



Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 26th September 2023** at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr J Fernley (Charing the meeting) Mrs S Bell, Mr N Bond, Mr A McCarter and Mr S Grisewood.

Also Present: Mrs S Wong (Clerk) and North Northants Cllr Scott Brown

Item No	
970/2023	<p>To Receive Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from the Chair Cllr I Whittaker and Cllr D Dicks both are away on holiday and Unitary Cllrs L Lawman and C Hallam.</p>
971/2023	<p>To invite declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda No Declaration of Interest was received.</p>
972/2023	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 25th July 2023 It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 25th July 2023, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Acting Chair Mr J Fernley.</p>
973/2023	<p>Parish Council Vacancies - Co-option on to the Parish Council There has been no recent interest in either of the two Parish Council Vacancies. The Clerk will continue to advertise the post.</p>
974/2023	<p>To receive a report from North Northants Councillors Cllr S Brown gave an update on current matters within NNC. There is up to £5,000 of community grants available but the cut off is next Monday the 2nd October. The three unitary Councillors also have a few thousand pounds of Empowerment Funds available for Community schemes. Groups are encouraged to apply asap. 18 new CCTV cameras have been installed around the Queensway Housing Estate, Wellingborough, the money to cover the costs came from the Home Office.</p>
975/2023	<p>Progress any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by agenda items The Chair Cllr I Whittaker will be putting a notice in the Ecton newsletter about the benefits of changing the street lighting to LED bulbs, such as it being greener and also saving a lot of money on energy costs.</p>
976/2023	<p>Financial Matters a Review of financial statement as at 26/09/23 and propose payments for bank transfer and sign cheques It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in September 23 (Appendix A) via bank transfer. These payments were authorised online during the meeting via NatWest Bankline by Cllr J Fernley. 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 £29,787.02 Cleared funds of £28,491.29 are broken down into David Cross Funds £3,942.52 Playing Field Funds £0.00 and Parish Council Funds £24,548.76 Income received since 31st July – Bank Interest £71.32</p> <p>b Delegate power to the Clerk to make payments in October due to there being no PC meeting in October It was Resolved to delegate power to the Clerk to make payments in October.</p> <p>c Note the External Auditors receipt of the 2022/2023 Certificate of Exemption The Clerk reported that PKF Littlejohn the PC’s External Auditors have emailed receipt of the 2022/2023 Certificate of Exempt Status.</p> <p>It was also noted that the 2nd internal audit inspection for the current financial year was carried out by Cllr A McCarter on the 26th September 2023. All record keeping was in order, all receipts and payments have been recorded accurately and supported with relevant documentation and invoices.</p>
<p>977/2023</p>	<p>To discuss any correspondence received Proposal to start an allotment club for children aged between 5-12 years – Local parishioner Oliver Earby is putting a proposal together to create an allotment club for children and would like the PC’s support. Cllr A McCarter will speak with Oliver and offer the PC’s support and inform him of grants available through NCC. Good Neighbours Schemes – The EGO’s already provide a similar scheme. ERTA Northampton Public Meeting – Saturday 30th September – Meeting times circulated.</p>
<p>978/2023</p>	<p>Village Services</p> <p>a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field Nothing new to report.</p> <p>b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower including any fly tipping issues Unitary Cllr Scott Brown will chase WNC to arrange a litter pick of Lower Ecton Lane. Lots of garden waste is constantly being dumped along the lane. It was noted that there are weeds growing up the ANPR camera in the High Street. Action: Clerk to contact Fisher German and request the weeds are cut back.</p> <p>c Receive any updates on the 2nd installation of LED Lights on order with Zeta Lighting The first batch of LED lights have recently been installed in the village. Lots of positive comments have been received regarding them. The Clerk has asked Zeta when the final installation will take place. There has been some delays with the suppliers in China.</p> <p>d Discuss any further parking issues in the village Parking issues continue to be monitored in the village. The white lines in Church Way have been reported for repainting. A response has been received that works will take place within 6 months. Unitary Cllr Lora Lawman will continue to chase Highways for a start date for the traffic calming works on the old A4500. Unitary Cllr Scott Brown will enquire with Highways about reducing the speed of the road to 30mph, can anything be done? Cllr A McCarter will speak with the primary school about NNC funding and suggest purchasing some school parking signs.</p>

979/2023	Councillors Reports and discuss any items to be considered for the next agenda Agreeing the Budget for 2024/25 and setting the precept request for 2024/25.
980/2023	Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined No new applications to report.
981/2023	Date of next meeting – Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 28th November 2023 It was RESOLVED to hold the next meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 28 th November 2023 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm. Close: The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Signed byDate

Appendix A

976/2023 Financial Matters

Review Financial Statements for August, September and October 2023.

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.

To note payments made in August outside of meeting by the Clerk using delegated powers.

Payment Method	Amount	Inc VAT	Payee	Details	Power
BT	79.30	3.76	Southern Electric	Electricity & Standing Charges from 4.7.23 to 1.8.23	Highways Act
BT	312.00	52.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting July	Open Spaces Act
BT	28.16	4.69	EON	Street Light Repair LP17 West Street	Highways Act

Total of payments £419.46

Payments approved and made at the meeting of 26/09/2023.

Payment Method	Amount	Inc VAT of	Payee	Details	Power
BT	79.58	3.78	Southern Electric	Electricity & Standing Charges from 2.8.23 to 1.9.23	Highways Act
BT	312.00	52.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting August	Highways Act
BT	37.63	6.27	Toner Giant	Toner Drum	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	180.00	0.00	Royal London	Replacement pension payment - Replaces lost Chq No 770	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	563.32	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary to 26.9.23 37 hours @ LCP 25 £615.68 Office & Broadband £70.84 Tax deductions £123.20	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	123.20	0.00	HMRC	Tax S Wong £123.20	LGA 1972 s 112

Total of payments £1,295.75

To note payments to be made in Oct outside of meeting by the Clerk using delegated powers.

Payment Method	Amount	Inc VAT	Payee	Details	Power
BT	79.58	3.78	Southern Electric	Electricity & Standing Charges from 2.9.23 to 2.10.23	Highways Act
BT	978.00	163.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting May & September and apply weed killer.	Open Spaces Act
BT	5.00	0.00	Information Commissioner	£5 shortfall from Licence Renewal fee (March 23)	LGA 1972 s 112

Total of payments £1,062.58