

PAULERSPURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on 27 March 2025

commencing at 7:30pm in Paulerspury Village Hall
High Street, Paulerspury

PRESENT: Mrs Sawyer (Chairman), Mr Baker (Vice Chairman), Mr Wilkins, Mr Wragg, Mr Trubshaw, Mrs Sawbridge, Mrs Gee, Mrs Fish, Mr Barker

29/03/25 **APOLOGIES** - None

30/03/25 **MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST** *for items on the agenda and update of Interests where required.*

None to declare

31/03/25 **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 February 2025**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved and signed as correct.

32/03/25 **MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES**

Matters arising to be addressed via agenda headings

33/03/25 **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Comments are welcome from those attending the meeting. The total time allowed for this item is 15 minutes with a maximum of 3 minutes per speaker. Further public comment during the meeting is permissible only at the invitation of the Chairman.

40 members of the public were present including County Councillor Mr Barter.

Mr Barter had attended his final full meeting of West Northants Council (WNC). He would be meeting the Shadow Minister for Transport in order that questions could be asked in the Houses of Parliament regarding future rail developments for this area, in particular connections to and from Milton Keynes.

The members of the public attended the meeting to express concerns regarding Planning Application **WNC/24/00032/MINFUL.**

After welcoming those present Chairman Mrs Sawyer then read out an email received from Wardel Armstrong just prior to the meeting which stated that until all the statutory consultees had responded, which to date they had not, a further extension to the consultation period was highly likely.

Councillors Mr Trubshaw and Mr Wragg outlined the concerns raised by councillors.

A resident raised questions with regard to the council's adherence to the Code of Conduct. Assurance was given that Paulerspury Parish Councillors respected and adhered to the Code at all times.

34/03/25 **PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) **WNC/24/00032/MINFUL** Heritage Quarry Group (North) Ltd
Pury End Quarry, Westy Road, Pury End

Proposed limestone quarry at land north of the existing Pury End Quarry

Paulerspury Parish Council councillors voted unanimously to object to this application. Submission attached.

- b) **2025/0729/FULL** Mr and Mrs Bowman Highfields, Cuttle Mill Lane,
Paulerspury

Demolition of existing dwelling. Construction of new dwelling.

Paulerspury Parish Council had no objections to this application.

35/03/25 **FINANCE**

- a) To receive the February 2025 budget position and to approve payment of the outstanding accounts.

Chq. No	Payee	Account details	£
2891	Paulerspury Village Hall	Land Registry fee	50.00
2892	Paulerspury Village Hall	Hall Hire	25.00
2893	J White	URC Reservation Crosses	45.00
2894	B M Down	Salary/Mileage/Office/APA	856.51

Paid 2890 MYES Ltd Waste Disposal Service £
90.00

36/03/2025 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Letter received regarding housing provision.

The Parish Council had received an approach to support a proposal for a land purchase and development thereafter. The Parish Council can only

consider validated applications received from local authorities.

b) Confirmation received that The Barley Mow has been registered as an Asset of Community Value

37/03/2025 **PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

To consider comments from the above meeting.

- To provide a decorated Christmas tree.

Various locations were suggested – agenda item for the April meeting

38/03/2025 **SPINALLS FIELD**

a) To inform the Council of any issues raised via the inspection reports – see Inspection Reports File.

- Damage to cable ties on equipment – Mr Trubshaw will replace them
- Damage to nets on equipment – Mr Trubshaw will investigate
- Maintenance requirements. Tension on the Zip Wire to be reported to Hags
- Dog waste and Litter bin provision. – Various suggestions were made so an agenda item next month.
- Replacement battery pack required for Pury End defibrillator

b) Rota APRIL 6/7 MD, 13/14 DB, 20/21 SS, **27/28 JS** - Rota confirmed

39/03/25 **ROAD MATTERS**

a) To record actions taken by the clerk.

None this month.

40/03/25 **PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Update.

Mr Corbett

A meeting with Mr Corbett would be arranged to view the website.

41/03/25 **PAULERSPURY VILLAGE HALL**
Barker.

PC Representative Mr

Events in 2024 raised £3,200. Bookings continue to be consistent. Events planned for 2025 include a Musical Bingo and a VE Day Commemoration Afternoon Tea. Currently concerned due to the lack of a secretary which has serious implications with regards to the hall's charitable status as three

trustees (chairman, secretary and treasurer) are required in order to maintain its charitable status.

42/03/25 **ELECTION FORMS** -To consider content and drawbacks

Councillors were of the opinion that these forms should be online in future.

43/03/25 **CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF TO THE NEWSLETTER AND THE WEBSITE**

44/03/25 **MATTERS FOR URGENT ATTENTION OR FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

THURSDAY 24 APRIL PAULERSPURY VILLAGE HALL 7:30 pm

The meeting closed at 8:43pm

WNC/2424/00032/MINFUL Pury End Quarry

Paulerspury Parish Council's **Objection** is based on the following:

UNDERLYING PRINCIPAL.

The basis of mineral extraction is laid out in the Northamptonshire Mineral and Waste Local Plan (MWLP)

The plan states: 4.40.

It is important to note that the allocation of sites within this Local Plan does not equate to the grant of planning permission. Any proposal for development of an allocation will still need to meet the requirements set out in the Local Plan.

The current application does not meet the MWLP guidelines, even more so, the applicant has demonstrated a complete disregard for it. A plan that is meant to ensure a controlled and regulated extraction process, thus protecting the wider community and environment.

LOCATION.

The scale of operation is not in keeping with the location. The site is sandwiched between a new housing development in Towcester, and the villages of Pury End and Paulerspury in a rolling agricultural setting.

The new housing development isn't even mentioned in the application, even though they are most closely situated to the site. It should be noted given their elevation and location, which will be downwind of the prevailing south-westerly wind. It is these residents and pupils of the new primary school there that will be most affected visually, by any airborne particle and noise pollution.

SCALE OF OPERATION.

:The MWLP policy 1, states the plans provision for crushed rock over the course of the 20 year duration, 2011 to 2031 this is: 7.8 million tonnes of crushed rock (limestone) it also states to maintain a landbank of at least ten years for crushed rock.

As of 2023, just half way through the plan, **8.6 million tonnes** have already been extracted and the landbank stands above 27 years.

It should be noted that Harlestone quarry with a provision of 0.81 million tonnes came into operation in spring 2024 which will continue to grow the surplus.

:Under the MWLP (policy 5) the proposed new site has a provision of crushed rock to the amount of 0.85 million tonnes, yet the applicant is seeking to extract almost twice that provision, 1,576,000 tonnes.

:The MWLP (4.45.) states the site has been allocated **PRIMARILY** for its contribution to the provision of **building stone** but will also contribute to crushed rock provision. Primarily, means ‘for the most part’, ‘mainly’ so an allocation of 50,000 tonnes, just **3%** does not come close to this.

In the applicants ‘executive summary’ paragraph two, they state ‘There is a significant and demonstrable need for the continued supply of high-quality building stone in Northamptonshire. The use of locally sourced building and roofing stone has become a significant factor in the promotion of local identity and in creating a sense of place, and as such the demand for traditional building materials has increased. This is particularly relevant where a match to existing stone and roofs is specified for new development.’ If so, why the token gesture.

TRANSPORT.

:MWLP (1.2.) states that a new site should make **infrastructure systems function better**.

The Highways Agency have already recommended that planning permission NOT be granted for a 3 month period or until the applicant provides an update. Sighting the existing road layout not suitable for the proposed extra 110 a day HGV's.

The proposed exit on to the A5 is situated next to the new bypass roundabout and housing development, a stretch of road that is already suffering from gross congestion and a high rate of road traffic accidents including fatalities.

ENVIRONMENT.

The applicant has provided insufficient information to the Environment Agency in order to assess the impacts of dewatering the site, depths of ground water and depths of workings. The applicant states the entire facility will be dry worked, yet the Environment Agency have encountered water in the installed piezometers and note that no considerations have been given for dewatering thus requesting a Hydrogeological Impact Assessment. Mitigation must be made for the fact the site sits on top a limestone aquifer.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL.

The Lead Planning Archaeologist for Northamptonshire Council has advised that the proposed site should be subject to evaluation as the area is known to be rich in archaeological sites of multiple periods, especially Iron Age and Roman date.

A brief for trial trenching was provided to the applicant in November 2024, yet they failed to respond resulting in the recommendation that 'the remainder of the archaeological field evaluation, comprising trial trenching, is carried out and the results provided ahead of determination of the application.'

SUMMARY.

The MWLP(1.3.) explores how investment in minerals development can be optimised for everyone's benefit.

Sadly, It serves only to benefit those with a financial interest in a successful application. There is simply no regard for the communities of Pury End, Paulerspury and Towcester who will be significantly impacted by this poorly put together application that is devoid of appropriate due diligence given the scale of the new development.

The applicant has shown a complete disregard for the Northamptonshire Mineral and Waste Local Plan, the wider community and the planning process, therefore is not appropriate and cannot be supported by Paulerspury Parish Council.