



Illustration by: Rosemary Englewood

Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 24th May 2022** at 7.40pm.

Present: Mr D Dicks (Chair), Mr N Bond, Mr J Fernley, Mrs G Littlewood, Mr A McCarter and Mr I Whittaker

Also Present: Mrs S Wong (Clerk) and North Northants Cllr Lora Lawman

Item No	
859/2022	<p>Election of Chairperson Cllr I Whittaker PROPOSED himself as the new Chair SECONDED by Cllr N Bond No further nominations were received. All in favour. It was RESOLVED that Cllr I Whittaker be appointed Chair for the year 2021/2022.</p>
860/2022	<p>Signing of the Acceptance of Office Form by the Chair The new Chair Cllr I Whittaker signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form. Cllr I Whittaker gave thanks to Cllr D Dicks for chairing this last year and then took over chairing of the meeting from the Clerk.</p>
861/2022	<p>Election of Vice Chair Cllr N Bond PROPOSED Cllr D Dicks SECONDED by Cllr N Bond. It was RESOLVED Cllr J Fernley be appointed Vice Chair.</p>
862/2022	<p>To Receive Apologies Apologies were received from North Northants Councillors Mr C Hallam and Mr S Brown (Both attending other meetings). Parish Councillor Mr S Grisewood was not in attendance.</p>
863/2022	<p>Receive any Declarations of Interest Declarations of interest were received from Cllr N Bond with reference agenda item 870/22/D Grant to the Closed Churchyard.</p>
864/2022	<p>Parish Council Vacancies – Discuss any applications and Co-option on to the PC There are currently 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. Paul Godby has stepped down creating a second vacancy on the PC. The Clerk continues to advertise the vacancies on the notice boards, social media and website.</p>
865/2022	<p>Appointment of Lighting and Planning Representatives It was RESOLVED that Mr N Bond would take on the role as the Lighting Representative. All in agreement. It was also RESOLVED Cllr J Fernley will become the PC's Planning representative. All were in agreement</p>
866/2022	<p>Agree dates of meetings 2022/2023 It was RESOLVED to agree to continue to hold meetings bi-monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every other month. The following meeting dates for 2022/23 are as follows: 2022 - 26th July, 27th September, 22nd November. 2023 – 24th January, 28th March and 23rd May. (Annual Meeting of the Parish and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).</p>
867/2022	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 22nd March 2022 It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 22nd March 2022, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the new Chair Mr I Whittaker.</p>

868/2022	<p>To receive a report from North Northants Councillors</p> <p>Cllr L Lawman gave an update on North Northants first year. There are a number of ways to report problems in the parish either via the fixmystreet app or via the pc on St Dr. There is also an app called one.network which gives details of all road closures.</p>
869/2022	<p>Progress any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by agenda items</p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
870/2022	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a Agree Clerks Annual Pay increase from SCP Scale 24 to SCP Scale 25</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to agree the Clerks annual pay increase from scale LCP 24 to LCP 25 as of 1st April 2022.</p> <p>b Agree whether to make an annual pension contribution to the Clerks pension of £120</p> <p>It was discussed and RESOLVED to make a one-off yearly contribution to the Clerks personal pension scheme of £120.00.</p> <p>c Discuss and Agree renewal of Insurance Premium at</p> <p>The Clerk is yet to receive this year's insurance renewal. Action: Clerk to chase up.</p> <p>d Discuss and Agree Grant for the Closed Churchyard.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to make a Grant donation award to the PCC towards maintenance costs of the closed church yard. It was agreed to make a donation of £1250. All were in agreement.</p> <p>e Review of financial statement as at 24/05/22 and propose payments and sign cheques</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in May 2022 (Appendix A).</p> <p>The Clerk reported the Bank Balances to date as reconciled to the bank statement were as follows:</p> <p>Current Account £50.00</p> <p>Reserves Account £34,243.11</p> <p>This is broken down into £3,879.95 David Cross funds, -£810.76 Playing Field Funds and £31,223.92 Parish Council Funds.</p> <p>Income received since 1st April 2022</p> <p>Precept £12,335</p> <p>Brian Beck – Bench Costs £399</p> <p>NCC Grass Cutting Fund £152.97</p> <p>Bank Interest £1.72</p> <p>Financial reports were received for information.</p> <p>e Chair and Clerk to sign off the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the year end 31st March 2022</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to agree the completed Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for the year end 31st March 2022. It was noted that for the fourth year the Council will submit a notification of exempt status due to Parish Councils Income and Expenditure for 2021/2022 being under £25,000. All Councillors received copies of the documentation prior to the meeting.</p> <p>It was also noted that NCALC Internal auditor Tina Charteress has been appointed to carry out the Internal Audit Inspection again this year for Ecton for the period end 31st March 2022 and our appointed External Auditors will be PKF Littlejohn again.</p> <p>It was agreed Councillor Alistair McCarter will continue to carry out the quarterly Internal Financial Controls. It was noted that Councillor McCarter completed the final Internal Financial Inspection for the period end 31st March 2022 on the 12th April 2022 and found all receipts and payments have been recorded accurately. It was also noted that the first internal audit inspection for the current financial year will take place on the 12th July 2022.</p>

	<p>f Agree dates for the Notice of period for the Exercise of Public Rights (13.06.22 to 22.7.22) It was RESOLVED to agree the dates to display the Public of Rights Notice. The period for the exercise of public rights to view the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 is between the 13th June to the 22nd July 2022.</p> <p>g Receive update report reference David Cross Bequest Nothing new to report</p>
871/2022	<p>To discuss any correspondence received Nothing new to report.</p>
872/2022	<p>Village Services</p> <p>a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field It was noted Hayeswood have started cutting the playing field for this year, as well as the village.</p> <p>b Discuss any updates on Highways matters A drain outside 8 Wellingborough Road near the BT junction box needs reporting. Action: Clerk to report.</p> <p>c Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower Ecton Lane hedges The provision of some services including waste collection and recycling and street cleansing in the Wellingborough area including Ecton will be provided 'in house' by North Northamptonshire Council from Friday 1 April. The services had been provided to communities and residents across the Wellingborough area by Wellingborough Norse since 2012. Works to Lower Ecton Lane are still outstanding. Action The Clerk will continue to chase Ben Wright for assistance.</p> <p>d Agree to renew Hayeswood Landscapes Annual Maintenance Contract and instruct a weed kill of the village Councillors are happy with the service being provided by Hayeswood Landscapes and RESOLVED to renew their annual maintenance contract for the year 2022/2023. It was RESOLVED to instruct a weed kill of the village including behind the bus shelter.</p> <p>e Discuss and agree to instruct EON as our preferred St Lighting Contractor and discuss if the PC want to upgrade the street lights in the parish and explore Salix finance options Due to our previous street lighting maintenance contractor no longer being in operation. It was RESOLVED to go back to EON and re-instate the quarterly maintenance contract the PC used to have with them, as long as the PC isn't tied into a lengthy get out clause. The PC are also keen to pick up upgrading the street lighting with Nano LEDs like Sywell and Pitsford Parish Councils have installed. There have been grants made available to PC's in the past wanting to upgrade to this system. These have been made available through Salix Finance who provide interest-free Government funding to the public sector to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills. Action: The Clerk will contact Eon and also investigate the LED light scheme and financial assistance scheme.</p>
873/2022	<p>Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined The North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Scope and Issues Consultation has been discussed by members of the PC apart from Cllr D Dicks who had a conflict of interest being a land owner of land featured within the plan in Ecton. A collective response is being submitted by the PC.</p>
874/2022	<p>Date of next meetings –Tuesday 26th July 2022 It was RESOLVED to hold the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 26th July 2022 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
	<p>Close: The meeting ended at 9pm.</p>

Signed byDate

870/2022 Financial Matters

Review Financial Statement as at 24/05/2022 and propose payments and sign cheques

Monies must be paid out only in pursuance of statutory powers (SP) vested in the Parish Council.
RESOLVED balances as presented be accepted. **RESOLVED** the following accounts be paid.

Chq Number	Amount	Inc VAT of	Payee	Details	Power
731	500.00	0.00	Ecton Village Magazine	Re-issued chq no 729 in April 2022 – Ecton Village Magazine – Grant donation towards printing costs	S137
732	22.71	1.08	Southern Electric	Electricity Standing Charges to 03.05.2022	Highways Act
733	307.68	14.64	Southern Electric	Electricity Standing Charges to 03.05.2022	Highways Act
734	250.20	41.70	EON	Light repairs at Church way and Church View	Highways Act
735	282.00	47.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting 11.4.22 and Playing Field 27.4.22	Open Spaces Act
736	800.82	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 23.3.22 to 24.5.22 37 hours @ LCP 24 £578.68 Holiday pay £285.00 Office & Broadband £70.84 Mileage 26.8miles @ .64ppm £16.64 Tax deductions £172.60 NI deductions –£5.39	LGA 1972 s 112
737	193.89	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI Contribution £15.90 Tax and Ni S Wong £177.99	LGA 1972 s 112
738	120.00	0.00	Royal London	Yearly Pension Contribution	LGA 1972 s 112
739	1250.00	0.00	Ecton PCC	Donation to closed Churchyard	LGA 1972 s215

Total of Cheques Raised £3,727.30