

**Minutes of extraordinary meeting of Newton Longville Parish Council
held on 26th January 2026 at Free Church, Bletchley Road.**

Present: Cllrs Chapman (chair), Collinge, Cookman, Gibson, Hardwick, Hartley, Hunter and Whipp.
In attendance: Mike Galloway (Clerk to the Council), Linda Fensom (Finance Officer)
9 members of the public in person.

349/25 Apologies

Cllr Coeshall
Buckinghamshire Council ward councillor Jilly Jordan

350/25 Disclosures of interest

None

351/25 Announcements

Cllr Chapman explained the reasons for the extraordinary meeting. Cllr Chapman gave details of a planning enforcement issue that had arisen with 3 caravans having moved on the site off Drayton Road (planning application 25/01620/APP). This is being discussed with Buckinghamshire Council Planning Enforcement and Cllr Jordan.

352/25 Minutes:

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 19th January be signed as a correct record.

353/25 Update on actions arising from meeting on 19th December

Actions closed:

Investigate potential supplier for providing HR and related advice services Initial assessment; Gladman application 24/01220/AOP - Actions linked to delegation to officer rather than call-in: Complaints template to be finalised and shared to those who provided email addresses, website, Facebook and Village Briefing email, Respond to planning officer email explaining decision to delegate pointing out non-conformity with BC Constitution regarding involvement of Service Director, and Follow up and action for pre-application protocol letter; Arrange meeting Monday 26/01/2026 with primary agenda item determination of budget and precept request; Investigate potential supplier for providing HR and related advice services: Prompt WorkNest for reference contact details and Research WorkNest and report with recommendation at 26/1/26.

Public Involvement

354/25 Question asked about when the carriageway works on Berry Way and Green Way will be completed. Cllr Chapman explained the dates are in the Pump and on one.network, but that at present these are indicative. Questions asked about HGV issues and potholes and getting a ban put in place. Cllr Chapman and Clerk explained that it is for Buckinghamshire Council to impose a ban and to date they have refused to do so. Question asked about regular traffic survey at the crossroads, Clerk agree to check when last survey was done. Question asked about how to book Longueville Hall. Cllr Chapman explained the arrangements and that emails should be sent to Bookings@NewtonLongville.gov.uk.

Planning, Highways and Environment

355/25 Outline Planning Application 24/01220/AOP

For: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for means of access for the erection of up to 50 dwellings and associated infrastructure.

At: Land off Drayton Road (rear of Westbrook End)

By: Gladman Developments

To consider any updates on application and make any necessary decisions.

Cllr Chapman gave an update on email discussion he had had with the case officer on the decision making process and the parish council view that Planning had not followed the correct procedure as the Buckinghamshire Council Constitution requires the decision to be

made by the Service Director. The Clerk has discussed this with solicitors and when and if appropriate they will be instructed to initiate formal legal action. It has been taken up with Callum Anderson MP and his office has raised this at a senior level with Buckinghamshire Council.

Hope was expressed that Buckinghamshire Council will agree that they have failed to decide in accordance with their constitution and take the decision on the application to go to the area planning committee.

356/25 East West Rail - updates

Cllr Chapman gave an update on the current situation with regard to the proposed "Bletchley West" Train Maintenance Depot (TMD) within the parish for which there had been no consultation until East West Rail (EWR) started to involve stakeholders on Monday 19 January.

A leaflet was distributed around the village to encourage residents to attend EWR Drop-in (Design Update Sessions) in Bletchley on 28 and 31 January, and concerns were already expressed about the proposal. It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council were already supportive, with the council leader having made a public statement opposing the proposal. They were also in agreement that a consultation session needs to be arranged by EWR in the village.

Finance

357/25 To consider HR & H&S support service contract.

Cllr Hardwick reported on his review of six potential service providers with his conclusion that WorkNest should be the preferred option. It was agreed that the parish council would enter into a five year contract with WorkNest, subject to a three year break clause, for both their HR and H&S support services. The Clerk to discuss the appropriate start date.

358/25 To consider and set budget for 2026/27.

Budget as proposed agreed at £167,000 (subject to final taxbase figure and/or use of reserves and ongoing assessment of essential costs).

It was agreed that while the 2026 request from St Faith for a grant of £1,140 representing 50% of their landscaping costs for the churchyard was approved, alternative support to be considered for the following year which is unlikely to involve a grant payment.

359/25 Update on discussions with Buckinghamshire Council on apparent discrepancies identified with taxbase setting.

Clerk and Cllr Chapman gave an update on the situation which includes significant under counting of the additional properties built or expected to be built prior to 31 March 2027. Help being sought from Cllr Jilly Jordan, discussions were ongoing with Buckinghamshire Council Finance Team and a formal legal letter is being discussed with solicitors.

360/25 To consider precept for 2026/27.

[Buckinghamshire Council require precept detail by 31 January 2026]

Cllr Chapman and Clerk explained the legal requirement for submitting a precept demand is 11 March, but that Buckinghamshire Council want it by 31 January.

Resolved that based on the current taxbase figure from Buckinghamshire Council, the precept demand be issued "under duress" at £144,400 and is subject to the Pre-Action Protocol letter to be sent by parish council solicitors and that the right to issue a further precept demand once Buckinghamshire Council correct the taxbase for Newton Longville.

361/25 Exclusion of Press & Public

Resolved to exclude press and public.

362/25 To consider planning matters

None.

363/25 To consider personnel matters

It was noted that salary reviews for council employees would be discussed at the next meeting.

364/25 To consider property matters

It was agreed that the Keep on Rockin' concert be given free hire for Cancer Research UK fundraising event on Saturday 11 April.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21:20.

Signed: _____

Date: _____