

Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council
LODER HALL, MAIDWELL

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 7th September 2026

Present: Cllr Paybody, Cllr Munro, Cllr Blake, Cllr Goddard, Cllr Jackson-Stops.
Ward Councillor: Cllr Irving-Swift. 16 Members of the Public

51. Apologies for Absence were received: Cllr Hackworth.

52. Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda – Cllr Paybody and Cllr Jackson-Stops declared an interest in Item 56 (i) Maidwell Primary School. Both will leave the meeting temporarily while this item is discussed.

53. Open Forum

Cllr Irving-Swift gave an update to the Council.

All news from West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) can be found in the latest Town and Parish Briefing (available on the Parish Council website)

The previous year WNC Budget was delivered by the Reform led Council. Reserves of £7 million were used to fund the deficit to the Budget. In Period 4 this year, WNC are already over Budget by £ 13 million.

Cllr Irving-Swift expressed her support for the Parish regarding the A508. She praised the Parish Council for working hard over the years alongside WNC and Highways however confirmed that the Parish Council remit is extremely limited. She appealed to Members of the Public present to work together with the Parish Council who will do they best they can with this limited remit.

She noted the recent A14 closures and how necessary they were due to the major deterioration of the road.

Cllr Paybody requested help regarding obtaining a response from Sam Simons at WNC Highways on the actions from the meeting held earlier in the year. Despite repeated communications, no substantial update had been received.

Cllr Irving-Swift left the meeting at 7:45pm.

A Member of the Public spoke on behalf of Project 508. The Parish Council noted the Freedom of Information requests received from WNC and National Highways. A request has been made that WNC Highways carry out a risk assessment on the A508 prior to and after diversions from the A14.

A Member of the Public spoke on behalf of the Asset of Community Value (ACV) – Item 58.

While supporting the retention of the pub in the village a series of questions were raised regarding the application for an ACV including what is the Parish Council hoping to achieve, what other options are available, an estimate on workload and any financial implications, whether a planning application had been received regarding The Stag or whether it was at risk. It was asked whether the company that owns the pub had been contacted and/or the landlord and whether this would jeopardise talks currently happening.

Residents expressed concerns with the lack of communication with Sam Simons, WNC Highways. The Council wholeheartedly agreed with the concerns.

A note was made on a recent meeting held with the MP Stuart Andrews. Re A14 diversions – it was noted that the Parish Council had no consultation or notice on the suggestion diversions. This would be discussed further under Item 57.

54. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th July 2026. Approved. Prop: Cllr Jackson-Stops. Sec: Cllr Paybody.tt

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on 11th August 2026. Approved. Prop: Cllr Munro. Sec: Cllr Blake.

55. Councillor Vacancy/Co-option – Noted. Council have received an expression of interest.

56. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2026:

- i. **(33i) Allocation of Reserves** – Maidwell Primary School – Item deferred.

Cllr Paybody and Cllr Jackson-Stops left the room due to a Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Munro led the meeting. Following the issue of a letter of complaint to National Highways regarding the closures, the Parish Council were invited to submit an application to the National Highways Community Legacy Fund by the Public Liaison Officer. As a result and recommendations from the fund, the Parish Council submitted an application on behalf of Maidwell Primary School for an allocation of funds.

Therefore the agenda Item 56 (i) was deferred to the meeting in November to await the outcome of this application.

Cllr Paybody and Cllr Jackson-Stops re-joined the meeting.

- ii. **(33iii) Broken Streetlight, Draughton** – Ongoing – Works are scheduled by Eon and expected to be completed within the next 1-2 weeks. Clerk due to claim monies via insurance.
- iii. **(35) School Parking** – Ongoing. Cllr Paybody to liaise with the headteacher once term restarts to schedule a meeting.

A note was made regarding the change to school policy that allows parents to drop children and leave immediately rather than being required to wait with children until a certain time therefore staggering the arrival and departure of vehicles in the morning.

57. Highways

Bridge on Blueberry Lane – Works are ongoing.

A508 – Road Surface/Noise/Speeding – An update was issued by Cllr Paybody and published on the website ahead of the meeting. A copy can be read below.

'Parish Councillors Tom Paybody and Penny Munro had an online meeting with Stuart Andrew MP on 3rd September to review progress following on from his attendance at two meetings at the Loder Hall in the Spring.

On our behalf Mr Andrew has asked the leader of WNC, Mark Arnall, to review the county wide policy of turning off speed enforcement cameras. Mr Andrew is also aware of the recent planning application submitted on behalf of Maidwell Hall school and the concerns that residents have about the impact on traffic. He has a follow up meeting in approximately two weeks and will follow up both these issues.

Mr Andrew has also raised our concerns directly with Danielle Stone, the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC). Regarding the impact of ongoing A14 closures and diversions, this is not something the PFCC are able to advise on as there are no HGV restrictions on the A508 through Maidwell and routes of diversions are not something that the PFCC can influence.

The PFCC acknowledges a high level of non-compliance with the 30mph limit believing that this is largely due to no amendments having been made to the road to support this limit. The PFCC noted there are zero recorded injury collisions in the location in the last 5 years.

Our representative Ward Councillor Cecilie Irving-Swift has followed up with Sam Simons and Helen Howard from WNC Highways who also attended two meetings in the Spring. Cecile has reported back to the Parish Council that as the A508 is designated as a strategic A road, the legislation is directive as to what can be done. Unfortunately their conclusion is that under the current legislation they are unable to identify any scheme possible for the A508 through Maidwell.

The A508 is already a priority road in terms of maintenance, Cllr Irving-Swift encourages us all to keep reporting defects on the road surface but has been assured by WNC highways that according to regulations it is currently legal.

National Highways were not permitted to attend our meetings in the spring due to a period of purdah for the local elections, however the Parish Council and a number of residents have been in correspondence with them regarding the overnight A14 closures.

Diversion routes are agreed with WNC with the approved routes using the most suitable A road available. The concerns raised by the parish council and residents directly are acknowledged.

WNC are currently exploring interest from Parish Councils in joining a Parish Highways Representative scheme – this would aim to provide a structured link between the council, the community and WNC Highways. Representatives could be a councillor or community volunteer. We will keep you posted on what happens with this.

We are disappointed with the lack of progress in this matter and will continue, with the help of Mr Andrews, to push WNC and Highways for action which could help the current situation'

SID Data and A14 Diversions/Closures

Cllr Goddard has worked tirelessly to summarise data during the diversion time periods. In summary, a comparison of January to March this year vs last showed that the vehicle count had increased by 110%. A comparison of July to August this year showed an increase of 160%. It was noted that between 2 and 3am that the highest % of vehicles were speeding. A full summary can be found on our website.

Cllr Blake noted that this data highlights the impacts of these diversions and this data allows us and the MP to put pressure on National Highways. Cllr Munro added that it was not unreasonable to provide the PC with notifications of these diversions and consult when planning these routes.

A note was made on the use of a vibration monitoring system to further assess the impact of these additional vehicle movements.

A note was made regarding the use of average speed cameras that are regularly used when works are ongoing on motorways.

Actions for Parish Council

- 1) Clerk to write to National Highways/MP regarding the impact of diversions including the SID data and comparison collected and the consultation process of deciding the diversion routes
- 2) Road surface/Vibration impact – Cllr Blake to investigate possible options including identifying possible costs involved.
- 3) Forward any correspondence with Sam Simons to Cllr Irving-Swift to assist in a response to actions/questions raised.

A note was made regarding the Fix my Street report on the melted road – WNC schedule to repair by end of Jan 2027 - **Update: Highways currently fixing holes on the A508 (18.09.26)**

Community Speed Watch

The Parish Council have 4 interested volunteers however a minimum of 6 is needed to be able to create a group. Without the 6, this Speed Watch group cannot move forward.

More information about the scheme can be found here

<https://www.northants.police.uk/police-forces/northamptonshire-police/areas/northamptonshire-force-content/about-us/about-us/community-speed-watch/>

Please register your interest with the Parish Clerk at clerk@maidwellwithdraughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

58. Asset of Community Value (ACV) – The Stag pub

Cllr Jackson-Stops noted that this item was brought to the Council meeting by a resident and not instigated by the Parish Council. He understands that the application is a way of ensuring that the community has breathing space to be able to constitute a proposal if the property is sold in the future.

Cllr Munro added that this allows a 6-month window for the community to develop a proposal and raise the money required however it does not guarantee the sale to that group as the seller does not have to accept the offer.

Cllr Blake added an ACV could be submitted for the Loder Hall for example.

Cllr Paybody confirmed that he had spoken to the landlord to ensure that the pursuit of the ACV would not jeopardise any future negotiations with the owners. He was assured it would cause no issues.

It was also confirmed that the Parish Council has not been made aware of any planning applications or otherwise regarding the future of the pub.

The submission of The Stag as an ACV is not guaranteed and a note was made on its 5-year expiry date.

The vote to submit an application for The Stag to become an Asset of Community Value. **Unanimous. Approved. Prop: Cllr Blake. Sec: Cllr Jackson-Stops.**

59. Sustainability

- i. **Maidwell-Being/Coffee Morning** – The next meeting is the MacMillan Coffee morning on **Saturday 10th October.**

November meeting will be a week earlier than usual on **Saturday 7th November** due to the Christmas Bazaar on the 14th.

An official thanks you to those volunteers who tidied and fixed up the bus shelter book drop.

Recycling Bins - Don't forget the recycling bins just inside the gate at Loder Hall for anyone to use – we collect medicine blister packs, contact lens cases, old pens, used make up and toothpaste tubes.

60. Policies

- i. Grants Policy
- ii. Banking Arrangements
- iii. Internal Control

Copies of all policies and procedures can be found on our website.

Approved. Prop: Cllr Munro. Sec: Cllr Goddard

61. Clerk – Statutory Salary Pay Increase – 3.3% agreed. **Approved. Prop: Cllr Munro. Sec: Cllr Jackson-Stops.**

62. **Noted: Notice of the NCALC Annual Conference** – Saturday 3rd October 2026 10-1pm (Book by 21st Sept) – Theme: Planning

63. **Noted: Notice of West Northamptonshire Parish Conference 2026: Parishes in Partnership** – Thurs 26th November 10-1pm, The Forum, Towcester – Tickets due to be released shortly

64. Planning and Licensing Consultations

Planning: None

Consultations/Engagement Activities: None

All WNC consultations can be found on this website. https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/consultation_finder/

Finance

65. **Accounts:** The Clerk produced the accounts ending 31st August 2026 including a Bank Reconciliation, Bank Statements and Spend v Budget v Forecast

Approved and signed. Prop: Cllr Jackson-Stops, Sec: Cllr Goddard.

66. Payments

- i. Resolution to approve payments

Parish Clerk – Aug-Sept'26 & Backdated Pay (£41.16) - **£ 685.48**

SLCC – Annual Membership (split with Gt Ox below) - **£ 158.00**

- ii. Resolution to approve monthly revenue
Great Oxendon – Recharge 50% SLCC Membership - **£ 79.00**

Payments approved. Prop: Cllr Munro, Sec: Cllr Blake.

- iii. Resolution to approve payments made since last meeting

Direct Debits

HMRC – Employer NI - **£ 20.24**

NPower - Streetlight Electricity Jun'26 - **£ 32.78**

NPower - Streetlight Electricity Jul'26 - **£ 36.20**

Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges Jul'26 - **£ 7.00**

Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges Aug'26 - **£ 7.00**

Payments approved. Prop: Cllr Munro, Sec: Cllr Blake.

- iv. Resolution to approve any additional payments received since publication of agenda - None

Internal control checks were carried out. All invoices signed and approved.

- 67. Correspondence** (Additional correspondence not written below for noting only) - None

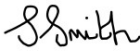
- 68. Date and Time of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11th November 2026** at 7.30pm at Loder Hall, Maidwell

Dates of Future Meetings

Wed Nov 11th 2026

Wed Jan 13th 2027

- 69.** The meeting was closed at 20:38



Date & Signature of Chairman:

Mrs Sarah Smith, Parish Clerk

Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council

Email: clerk@maidwellwithdraughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://maidwellwithdraughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

18/09/26