

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, VICARAGE LANE ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7:30PM

In Attendance: Cllr V Smith, Cllr T Barnard, Cllr O Cooper, Cllr T Graham	Also, In Attendance: M Billingham Clerk, K Price, N Frampton
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080/25 – Opening Procedures a) Apologies for Absence b) Declaration of Interests from members c) Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27 October 2025.	a) Apologies were received for, Cllr S Jeffery, NNC Cllrs S Brown & V Jessop, b) There were no declaration of interests relating to agenda items. c) The minutes of the extraordinary council meeting held on Monday 27 October 2025 were APPROVED .
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081/25 – Public Time a) To receive comments from members of the public	Nick Frampton. Reminder 10.30am the village Hall 22 November update meeting Fund Raising big issue. Looking for £50,000 by March for Barrister and expert advice. The Clerk advised that if requested the council was able to consider a grant.
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Members of the public are invited to address the council. Limited to 20 minutes with individual contributions limited to 3 minutes

082/25 – To receive following reports: a) North Northamptonshire Council Representatives b) Police/Police Liaison Report	a) The meeting was advised of forthcoming report from NNC Cllr Scott Brown (see Appendix A) b) The Meeting was referred to the Police report previously circulated. One reported home burglary during October 2025.
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083/25 – To receive the Parish Clerk Report a) To receive update on posts for SAS to be mounted and its funding b) Project Reference Form	The Clerk advised the meeting that the Project Reference form had now kindly been completed by Helen Downey and submitted to NNC for community funding. Awaiting final decision before placing order for post.
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084/25 – To consider planning matters. a) to consider annual planning application report b) Update on Green Hill Solar farm – letter regarding Community Benefit Fund	a) 25/01167/LDP 12 Earls Barton Road. The council had no comment to make, subject to any concerns from near neighbours being taken into account. b) Reference was made to the councils response to the GHSF Impact Statement and in particular: The parish council would seek that a piece of land from the development be set-aside as a Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG), close to the village with safe and easy walking for residents, that could be developed as an eco-friendly pocket park/play area parish council would seek piece of land would seek to be set aside SANG. The air crash sites were taken out of the plan. The Strip being littered with munitions and body parts. Does have some protection with MOD. It was Proposed and AGREED that, should the scoping plan be approved, the council would seek to have this area removed from the plan as the declared SANG.
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Annual Planning Report can be accessed at: <https://www.mearsashby-pc.gov.uk/planning/>

085/25 – Financial Matters a) To receive and approve current accounts to end of October 2025 b) To confirm payments to be authorised	a) The accounts to the end of October 2025 were APPROVED with a balance of £9,517.78 and no outstanding payments. b) The following payments were AUTHORISED : <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Parish Clerk</td> <td style="width: 10%;">T00373</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Salary</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">£372.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>T00374</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£93.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EDF</td> <td>DD</td> <td>Electricity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£64.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tomato Energy</td> <td>DD</td> <td>Electricity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£76.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tomato Energy</td> <td>DD</td> <td>Electricity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£12.10</td> </tr> </table>	Parish Clerk	T00373	Salary	£372.36	HMRC	T00374	PAYE	£93.00	EDF	DD	Electricity	£64.55	Tomato Energy	DD	Electricity	£76.26	Tomato Energy	DD	Electricity	£12.10
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<p>c) To receive Internal Control Report</p> <p>d) To consider and determine Budget 2026/2027</p> <p>e) To consider and determine grant to British Legion</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>S Garrett-Harvey</td> <td>T00375</td> <td>Maintenance (2058)</td> <td>£300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Clerk</td> <td>T00376</td> <td>Expenses</td> <td>£100.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: right;">total</td> <td><u>£1,018.52</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>c) The Internal Control Report for July to Sept was received and noted (see Appendix B)</p> <p>d) The council considered the draft budget. It was proposed that the council should seek to include provision for possible legal, expert, consultant advice relating to the GHSF proposed development by way of an appropriate increase in the annual precept. ACTION the Clerk to provide likely costings and the budget to be further considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>e) Having been agreed with both the Church and the Council to recycle commemorative wreaths, rather than destroying and purchasing new ones each year. It was RESOLVED to make a grant to British Legion of £50</p>	S Garrett-Harvey	T00375	Maintenance (2058)	£300.00	Parish Clerk	T00376	Expenses	£100.25	total			<u>£1,018.52</u>
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<p>086/25 – To receive correspondence and communications.</p>	<p>The clerk referred the meeting to the notice from Clear Utility Solutions, on behalf of NCalc. Advising that Tomato Energy had gone into receivership and that our accounts would be transferred by the Receiver to another general supplier. This however would be on an out-of-contract higher rate. Clear Utility were recommending Valda Energy and had provided cost examples. ACTION this matter to be included on the agenda for the next meeting to consider and determine.</p>												
<p>087/25 – To consider and Determine Councillor Vacancy & Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>a) To consider and determine casual vacancy application - K Price.</p> <p>b) To consider and determine changes to Councillor Roles and Responsibilities.</p>	<p>a) The chairman welcomed Katherine Price to the meeting. Having considered her councillor casual vacancy application, it was RESOLVED to co-opt her on to the council thereby filling the current vacancy.</p> <p>b) This matter was DEFERRED to the next meeting</p>												
<p>087/25 – To consider Highways and Footpath matters</p>	<p>a) Cllr Cooper to make further enquiries regarding the Greenways Network. Ms Hawes had been invited to attend a council meeting.</p> <p>b) Due to the absence of Cllr Leaf, there was no update on a possible suitable mounting post for the concealed junction sign.</p>												
<p>088/25 – To consider village maintenance issues</p>	<p>The council wished to congratulate and thank Cllr Graham and al of the 22 volunteers, including NNC Cllr Scott Brown, for the excellent litter pick recently carried out throughout the village.</p>												
<p>089/25 - To consider Environmental issues</p> <p>a) NCalc Climate & Nature Champion Scheme</p>	<p>Cllr Smith advised the meeting that she will be attending the inaugural meeting of the CAM Champions would be taking place on the 19 November. ACTION Clerk to verify invitation.</p>												

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Appendix A – NNC Cllr Scott Brown Report

Corporate Plan 2025-2029:

The draft corporate plan, which sets the strategic direction for the next four years, has received support during its September consultation – with over 90% of the 467 respondents agreeing with the priorities in Family Support, Community Safety, economic prosperity and smarter public services. Feedback has

emphasised the need for highways improvements, more and better housing and better employment opportunities. The executive will consider final tweaks to the document prior to Full Council adoption at Full Council in December.

Health and Social Care:

Broad Street Surgery, amongst others, has been chosen as one of the first pilot sites for the new “Models of Care” programme. This is a collaborative initiative across Northamptonshire to shift health services towards prevention and community-based support. This will begin in April 2026 and will introduce Neighbourhood Access Services for same-day urgent care and specialised support for long-term conditions. This should mean more integrated care from GPs, Social services, mental health teams and voluntary groups. If successful it will hopefully free up GP time and improve access for residents, along with providing more tailored services in the area.

Confirmed cases of Avian Flu detected locally, prompting advice for bird owners to enhance biosecurity. There are no immediate risks to Earls Barton, but bird owners are being asked to remain vigilant and ensure to check for regular updates on NNC website.

Ecton Recycling:

It is still the case that no agreement has been reached to allow the residents who live within NNC to use the Ecton recycling centre. Discussions with officers and leadership teams across WNC and NNC are ongoing.

Consultations:

Proposed Housing Allocation Scheme consultation is open until December 3rd. This looks at proposed changes to make allocations fairer and more responsive to needs. There is a focus on rural housing challenges, which is very relevant to our ward.

Proposed school admission arrangements. There are a couple of issues proposed to change:

- When applications are refused, children will be automatically added to the waiting list for that school
- The child will remain on the waiting list until the end of the academic year
- If parents/carers wish to keep a child on a waiting list beyond 31 August, they will need to reapply for a school place for September (as the application will be for a different year group)

Grants

Community Grants funding, up to £5000 to improve the quality of life for residents. Open to Parish Councils, charities, community & voluntary groups and other clubs.

Ward Empowerment Fund – Small grants available to apply from your Councillors. Open to Parish Councils, charities, community & voluntary groups and other clubs.

Period inspected : JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

	Task	Seen		If "No" then comment required	Completed
		Yes	No		
Financial					
1	All bank statements filed (all accounts)	✓			
2	Bank Reconciliation completed monthly	✓			
3	Invoice folder completed for previous month, invoices initialled by two bank signatories and agree to payments on bank account	✓			
4	Banking received completed for previous month	✓			
5	Date of last VAT refund?	✓		921-90	26/8/2025
Payroll/Staff					
6	Monthly Payroll pack filed (previous month)	✓			
7	TAX & NI Paid up to date; amounts checked to PAYE provider report	✓			
8	Pension contribution	N/A			
Minutes					
9	Minutes signed, dated, page numbered & filed	✓			
Miscellaneous					
16	Notice boards up to date	✓			
17	Website updated regularly	✓			
18	Correspondence received has been forwarded onto Councillors	✓			
19	Correspondence responded to	✓			
Health and Safety					
20	Financial Risk Assessments up to date and recorded				
General comments/recommendations to improve services					

Audit completed
 Councillor T. P. Board Dated 27/10/2025
 Clerk/RFO J. J. Gellat

Actions completed
 Councillor _____ Dated _____
 Clerk/RFO _____

Mears Ashby Parish Council
 Internal Control Procedure adopted 13th May 2019 – Approved 11 May 2020 – Re-adopted May 21 –
 Re-adopted May 22