



Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 26th March 2024** at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr I Whittaker (Chair), Mr D Dicks (Vice Chair), Mrs S Bell, Mr J Fernley, Mr S Grisewood and Mr A McCarter

Also Present: Mrs S Wong (Clerk) one parishioner was in attendance

Item No	
1007/2024	<p>To Receive Apologies Apologies were received from Cllrs N Bond and S Grisewood and also from Unitary Councillors.</p>
1008/2024	<p>To invite declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda No Declaration of Interest was received.</p>
1009/2024	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 23rd January 2024 It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 23rd January 2024, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Mr I Whittaker.</p>
1010/2024	<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. One parishioner was in attendance to see what the Parish Council does.</p>
1011/2024	<p>To Receive Reports from Unitary Councillors A report was received from Cllr L Lawman</p> <p>Garden waste stickers NNC are working hard to get stickers sent out to everyone that renewed their garden waste subscription. If you haven't received yours don't worry - it'll get to you in early April and we'll still collect your garden waste in the meantime</p> <p>Please check on the individual link whether the grants/consultation is still open. https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/communities-assets-and-grants/community-funding/rural-community-capital-funding</p> <p>Air quality: https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/place-and-economy/local-air-quality-strategy-have-your-say/</p> <p>LCWIPs - Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure Projects: I attended a couple of weeks ago a meeting that is to put forward into a plan the cycling and walking infrastructure. I raised on behalf of all villages in the ward that there is an absence of routes for all and little connectivity.</p>

	<p>NNC to receive funding for EV charging points https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/nnc-set-receive-nearly-ps3m-electric-vehicle-infrastructure</p> <p>NNC to start food waste collections in 2026 https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/roll-out-food-waste-collections-across-north-northants-executive-agenda</p> <p>Grants for rural businesses: https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/grants-ps50000-rural-businesses-available</p> <p>Grants for energy saving businesses: https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/grants-businesses-looking-reduce-carbon-emissions-launched</p>
1012/2024	<p>Progress any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by agenda items</p> <p>Cllr A McCarter recent spoke to the school with regards to parking signs. The school are interested in purchasing some signs and will contact the Ecton Charities with regards to funding.</p>
1013/2024	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a Review of financial statement as at 26/03/24 and propose payments for bank transfer and sign cheques – (To see full payments breakdown see Appendix A)</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in March 2024 (Appendix A) via bank transfer. These payments were authorised online during the meeting via NatWest Bankline by Cllr J Fernley.</p> <p>The Clerk reported the Bank Balances to date as reconciled to the bank statement were as follows: Current Account £50.00, Reserves Account £25,795.27 Cleared funds of £19,434.29 are broken down into David Cross Funds £3,516.18 Playing Field Funds £234.90 and Parish Council Funds £15,683.21 Income received since 23rd January 24 £64.73 – Bank Interest.</p> <p>b Delegate power to the Clerk to make payments in April and to authorise Joe Fernley to authorise bank payments due to there being no PC meeting in February</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to delegate power to the Clerk to make payments in April and for Cllr Joe Fernley to authorise the online bank transfer payments on behalf of the PC.</p> <p>c To note appointment of NCALC Internal Auditor Tina Charteress to carry out the Internal Audit for 2023/2024</p> <p>It was noted that NCALC Internal Auditor Mrs Tina Charteress has been appointed to carry out the Internal audit for the YE 31st March 2024.</p> <p>It was also noted that the third internal audit inspection for the current financial year was carried out by Cllr A McCarter on the 30th January 2024. All record keeping was found to be accurate and kept in order. The 4th and final Internal Financial Audit Inspection will take place on the 9th April by Cllr A McCarter also.</p>
1014/2024	<p>To discuss any correspondence received</p> <p>The Cabinet Office is encouraging Parish Councils that do not have a dot gov dot uk domain name to implement this change. The Clerk has received information regarding changing the pc domain name from dot org dot uk to dot gov dot uk. Action: Clerk to investigate further and report back.</p>

1015/2024	<p>Village Services</p> <p>a Receive any updates on the playing field and discuss if the PC would like to look into installing adult exercise equipment in the playing field?</p> <p>Following the annual H&S inspection report, spare parts were order for the play equipment and have now been fitted by Cllrs D Dicks and A McCarter. It was Resolved not to look into installing adult exercise equipment at the Playing field. It was noted that dogs have been sighted in the playing field when they are not permitted. Action; No Dogs allowed signs to be sourced for the playing field.</p> <p>b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower including any fly tipping issues</p> <p>No new updates to report. It was noted that the Northants Wombles carried out a little pick starting from the Ecton Refuse Centre past the traveller’s site at the weekend. Action: The Clerk will make contact to give our thanks.</p> <p>c Note the 2nd installation of LED Lights has taken place.</p> <p>Zeta Lighting have now carried out the phase 2 installation of LED lights. All lights in the village have LED lighting. A door to one light has been damaged by Zeta. Light 30 in Church Way is reported as not working. Action: Clerk to report damage and nonfunctioning light. A Facebook post will also be made asking parishioners for feedback on the new street lighting.</p> <p>d Receive any updates on the A4500 Ecton Traffic Calming proposals</p> <p>Unitary Cllr Lora Lawman was not in attendance to provide an update.</p> <p>It was noted that the village defibrillator needs new pads and paddles ordering due to their age and the faded sticker on the heating cabinet needs replacing Action: The Clerk will source these items.</p>
1016/2024	<p>Councillors Reports and discuss any items to be considered for the next agenda</p> <p>No new items to add to the March agenda at this time.</p>
1017/2024	<p>Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined</p> <p>a 24/00299/LAPVAR W H Thomas (Butchers) Limited, Farm Shop, East Lodge Farm, Washbrook Lane, Ecton - variation application</p> <p>The parish council has no objections to this licence.</p> <p>b Ecton House – Grade 11 listed building – Change of use – A complaint has been received regarding the change of use at Ecton House. The Parish Council has passed this over to Unitary Councillor Clive Hallam for reporting to Planning Enforcement.</p> <p>c Receive updates on Planning Application NW/23/00699/FUL – 2 Parsons Close</p> <p>This application will be looked at by the Planning Committee a meeting date is yet to be scheduled.</p>
1018/2024	<p>Date of next meetings – Annual Meeting of the Parish and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – Election of the Chair - Tuesday 21st May 2024</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to hold the next meetings the Annual Meeting of the Parish and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council a week earlier than normal. The meetings will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm. Close: The meeting ended at 8.30pm.</p>

Signed byDate

Appendix A

1013/2024 Financial Matters

Review Financial Statements for January 2024.

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.

Payments approved and made at the meeting of 26/03/2024

Payment Method	Amount	Inc VAT of	Payee	Details	Power
BT	87.72	11.64	Southern Electric	Electricity & Standing Charges from 1.2.24 to 29.2.24	Highways Act
BT	51.72	8.62	Playdale	Spare parts for pay equipment	Open Spaces Act
BT	5610.00	935	Zeta Lighting	Phase 2 Installation of LED Lighting	Highways Act
BT	545.14	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary to 26.03.24 33 hours @ LCP 25 £17.64 Office & Broadband £70.84 Mileage 13 miles @£8.58 Tax deductions £116.40	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	116.40	0.00	HMRC	Tax S Wong £116.40	LGA 1972 s 112

Total of payments £6,410.98