

Meeting Notes of the Little Brook Ward Meeting

Held at the Learning Loft, Barnowl Farmshop, Cloisters Farm,
Bicester Hill, Evenley on Wednesday 16th September 2026

Present:

- Evenley PC: Cathy Ellis, Matt Brown, Charles Reader, Paul Crompton, Vicky England and Cathy Knott (clerk)
- Croughton PC: Steve Caldwell
- Aynho PC: Dawn Willis and Ray Willis
- Farthinghoe PC: Mick Morris and Barry Willet
- Hinton-in-the-Hedges Meeting: Clive Hockley
- WNC: Rosie Herring
- RAF Croughton: Abby Jeffs

1. Welcome from Cathy Ellis (chairman), Evenley Parish Council

Cathy welcomed everyone and explained that John Townsend established the Littlebrook Ward meetings to facilitate information sharing and collective learning. Previous meetings have focused on how the group can engage with West Northamptonshire Council, Buckinghamshire Council and Cherwell District Council, recognising that proposals from each authority may affect the ward and that coordinated action may be appropriate when required. In recent years, the meetings have become increasingly formal and, at times, tense; the group is therefore adopting a new format intended to maintain a friendly and informal atmosphere.

2. To approve the minutes of the ward meeting held in Evenley on 5th March 2025

Minutes approved. Cathy Knott advised that going forward we would provide more informal notes rather than minutes.

3. To share ideas and information and explore matters of mutual interest

Buckinghamshire Council Policy NESS013, Land at Turweston – understand the impact on local services that will affect their parish.

Buckinghamshire Council's draft local plan regulation 19 includes a site in Turweston for a residential-led mixed-use development delivering approximately 2,890 dwellings, together with five additional serviced Gypsy and Traveller pitches. This would function largely as an extension of Brackley, relying on services and infrastructure in West Northamptonshire. Important questions remain about cross-boundary co-operation, highways, schools, healthcare, utilities, active travel and deliverability. The consultation has closed but there are still petitions to sign objecting to the site. WNC residents can sign the following petition:

[Buckinghamshire's Plan, Brackley's Problem | West Northants](#) and Sarah Bool, MP's petition: [Calling Brackley Residents! | Sarah Bool MP](#)

Consider how proposed developments around Junction 10 of the M40 (warehouses at Baynard's Green and the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange) will affect us all (eg. A43 safety) and decide on the best way forward.

The A43 is already unfit for purpose in places. Rosie advised there is a new member of the Planning Highways team – Willoughby(full name to follow) who hasn't even visited the area. She has therefore

arranged a tour with him next week to point out the worst areas and will invite him to attend our next Ward meeting.

Last month, an appeal was overturned by the High Court for a large-scale warehouse project situated close to J11 of the M40. More information can be found at: [High Court judge quashes M40 warehouse refusal, sends case back to inspector | Oxford Chronicle](#)

Abby advised Richard Butler (WNC) has concerns over the roads in our area. He has put the Base in touch with Bill Freeman (Highways). Cathy advised WNC Highways has agreed to a reduction in the limit to 40mph from Barley Mow through to the other side of the double bends as a result of works at RAF Croughton (yet to be implemented).

Mick advised Stoke Lyne Action Team is campaigning against three huge logistic warehouse schemes at Baynard's Green, beside Junction 10 of the M40. More information can be found at: [A call to support Stoke Lyne Action Team – NORA North Oxfordshire Resident Action](#)

You can sign a petition to protect our communities from overdevelopment here: [Protect our communities from overdevelopment - Action Network](#)

Mick advised that Farthinghoe Parish Council has been approached by a group of 22 Cherwell District Parish Councils asking WNC Parish Councils to join with them in their fight against all this development. If you would like to be part of the Parish Council Coalition and Cooperation team, please let Mick know: mick@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Actions:

- Mick to send Rosie a list of parish councils who have signed up to the coalition & cooperation team.
- Rosie to provide contact details for Willoughby once he's been on his tour.
- Abby to provide contact details for Bill Freeman.

Three weekly bin collection.

Rosie advised Daventry introduced this as a cost saving exercise and because it worked well, it will be introduced to the whole of West Northamptonshire from Spring 2027. If residents struggle for space in the black bin, they can request a larger bin. More information can be found at: [Three-weekly waste collections | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

Find out what WNC plans to do regarding littering and fly tipping. There is no longer any pride in place and Northants and National Highways seem to be doing very little to address it.

Matt advised the Brackley Wombles work tirelessly to keep the local area looking nice but they do not clear the dual carriageways which are disgusting. He suggested we write to Danielle Stone, Northamptonshire Police Fire & Crime Commissioner to ask if the Immediate Justice programme could be involved in this, as their programme includes litter picking.

Vicky explained that last year Evenley Parish Council started a programme offering the volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Students have washed signs, litter picked, helped at events, etc. It would be great if this project could grow between parishes and help create a community of young people understanding more about volunteering roles. More information can be found at [Duke of Edinburgh Award | Evenley Parish Council](#). Please contact Vicky, if you would like to be involved: v.england@evenleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dawn advised that since the new rules at recycling centres have been implemented, fly-tipping in and around Aynho has been awful. She has been advised to report it on fix-my-street where there is a new page just for fly-tipping: [Fly-tipping | North Northamptonshire Council](#)

Rosie advised you can request cameras and/or signs if you have a particular hotspot in your parish.

Actions:

- Rosie to provide contact information to request camera/signage at fly-tipping hotspots.
- Matt to write to Danielle Stone.

Inability of WNC officers to communicate on important issues, particularly Highway issues.

Our questions seem to be completely ignored, even when these questions are forwarded via councillors, there is very little improvement. A classic example of workload shift was the recent Farthinghoe Road closure, where officers along with their contractors drew up an ill-conceived traffic management plan, without heeding local advice and experience and then left it to councillors to face the inevitable wrath on the streets.

All members agreed that communicating with WNC staff has become very difficult as everything now goes through the members enquiries system, meaning a response can take up to ten days, if you're lucky enough to receive one.

We no longer receive a list of WNC executive posts and are unaware of who to contact to find the information needed.

Rosie advised she and Rebecca used to attend executive meetings for all directors which was a great system to get up-to-date information and suggested they should try and hi-jack a meeting.

David Harris is the new director of Place, Economy and Environment at WNC (Stuart Timmis was the previous director).

Rosie advised Martin Henry (the new chief executive) is one of the good guys that we could try writing to. Matt suggested we write to him as a group, letting him know the issues we face communicating with WNC and providing examples. Please send your issues to Matt, so he can compile a group letter.

Actions:

- Rosie will provide email addresses for the ten key contacts at WNC.
- All; please send examples of communication issues to Matt at m.brown@evenleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Reluctance of WNC to enforce planning condition violations is also a developing issue.

Mick advised that in Farthinghoe there are between 40-50 violations relating to Limes Farm, a business that shouldn't be there. He said WNC aren't prepared to enforce anything and the enforcement team (consisting of three) is being over ruled by the planning department.

Actions:

- Rosie will ask Rebecca for an update on this case.
- Rosie will provide information and dates for Stephanie Gibrats' planning surgeries.

Share news, success stories and/or epic fails that could help other parishes.**Evenley PC**

Matt provided information on a new community bus for Brackley and surrounding villages. The new service enables residents of Brackley and surrounding villages to attend the [Saints Community Project](#) on a Wednesday and Brackley supermarkets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. See our website for more information: [Community Bus Service \(new 2026\) | Evenley Parish Council](#)

Paul provided information on how we have installed new photocells in our streetlights so that they turn off at 11.30pm and come back on at 5.30am. There have been no objections and we estimate the cost of installing photocells will pay for itself after two to three years and will then save the village approximately £1500 per annum.

Cathy E advised we had recently failed in our objections to two major planning applications – the anaerobic digester and the Plymouth Brethren place of worship (which won't be open to the community).

Aynho Parish Council

Dawn advised the owner (Nigel Oddie) is struggling to sell the Cartwright Hotel (which closed 18 months ago). It was put up for auction over the summer but didn't receive any bids. There has been a lot of speculation around it – planning approval was given to convert the back area to four houses. It is thought it might eventually be sold for residential use.

Croughton Parish Council

Steve advised the Blackbird pub is once again open and is doing well with lots of community events taking place there.

There has been an ongoing saga regarding the allotment wall; so far, it has taken nine months to apply to the Ministry of Housing to approve the parish to apply for funding. Danny Moody has said Croughton PC is doing everything correctly but it's a frustratingly long process.

Hinton-in-the-Hedges

Clive advised that the Crewe Arms pub is currently on the market. As the pub is designated as a community asset, it had been hoped that match funding raised by the village could support an application for a government grant to purchase it on behalf of the community. However, the grant scheme was withdrawn following the change of government. Alternative loan arrangements have been explored, but the associated risks were considered too significant. It is hoped that the pub will be leased to a new operator in the new year.

The tree on the village green (a Norway Maple) has recently had a large branch split which could cause an accident if left. Clive called WNC's emergency number as it is dangerous, and they put it on fix-my-street with a possible repair date of between now and 11th November.

The pub's increasing popularity in recent years led to significant parking issues. An application was therefore submitted for heritage-style double yellow lines to be installed around the Green. Although the process took two years to complete, the measures have had a positive impact on parking in the area.

A public footpath shared with the church has deteriorated and requires repair. The issue has been reported through fix-my-street, and a meeting with Highways engineers is being arranged to identify an appropriate solution.

Farthinghoe Parish Council

Mick advised the Fox pub has closed again and the brewery is looking for new people to run it.

RAF Croughton

Abby advised that the aircraft fighter pens are deteriorating and that responsibility for their maintenance remains unclear. They were originally owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) but transferred to the United States when the United States Air Force took over the base. Two MOD employees subsequently sought to have the structures listed and transferred back to the MOD; however, no funding is currently available for their restoration. The group is therefore exploring options to fund the necessary materials, with the intention that university and college students undertake the work as part of a heritage training project managed through Historic England.

4. Agree the date and location of the next meeting

The next meeting will be hosted by Aynho Parish Council, date to be determined.