

Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council
LODER HALL, MAIDWELL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday 30th April 2026 at 6pm

Present: Cllr Paybody (Vice-Chair), Cllr Hackworth., Cllr Goddard

Guest Speakers:

The Rt. Hon. Stuart Andrew MP

Helen Howard - Community Liaison Officer, West Northamptonshire Council, Transport and Highways

Sam Simons – West Northamptonshire Council, Highways Service Manager

Inspector Ross MacDonald – Northamptonshire Police (Daventry and South Northants)

Sergeant Greg Harrison - Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, Local Policing Command – Daventry Rural North

Also Present: Members of the Public

Cllr Paybody chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair Cllr Penny Munro.

Cllr Paybody welcomed all guests and residents to the meeting and explained the format of the Parish Council meeting. Introductions were made by all guest speakers. **Apologies** were noted from National Highways who could not attend due to the pre-election period.

118. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Munro, Cllr Blake, Cllr Jackson-Stops. Ward Councillor: Cllr Irving-Swift.

119. Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda – None

120. To receive an update from the **Rt. Hon. Stuart Andrew MP**

Mr Andrew confirmed that a meeting would be arranged with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Danielle Stone regarding speeding concerns.

Ms Stone had acknowledged both the speed statistics and the strength of feeling within the community regarding the scale of the speeding issues in Maidwell. It was noted that a similar meeting had recently taken place in Holcot, where comparable concerns had been raised.

There was discussion regarding confusion over which organisations hold responsibility for enforcement matters. Ms Stone is confirmed to meet with the Chief Inspector and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) on 1 May to discuss collaborative approaches. It was suggested that Maidwell and Holcot could potentially become trial areas for future initiatives. Residents were reassured that collaboration between agencies was being recognised as essential in finding solutions.

Mr Andrews confirmed that no response had yet been received from National Highways.

Mr Simons explained that National Highways currently covers four operational areas and, due to the period of 'purdh' (pre-election period) were unable to send a representative to attend the meeting tonight.

121. To receive an update from Sam Simons, Highways Service Manager (C&C), West Northamptonshire Council

Mr Sam Simons gave an update to the Council.

- 1) Road Safety – Mr Simons advised that the Community Speedwatch initiative could be reactivated and that a speed gun would cost the Parish Council £150.

Cllr Paybody asked for clarification on enforcement and it was explained that speeding offences can only formally be enforced when a Police officer is present.

- 2) Condition of the Road Network

Mr Simons referred to a 15-page report outlining the history and condition of the route shared with the Parish Council before the meeting. The report indicated that no major works were currently planned. (Report can be viewed on the Parish Council website)

Regarding uneven road surfaces and surface dressing, Mr Simons confirmed that the team had committed to removing specific lumps, bumps and uneven sections of road, including problematic manhole covers. Micro-resurfacing works were expected to take place within the current year's budget, and planning was already underway.

- 3) Speeding

Mr Simons explained that, due to budget limitations, more substantial traffic calming measures such as rumble strips and road widenings were currently too expensive to implement however all existing measures, including sign cleaning and maintenance, were under review. The work has to be done within the budget given.

Mr Simons also referred to the Government's Road Safety Strategy, which targets a 65% reduction in KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) incidents by 2030. In Mr Simons opinion, installing signs and similar measures alone would not achieve this target and the serious reduction would come from cross agency collaborations.

Inspector Ross MacDonald – Northamptonshire Police (Daventry and South Northants) introduced himself as new in post and introduced **Sergeant Greg Harrison** - Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, Local Policing Command – Daventry Rural North. Enforcement statistics were presented.

The team has carried out 30 mph enforcement activity on the A508 at Maidwell since 2013. Over the last 3 years, there had been 106 speed van deployments, with 643 drivers recorded travelling above 30 mph.

In 2025/26, there had been 11 driver enforcement actions recorded and 1 collision reported over a 5-year period.

Community Speedwatch was described as very successful and Sergeant Harrison confirmed that the Police team was supportive and actively engaged with local concerns. The Police committed to continued speed enforcement within the village and stated that road safety remained a priority.

122. Open Forum and 123. Highways Matters

The meeting was opened to questions from Members of the Public.

A resident expressed concern regarding the evidence of vehicles travelling at speeds exceeding 90 mph on a regular basis citing risks to pedestrians crossing the road. They would like Highways authorities to invest in road engineering measures designed to slow traffic and they had expected clearer solutions to be presented at the meeting.

Cllr Paybody asked for clarification from Mr Simons on the solutions currently available.

Mr Simons explained that budget limitations prevented the creation of a road network capable of physically preventing extreme speeding. Mr Simons stated that he did not wish to promise measures that could not realistically be delivered and instead wanted to focus on actions that were immediately achievable. He added that overall compliance with speed limits within the village was relatively high, despite ongoing concerns.

A resident thanked Highways and Kier for clearing drains in neighbouring Draughton village, although it was noted that drains along the A508 still required attention. It was confirmed that residents in Draughton had received correspondence from West Northamptonshire Council regarding the removal of logs and stones from verges outside properties.

It was stated that they did not agree with the current proposed solutions heard at the meeting tonight. It was noted that only 5 villages are divided by a major main road and affected by a primary route in this manner. They expressed disappointment regarding recent patch repairs on the A508 approaching Market Harborough, stating that patch repairs were not a long-term solution.

They also raised concerns regarding the positioning of 30mph signs and gateway features on the A508, arguing that more needed to be done to record vehicle speeds. They referred to systems capable of recording vehicle number plates and supporting enforcement activity and requested that the Parish Council help accelerate progress.

Mr Andrews confirmed that a meeting with the Police Commissioner and WNC was scheduled for the following day to agreed that a strategic, high-level approach would be required to move forward.

A resident requested clarification regarding the positioning of 30mph and 40mph signs at the crossroads on the A508, highlighting discrepancies in road signage.

Cllr Paybody confirmed that the Parish Council had previously raised concerns regarding the placement of national speed limit signs close to 40mph signs.

All noted concerns regarding the dangerous overtaking seen by vehicles on this section of road.

A resident raised concerns regarding the increase in HGV traffic since the COVID period and the resulting cracks appearing in residential properties.

Mr Simons explained that the county had experienced significant growth in logistics companies and many private businesses had increased vehicle sizes in order to reduce costs. He noted that National Highways had responsibility for managing the wider road network.

The resident then questioned why HGVs were not using the main routes such as the A14 and M1.

Mr Andrews explained that Lamport was also experiencing similar issues due to satellite navigation systems routing vehicles through villages. Mr Andrews confirmed that correspondence had been sent to Google requesting changes to routing systems.

Mr Simons agreed that he was willing to explore possible solutions.

Another resident asked whether the A508 can handle the increase in HGVs traffic.

Mr Simons explained that he cannot do a full re-surfacing of the road but wants to remove as much of the unevenness as possible to reduce the noise created by these vehicles.

The resident noted the surface of the road over the nearby A14 bridge.

Mr Simons explained that he cannot afford to re-surface in the same material due to the cost difference - £6 per square metre vis £70/80 per square metre. He has to work within his budget limitations.

A resident asked to why West Northamptonshire Council stopped using camera to enforce speed limits on the county's roads.

Mr Simons explained that in 2010, the Conservative Party, as part of their manifesto, proposed to turn off all cameras. The money made from these cameras did not go back to Local Authorities. It was a political decision.

Mr Simons cannot implement this change. All agreed that cameras would be a helpful deterrent but at this moment in time this decision is not in his hands.

A resident expressed support for speed cameras and stated that approximately 35,000 vehicles travel through the area at 40mph. The resident noted that 3 vehicles recorded that evening had been travelling at 42mph and argued that speed cameras represented the only effective solution. The resident acknowledged the limited budgets available and commented that only three counties currently operate without enforcement cameras – West Northants being one.

Mr Simons agreed with the principle of enforcement cameras but explained that the decision to activate them was outside his authority.

Mr Andrews stated that he personally supported cameras and would raise the matter as a consideration.

One resident suggested looking into a village in Bedfordshire that operates speed cameras as a possible case study.

Another resident asked for an idea to when the improved signage, vegetation clearance and a timeline for these works would take place. Mr Simons confirmed that works were expected to hopefully take place during the summer.

Another resident asked about the timing of speed van deployments and why enforcement was not conducted at more effective times.

Police representatives explained that deployment locations and times are heavily risk-assessed and require officers to be physically present. Night-time enforcement was limited due to visibility and safety concerns.

A resident suggested that officers using handheld speed guns are more effective than other methods. Questions were also raised regarding whether enforcement activities could be better publicised

Sergeant Greg Harrison agreed that Northamptonshire had not done enough previously in this regard and confirmed that improved communication formed part of a wider initiative.

Residents also raised further concerns regarding 30mph and 40mph signage. Mr Simons stated that these would be reviewed and explained that while changing speed limits is relatively straightforward, ensuring driver compliance remains the greater challenge.

A resident asked why the uneven road surface had not been fixed before the full re-surfacing of the road was done and who was responsible for checking contractor performance?

Mr Simons said that he did not know the reason but believed issues may have been missed at the time, noting that an internal audit team had not existed previously. He stated that any concerns about poor workmanship would always be investigated thoroughly.

A resident asked whether the document Mr Simons had mentioned would be shared. Mr Simons confirmed that it would be circulated by the Clerk.

The resident also asked about the skid risk to which Mr Simons replied that there was nothing significant to report.

Residents asked whether vibration monitoring sensors could be deployed to measure the effects of traffic on nearby properties.

Cllr Paybody concluded the meeting by identifying several short-term priorities for the Parish Council to investigate including:

- Reactivating Community Speedwatch
- Carrying out vibration testing
- Reviewing the 30mph and 40mph speed changes
- Campaigning for speed cameras to be switched on

Cllr Paybody then asked whether any residents would volunteer for the Community Speedwatch campaign. A couple raised their hands.

One resident questioned the need for the group, stating that the village already had speed signs in place. The Police representative responded that the Community Speedwatch groups assist the police operations and acts as a deterrent to drivers. Speedwatch can be more consistent than deployment of the vans. It will deter drivers.

Cllr Paybody thanked all attendees and extended a special thanks to all guest speakers for attending.

124. Correspondence - None

125. Noted: Date and Time of Next Meeting – The Annual Parish and Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th May 2026** at 7.30pm at Loder Hall, Maidwell

126. The meeting was closed at 19:35



Date & Signature of Chairman:

Mrs Sarah Smith, Parish Clerk
Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council

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