Updates and Training
WNC Town & Parish Briefing
WNC Media Updates
WNC weekly planning register
ACRE newsletter

3017.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA PUBLISHED

- Climate Group: Changed name to Flore Climate & Nature Group. Noted
- WNC: SWEP rough sleeping. Noted, nothing in Flore
- PFCC: Survey about supporting the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. Noted
- Resident: Support for library at budget meeting and request to allow a representative from SNVB/WNC to join with them to provide info to residents re finance, heating, grants etc. Agreed that it is no issue to the Council who would still be supporting the library in the Hall ongoing.

Items for inclusion at the next meeting

- Flooding Working Group
Annual Parish Community Award
Brodie Lodge Playing Field – Trustee
Update on EDF intentions
Update on the field adjacent to the Holiday Inn

February Agenda

Councillor vacancy/co-option

The meeting closed at 2030 hrs

Date of next meetings: 2026 20th January (third Tuesday), 10th February, 10th March, 14th April,
Annual Parish Meeting: 21 April

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL
PAYMENTS MADE 2025-26

	Annual Budget	Oct	Nov	Spend to Yr End
Grass cutting - Playing field	1,700.00	220.00	110.00	1,320.00
Grass cutting - closed churchyard	950.00	220.00	110.00	660.00
Grass cutting - PCC/URC	770.00		770.00	770.00
Grass cutting - highway verges	8,000.00	750.00	500.00	6,000.00
Memorial Garden*	1,000.00			510.97
Trees/wall/memorial- closed churchyard *	0.00			680.00
Biodiversity/Climate Group	0.00			48.99
General maintenance repairs	100.00			0.00
Highways maintenance - spraying/verges	500.00			180.00
Lights - energy	2,200.00	131.57		1,244.11
Lights - replacement/new*	1,250.00			0.00
Bus shelter - maintenance/materials	0.00			0.00
Seats/bollards/Gateways/Memorial-replace/maint	0.00			0.00
Bins - litter/dog replacements/repairs	750.00	352.59		352.59
flagpoles *	750.00	158.50		433.14

Cenotaph	500.00			0.00
planters/plants *	50.00			0.00
Clerk's salary (plus HMRC tax/Ni)	12,350.00	1,015.56	1,015.56	8,124.56
Employer NI contribution	500.00	89.78	89.78	718.27
Clerk's office rent	210.00	17.00	17.00	136.00
Office costs	400.00			289.31
Office equipment/ Website running*	150.00			339.60
Chairman's allowance	200.00			0.00
Subs - NALC etc	1,000.00			791.22
Training *	500.00			92.00
Insurance	850.00			825.12
Audits	600.00			504.00
Room hire (Council/Library)	350.00			215.63
Messenger	1,700.00	195.00	195.00	1,098.00
S137 including first aid courses	0.00			0.00
Elections *	500.00			0.00
Grants *	500.00			0.00
Bank Charges	100.00	6.00	6.00	48.00
Salix Street light loan repayment	1,830.00			1,829.42
Flood projects	0.00			0.00
New Village Hall/land *	1,250.00			0.00
Contingency	750.00	41.67		41.67
CIL spend	0.00			0.00
Budget total	42,260.00			
Use of income	0.00			
Use of Reserves	0.00			
Precept	42,260.00			
Monthly expenditure Net		3,197.67	2,813.34	27,252.60
VAT		355.13	144.00	2,042.59
Total Monthly expenditure		3,552.80	2,957.34	29,295.19
Running total		26,337.85	29,295.19	

* Money earmarked for specific item and put into reserves, if not spent in financial year.

Receipts

Precept	21,130.00	Apr
Messenger (Oliver/RE)	85.00	Apr
WNC litter picking	454.27	May
Messenger (Cloverlea/Rathore/Landlord/PO)	345.00	May
WNC grass cutting 2025 season	1,348.33	June
Messenger (WI)	25.00	June
Messenger (Irons-kettles/W F R/FloreHouse)	275.00	August
Messenger Purcellx2/Ede/Village		
Design/Elliotts	435.00	September
Precept	21,130.00	September
Total	45,227.60	

Brought forward	43,787.42
	89,015.02
Payments to date	26,337.85
Balance in hand	62,677.17
<i>u/c payment Royal British Legion</i>	<i>50.00</i>
Reconciliation with banks	
Unity Trust current account	62,727.17

Notes: ** The reserve fund contains the following 'ring-fenced' sums

New Village hall/Land	£5,709.00
Memorial Garden	£225.00
Street light replacements	£2,000.00
Election expenses reserve	£1,500.00
Flood projects	£1,250.00
Closed Churchyard trees	£3,120.00
Training	£309.00
Website	£804.40
Office equipment	£834.00
biodiversity	£436.68
Grants	£800.00
Flagpoles	£0.00
Seats	£1,112.00
Cleaning cart - capital spend	£200.00
CIL - capital spend	£1,698.16
sub total	£19,998.24

Sue Halkett
Clerk to the Council/RFO