



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 24th January 2023** 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

Also Present: Mrs S Wong (Clerk) and North Northants Cllrs Lora Lawman & Clive Hallam

Item No	
916/2023	<p>To Receive Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Littlewood. Unitary Cllrs S Brown had other commitments.</p>
917/2023	<p>To invite declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda A Declaration of Interest was received from Cllr A McCarter reference agenda item 922/C – Warm Room.</p>
918/2023	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 22nd November 2022 It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 22nd November 2022, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Mr I Whittaker.</p>
919/2023	<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 continue to promote the vacancies with new posters on the website, social media and notice boards.</p>
920/2023	<p>To receive a report from North Northants Councillors Cllr L Lawman gave an update on current consultations. With regards to the Parliamentary Boundary review there will be changes within the Daventry Boundary but not Northampton Boundary. Consultations are still taking place on the NCC budget. Phase 1 has taken place with regards to reducing the number of Councillors. It has been very challenging. Lora asks that the PC takes the time to look at the rough draught once it is available for viewing. There is still money available in the community grants pot held by Lora.</p>
921/2023	<p>Progress any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by agenda Items No matters arising.</p>
922/2023	<p>Financial Matters a Review of financial statement as at 24/01/23 and propose payments and sign cheques It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in January 23 (Appendix A) via bank transfer. There are three authorised Councillors that can be authorise the Clerks</p>

	<p>inputted bank transfers on the Natwest Bankline system, Cllrs N Bond, D Dicks and J Fernley. It was agreed Councillors would take it in turns to authorise the bank transfers, with Councillor N Bond authorising the payments this month.</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 Reserves Account £25,519.99 Cleared funds of £24,307.60 are broken down into David Cross Funds £3,888.59, Playing Field Funds £62.16 and Parish Council Funds £24,307.60 Income received since 22nd November 2022 – Bank Interest £34.18 and £782.44 vat return 21/22</p> <p>b Agree level of precept for 2023/2024 Following from the setting of the budget at the last PC meeting, the PC were able to agree to set the precept for 23/23 at this meeting. It was RESOLVED to increase the budget by £4,000 to £16,335 due our costs rising and also as the PC want to replace all non-LED lights to LED lights in the parish, which is more energy efficient and costs less to run.</p> <p>c Discuss and approve a warm spaces grant request from the village hall committee This agenda item took a different turn. Unitary Councillor Lora Lawman felt she was able to support the group with grant funding through her Councillors grant awards. The group will liaise with Lora directly in this instance instead of the Parish Council.</p>
923/2023	<p>To discuss any correspondence received No correspondence to report.</p>
924/2023	<p>Village Services</p> <p>a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field – Discuss recent health and safety report and any actions that need carrying out Seagrave Inspections flagged a missing bolt and a wobbly post during their inspection of the play area. Action: The Clerk will instruct Reid’s Playground Maintenance to provide a quote for the repairs.</p> <p>b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc Lower Ecton Lane. More fly tipping continues to be dumped in Lower Ecton Lane.</p> <p>c Receive updates and discuss any fly tipping issues Cllr J Fernley recently reported some Fly Tipping. Cllr Fernley to send Cllr Lora Lawman the details and she will get it moved along asap.</p> <p>d Discuss any further updates with the parish grit bins with salt Despite our efforts Highways haven’t refilled the Grit Bin. Action: The Clerk will place an order to fill the 4 parish council grit bins. The usage will be monitored.</p> <p>e Discuss and agree stage to upgrading all lights to LED lighting and next steps, including accepting quotes and whether to secure a loan Action: The Clerk is to contact National Grid with regards to our reduced lighting costs from the current LED’s we have in place. Instruct EON to quote to upgrade our lighting to LED’s and to ask Zeta for the specifications and costs for the lights they mentioned are currently in China.</p>
925/2023	<p>Community Projects – Kings Coronation Nothing new to discuss.</p>

926/2023	Councillors Reports and discuss any items to be considered for the next agenda No extra agenda items to add to the January meetings at this stage.
927/2023	Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined No new applications to report.
928/2023	Date of next meetings –Tuesday 28th March 2023 It was RESOLVED to hold the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 28 th March 2023 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm. Close: The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Signed byDate

Appendix A

922/2023 Financial Matters

Review Financial Statement as at 24/01/2023 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.

Payment Method	Amount	Inc VAT of	Payee	Details	Power
BT	22.71	1.08	Southern Electric	Electricity Standing Charges to 3.1.23	Highways Act
BT	307.86	14.65	Southern Electric	Electricity Standing Charges to 3.1.23	Highways Act
BT	74.40	0.00	NCALC	VAT reclaim	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	1008.00	168.00	EON	2 x Replacement LEDS on Northampton Road and 1 x replacement LED o/s 6 Wellingborough Road	Highways Act
BT	144.00	24.00	Seagrave Inspections	Annual Play Equipment H&S Inspection	Open Spaces Act
BT	564.22	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 24.1.23 37.5hours @ LCP 24 £606 Office & Broadband £70.84 Mileage 13.4miles @ .64ppm £8.58 Tax deductions £121.20	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	121.20	0.00	HMRC	Tax S Wong £121.20	LGA 1972 s 112

Total of Cheques Raised £2,242.39