

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH SCHOOLROOM ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs Pat Curran, Mrs Hayley Cox, Miss Freya Davies. Mrs Hayley Davies,
Mr Geoff Fellows, Mr Tom Higginson, Mrs Joy Rippon, Mr Nigel Strang,
1 Member of the public present
Unitary Cllrs Mr Phil Bignell & Mrs Deborah King

Chair: Mr Tom Higginson

Chair welcomed Cllr Pat Curran to the Council.

Acceptance of Apologies for absence: Cllrs Andy Anderson, John Thomason

2094.0 Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct, regarding business tabled for discussion. Nothing declared

2095.0 Public Forum.

- Resident came to listen
- U/Cllr King advised that WNC are fighting the hotel issues at no costs to parishes. She also mentioned that M&S were moving to DIRFT and the closure of the Flore Hill with the bus diversions. Chair advised that Stagecoach were copied in but no responses to date.
- U/Cllr Bignall asked if there was any feedback on the new lining at the Bypass – nothing received to the Council although comments were on social media.

2096.0 The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 8th July 2025 was confirmed as being accurate and signed by the Chair. There was one amendment to a name.

2097.0 Updates:

- Flood Warden: Read by clerk: Still no S19 doc received. Keir has installed six grips on Brington Road, these concreted outlets will hopefully reduce water flowing down the road and reduce flooding into the gardens of Champions Field. They have also installed a new drain at the bottom of Sutton Street although it is full of mud!
- First Aid Course – Tuesday 23rd September in the Millennium Hall, from 7.00 pm.
- Solar Farm update – noted
- Land behind Holiday Inn update – noted
- NCALC training course – Free course won in ballot, Cllr Rippon undertaking Off to a Flying Start
- Agricultural Forum – Cllr Strang to attend

2099.0 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

2099.1 Climate Group: The group held its recent annual meeting and flooding was on the agenda. A request for another flood warden was mentioned. Clerk to speak to Cllr Thomason and if he would like support, a request will go into the Messenger. Also a request for a store for sand bags was mentioned. John to look at and come back to meeting. Noted the wildflower area on the High Street. Cllr Strang volunteered to be the CAN for Flore Parish.

Cllr
Thomason

Resolved: To purchase some wildflower seeds

2099.2 Purchase of flag for Commonwealth Flag Project - Vanuatu flag request:

Resolved: To purchase a new flag £88.32 plus carriage and VAT

2099.3 NCALC AGM. Unfortunately, no one can attend his year.

2099.4 Consultations:

- Draft Northampton Cycling/Walking Infrastructure Plan. No comments from Flore PC
- Planning Application Requirements: Cllr Higginson has responded
- Emergencies: How prepared are you? Cllrs to look at.

2099.5 Resident's recognition award. Cllr Curran to look at this and come back to the Council at a later date.

2100.0 FINANCIAL/ADMIN

2100.1 Finance update: Monthly figures submitted to the Councillors show payments for last few months including current (at time of agenda published).
Income received during July/August: Messenger adverts £275.00

Income total for 2 months: £275.

VAT spent: July £165.53/Aug £314.65

Current ring-fenced reserves £20,000 plus £6,800 general reserves

2100.2 Internal control: Cllr H Davies 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.

2100.3 Bank Account Signatories: Currently Cllrs Anderson, F Davies, Fellows & Higginson.

Resolved: To add Cllrs Rippon and H Davies.

2100.4 Gov.uk email addresses for Cllrs. After discussion it was agreed to not progress this at this time.

2100.5 Insurance: Third year term with Zurich: Premium £825.12

Resolved: To pay insurance premium

2100.6 Salix loan Agreement: Noted that this has now come to an end with the last payment being August.

2100.7 Audit: The audit return has been received from PKF – Flore has a clear audit.

2101.0 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

To whom paid	Reason	Total	VAT
SSE	Street light electricity (Variable Direct Debit)	196.92	15.53
	Late July payments	196.92	15.53
	Total July payments	2477.65	165.53

To whom paid	Reason	Total	VAT
Salix	Street light loan repayment	1829.42	0
Halkett	Salary £905.84 (incl pay rise/backpay, office rent £17	922.84	0
HMRC	PAYE	344.36	0
J Amos	Flags	274.64	0
NCALC	Course – H Davies	63.60	10.60
M Freeman	Playing field grass cutting	528.00	88.00
LG Hedging x 3 invoices	Highways Grass cutting	1200.00	200.00
Unity Trust	Service charge	6.00	0
	Total	5168.86	298.60

Awaiting known invoices			
SSE	Street light electricity DD	203.490	16.05
	Total August payments	5372.35	314.65

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
Zurich	Council annual insurance	825.12	0
Millennium Hall	Rent for library/first aid course	106.25	0
Weedon Bec PC	Office costs	101.66	0
Bliss Lane Nursery	Pruning memorial garden trees/wildflower seeds £50	118.99	0
Cuttlefish	Website domain renewal and email account gov.uk	132.00	22.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	252.00	42.00
LG Hedging & Grass Maint	Grass cutting	600.00	100.00
Unity Trust	Service charge	.00	0
	Total to date	3453.36	164.00

Awaiting known invoices/ late invoices			
LG Hedging & Grass Maint	Grass cutting war memorial	300.00	50.00
	Monthly total to date	3753.36	214.00

Awaiting invoices from M Freeman and SSE

Cllrs Higginson / Fellows signed off payments on Unity

2102.0 PLANNING

2102.1 **Application: 2025/0880/FULL. 36 Sutton Street.** Ground floor extension to rear of property on the side of an existing single storey extension. First floor extension over existing and new ground floor extension. Replace white UPVC windows. Responded due to deadline of application date. Whilst the Council is pleased to see the additional detail now applied to the drawings for this proposal, the fundamental elements of the project remain to all intents and purposes unchanged. In

consequence the remaining points of concern expressed in our previous responses remain almost in their entirety.

The now fully resolved roof layout retains the blank north wall capped by an incongruously shallow pitched roof (a 30° minimum pitch is the norm for slate roofs in the area) and the visual bulk of the building is unchanged so that it still dominates the existing building.

The full height glazed panels either side of the entrance door are incongruous in an otherwise traditionally inspired design and the window configuration to the front of the existing dwelling would probably have been vertical sliding sash windows. However, the proposed side-hung casements are an improvement on the existing fenestration.

Application: 2025/3166/TCA. Nene View, Kings Lane Removal of populous Nigra trees to alleviate concerns of damage to properties. Responded due to deadline of application date. The Parish Council is happy to support the removal of these trees with a recommendation of replacing with more appropriately sized trees.

- 2102.2 **Appeal:** To note the response from the Planning Inspectorate regarding APP/W2845/W/24/3354897: Land off M1- A45 Roundabout Junction 16. Noted. The Climate Group has asked to see the ecological report. Clerk to locate Clerk

2103.0 REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- 2103.1 Brodie Lodge Playing Field. Good car boot, approx. £7,000 profit this year so Trustees looking and what can be done to enhance the field. Possibly there will be two new Trustees joining.
- 2103.2 Millennium Hall. Nothing to report
- 2103.3 Commonwealth Flags. Nothing to report
- 2103.4 Charities: Nothing to report

2104.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a. EDF Solar Farm update. 2097
- b. WNC Brief update on land behind Holiday Inn. 2097
- c. NCALC Draw for free training course. 2097
- d. MP Invite to Agricultural Forum. 2097
- e. Resident Request for Vanuatu flag. 2098.2
- f. WNC 3 x consultations. 2099.4
- g. WNC 2 x planning applications. 2102
- h. NCALC Pre-Application developer interactions guide
- i. Resident Request for resident recognition award. 2099.5
- j. PKF Audit completion paperwork. 2100.7
- k. WNC Appeal decision on land off M1. 2102.2

NCALC Updates and Training
WNC Town & Parish Briefing
WNC Media Updates
WNC weekly planning register
ACRE newsletter

2105.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA PUBLISHED

- a. WNC Advised of invoice for costs in uncontested election. Noted
- b. ACRE Rural Housing Roadshow. Cllr Strang to attend

Items for inclusion on next agenda

Flood Warden report

The meeting closed at 2040 hrs

Date of next meetings: 14th October, 11th November

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS MADE 2025-26

	Annual Budget	Aug	Sep	Spend to Yr End
Grass cutting - Playing field	1,700.00	440.00		990.00
Grass cutting - closed churchyard	950.00			330.00

Grass cutting - PCC/URC	770.00			0.00
Grass cutting - highway verges	8,000.00	1,000.00	750.00	4,750.00
Memorial Garden*	1,000.00		70.00	510.97
Trees/wall/memorial- closed churchyard *	0.00			680.00
Biodiversity/Climate Group	0.00		48.99	48.99
General maintenance repairs	100.00			0.00
Highways maintenance - spraying/verges	500.00			180.00
Lights - energy	2,200.00	187.44		925.10
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			0.00
flagpoles *	750.00	274.64		274.64
Cenotaph	500.00			0.00
planters/plants *	50.00			0.00
Clerk's salary (plus HMRC tax/Ni)	12,350.00	1,141.52	1,015.56	6,093.44
Employer NI contribution	500.00	108.68	89.78	538.71
Clerk's office rent	210.00	17.00	17.00	102.00
Office costs	400.00		101.66	289.31
Office equipment/ Website running*	150.00		110.00	339.60
Chairman's allowance	200.00			0.00
Subs - NALC etc	1,000.00	53.00		791.22
Training *	500.00			92.00
Insurance	850.00		825.12	825.12
Audits	600.00		210.00	504.00
Room hire (Council/Library)	350.00		106.25	215.63
Messenger	1,700.00		195.00	708.00
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		30.00
Salix Street light loan repayment	1,830.00	1,829.42		1,829.42
Flood projects	0.00			0.00
New Village Hall/land *	1,250.00			0.00
Contingency	750.00			0.00
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		5,057.70	3,539.36	21,048.15
VAT		314.65	214.00	1,527.41
Total Monthly expenditure		5,372.35	3,753.36	22,575.56
Running total		18,822.20	22,575.56	

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

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL

Financial Position as at 31st August 2025

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
<i>Messenger (Irons-kettles/W F R/FloreHouse)</i>	<i>275.00</i>	<i>August</i>
Total	23,662.60	
Brought forward	43,787.42	
	67,450.02	
Payments to date	18,822.20	
Balance in hand	48,627.82	

Reconciliation with banks

Unity Trust current account **48,627.82**

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