



Illustration by Rosemary Ingham

Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 27th September 2022** at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr I Whittaker (Chair), Mr D Dicks (Vice Chair) Mr N Bond, Mr J Fernley, Mr S Grisewood, Mr A McCarter & Cllr G Littlewood

Also Present: Mrs S Wong (Clerk) and North Northants Cllr's Clive Hallam Lora Lawman and Simon Spurr from Zeta Lighting

Item No	
887/2022	<p>To Receive Apologies No apologies were received, all parish councillors were in attendance.</p>
888/2022	<p>To invite declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda No Declarations of Interest were received.</p>
889/2022	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 26th July 2022 It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 26th July 2022, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Mr I Whittaker.</p>
890/2022	<p>Questions and answers session with Simon Spurr – Zeta Lighting representative Simon Spurr – Zeta Lighting representative gave an update on their range of LED street luminaries, including their heritage LED conversions. They run at 18 watts with a reduced power consumption in the morning. Their percentage can be changed if the lighting appears too dark. Life span of the LEDs are circa 100,000 hours and the fittings life span is 10 years. Colour temperature can be set to orange or white. The vintage lamps have a 360 beam, if this proves to bright shielding can be fitted to the lamp. Quotes have been received to switch to the LED lanterns, it was RESOLVED the PC needs time to explore options for funding the project and possible payment terms. Action: Clerk to investigate grant funding available.</p>
891/2022	<p>Parish Council Vacancies - Discuss any applications and co-option on to the Parish Council The Parish Council has two current vacancies for the position of Parish Councillor. No new applications have been received. Action: The Clerk will contact Wendy at the newsletter with regards to putting a notice in the village newsletter.</p>
892/2022	<p>To receive a report from North Northants Councillors Cllr L Lawman gave an update on proposals given by Highways with reference reducing the speed on the Ecton A4500, See agenda item 898/22/b Cllr C Hallam is no longer on the Planning Committee, Wellingborough.</p>
893/2022	<p>Progress any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by agenda Items No matters arising.</p>

894/2022	<p>Discuss the cost of living crisis this winter and measures being taken within the Parish</p> <p>Cllr A McCarter reported that due to the cost of living crisis, that the Village Hall committee are looking at running 3 warm space (with a meal) events twice a month from November. The benefits of the events will enable people to come out of isolation and socialise with others in the village, keep people warm including receiving a hot meal and also help with peoples mental health. The Village Hall committee may put a request in writing to the PC for some financial funding if they can't secure enough funds for the project. Action: Cllr L Lawman can help with some funding and will send Cllr A McCarter an application form to apply.</p>
895/2022	<p>Discuss and agree whether to submit anything to the parish newsletter</p> <p>It was discussed that the PC should update parishioners more by placing updates in the village newsletter more often. Unitary Councillors Hallam and Lawman will contact Wendy from the newsletter directly with regards to placing unitary news in it.</p>
896/2022	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a Review of financial statement as at 27/09/22 and propose payments and sign cheques</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in September 2022 (Appendix A). The Clerk reported the Bank Balances to date as reconciled to the bank statement were as follows:</p> <p>Current Account £50.00 Reserves Account £27,727.46</p> <p>This is broken down into David Cross Funds £3,888.59, Playing Field Funds £33.50 and Parish Council Funds £23,855.37.</p> <p>Income received since 26th July 2022 – Bank Interest £10.79</p> <p>b Discuss and agree whether to adopt online banking</p> <p>It was RESOLVED the parish council should move to online banking for a more efficient way of making payments and keeping track of account transactions. Action: Clerk to contact Natwest bank and apply for online banking.</p>
897/2022	<p>To discuss any correspondence received</p> <p>No correspondence received.</p>
898/2022	<p>Village Services</p> <p>a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field</p> <p>Nothing new to report.</p> <p>b Discuss any Highways matters including discuss and agree whether to accept proposals for new signage and road markings along the A4500</p> <p>Cllr L Lawman has now meet with Ian Boyes from Highways with regards the speed of the A4500 some improvements are possible. Ian noted that the road markings were looking tired. Highways proposals show the existing “40” repeater signs mounted on posts being removed and replaced with large, yellow backed repeater signs that are more prominent to approaching drivers. Additional “SLOW” signs to be installed. Due to curvature and alignment of the road and restricted sight of oncoming vehicles, especially from the Earls Barton direction, Highways have confirmed that it would not be possible to install a pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to accept the proposal by Highways. Action: Cllr L Lawman will confirm with Highways and ask if a gateway could also be installed?</p> <p>c Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower Ecton Lane hedges</p> <p>The broken BT manhole outside of number 8 Wellingborough Road still needs attention.</p>

	<p>The Clerk previously reported it on Fix My Street and not directly with BT Open Reach Action: Clerk to report to BT Open Reach. With regards to the hedges along Lower Ecton Lane, the Clerk continues to chase for the hedges to be cut back.</p> <p>d Receive updates and discuss any fly tipping issues Is an ongoing issue in Ecton. Nothing new to report.</p> <p>e Receive updates on any street lighting matters – Discuss and agree whether to accept quote for upgrading to new LED lighting and what financial avenues to explore to cover costs of the upgrade due to no current Salix Finance grants currently being available</p> <p>Following the presentation from Simon Spurr of Zeta Lighting, the following actions are to be carried out. Clerk to contact planning to see if the permission needs to be sought to change lantern heads in the conservation area? Cllr L Lawman will send the Clerk details regarding the energy relief scheme. The Clerk is to investigate the Salix Grant which is opening up again in October. Clerk to also contact Lyco Group Ltd again and ask if their lights colour temperature and level of brightness be changed?</p>
899/2022	<p>Councillors Reports and discuss any items to be considered for the next agenda Discuss and agree to give a grant of £300 to the PCC to help with tree maintenance costs</p>
900/2022	<p>Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined Nothing new to report.</p>
901/2022	<p>Date of next meetings –Tuesday 22nd November 2022 It was RESOLVED to hold the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
	<p>Close: The meeting ended at 9.06pm</p>

Signed byDate

Appendix A

896/2022 Financial Matters

Review Financial Statement as at 27/09/2022 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 are accepted. **RESOLVED** the following accounts are paid.

Chq Number	Amount	Inc VAT of	Payee	Details	Power
751	22.70	1.08	Southern Electric	Electricity Standing Charges to 01.09.2022	Highways Act
752	303.18	14.42	Southern Electric	Electricity Standing Charges to 01.09.2022	Highways Act
753	28.16	4.69	Eon	Repair to street light o/s 5 Northampton Road	Highways Act
754	480.00	80.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting July & August	Open Spaces Act
755	174.00	0.00	Ecton Village Hall	Room Hire May 2021 to March 2022	LGA 1972 112
756	492.34	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 27.09.22 33hours @ LCP 24 £516.12 Office & Broadband £70.84 Mileage 13.4miles @ .64ppm £8.58 Tax deductions £103.20	LGA 1972 s 112
757	103.20	0.00	HMRC	Tax S Wong £103.20	LGA 1972 s 112
758	14.39	0.00	Shirley Wong	Expenses – Zoom fees	LGA 1972 s 112

Total of Cheques Raised 1,617.97