



## Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024** at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Mr D Dicks (Acting as Chair), Mrs C Adams, Mrs S Bell and Mr N Bond

**In Attendance:** Mrs S Wong – Parish Clerk, Unitary Councillor Lora Lawman and 3 Parishioners

Item No	
<b>1036/2024</b>	<p><b>To Receive Apologies</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A McCarter, Mr J Fernley, Mr S Grisewood, Mr I Whittaker and Unitary Councillor Cllr C Hallam.</p>
<b>1037/2024</b>	<p><b>Receive any Declarations of Interest</b> Declarations of interest were received from M D Dicks in relation to agenda item 1044/b relating to Lower Ecton Lane and possible talks about closing the lane.</p>
<b>1038/2024</b>	<p><b>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parish Council held on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Acting Chair of Mr D Dicks.</p>
<b>1039/2024</b>	<p><b>Parish Council Vacancies – Discuss any applications and Co-option on to the PC</b> There is one current vacancy for Parish Councillor at the Council. The Clerk has not received any expressions of interest in the last two months. One Parishioner attending the meeting came to observe as they may be interested in applying for the position.</p>
<b>1040/2024</b>	<p><b>To receive a report from Unitary Councillors</b> Unitary Councillor L Lawman was in attendance and gave a brief update on unitary matters. Lora announced became the Chairman of North Northants Council in May 2024. Mention was made that the Chester House Estate, based in Irchester, has joined forces with Northamptonshire Community Foundation to support their Family Food Aid Appeal this summer. The Farmhouse has added a £4.95 option for visitors to ‘donate a meal’ to help provide nutritious meals and essential support services to families in need across Northamptonshire.</p>
<b>1041/2024</b>	<p><b>Progress any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by agenda items</b> Following the May meeting the Clerk instructed EON to install a shield to one of the street lights in the village to defuse the lighting. This has been a timely process and EON need to install scaffolding to be able to install the shield. Quotes for erecting the scaffolding are being sort. Update – The following day after the meeting a quote has been received and approved by the Clerk using delegated powers. Parking near the shrine by one household is still causing a problem. <b>Action:</b> A letter will be sent asking them to be more considerate in their parking as it is causing ongoing issues.</p>

1042/2024	<p><b>Financial Matters</b>  <b>a Review of financial statement as at 23/07/24 &amp; propose payments for bank authorisation at meeting</b>  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve payments to be made in July 24 (Appendix A) via bank transfer. These payments were authorised online following the meeting via NatWest Bankline by Cllr N Bond.  The Clerk reported the Bank Balances to date as reconciled to the bank statement were as follows: <b>Current Account £50.00, Reserves Account £37,005.75 less July payments of £1,591.81 = £35,463.94</b>  This is broken down into £3,184.62 David Cross funds, £271.52 Playing Field Funds and £32,007.80 Parish Council Funds.</p> <p><b>Income received since May 2024</b>  Northants Police Road Safety Fund £5,000, Bank Interest £87.86. Financial reports were received for information.</p> <p><b>b Review costs to purchase a dot.gov domain and email costs</b>  The Clerk has received quotes to update the PC’s Domain name and PC email address. Quotes were received from Cuttlefish and Thomas Brophy. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the quote from Thomas Brophy. All were in agreement.</p> <p><b>c Approve funding request for Ego’s River Trip of £360 from the David Cross Funds</b>  Sally Jones has submitted a financial assistance request for £360 to cover the costs of a recent EGO’s River trip held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July. Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to fully support the request to be paid by David Cross Funds set aside for the EGO’s in the village.</p> <p>Noted the 1<sup>st</sup> Internal Financial Inspection was carried out by Cllr A McCarter on the 11<sup>th</sup> July all Book keeping and record keeping was found to be accurate and kept in order. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Internal Financial Inspection will be carried out on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.</p>
1043/2024	<p><b>To discuss any correspondence received</b>  Nothing new to report.</p>
1044/2024	<p><b>Village Services</b>  <b>a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field</b>  Nothing new to report.</p> <p><b>b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower Ecton Lane including fly tipping issues</b>  Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated replies from both Unitary Councils regarding the costs of fly tipping removal along Lower Ecton Lane. Following a lengthy discussion, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to write to all three Unitary Councillors and invite them to attend a meeting and discuss all possible options of preventing fly tipping in Ecton. It was noted weeds are growing all over the village again. <b>RESOLVED</b> to instruct Hayeswood to apply weed killer to these areas.</p> <p><b>c Receive any updates on the A4500 Ecton Traffic Calming Proposals / Installation of VAS Signs</b>  The Clerk and Chairman recently meet with Steve Barber a Highways representative in June to discuss and agree on locations to install vehicle activated signs (VAS) along the A4500. Members were updated of locations that highways have agreed are suitable. Steve is to organise a quote for the costs of installing posts into the verge along the highway for the signs.</p>

	<p><b>d Request to have double yellow lines Installed outside the Three Horse Shoes</b>  Members discussed the recent request received by the Clerk to have double yellow lines installed outside the Three Horseshoes public house. Members <b>RESOLVED</b> this was not a viable option and will not take this request further. <b>Action:</b> Cllr D Dicks will notify the requester in person.</p>
1045/2024	<p><b>Councillors reports and to discuss any items to be considered for the next agenda</b>  Nothing new to report.</p>
1046/2024	<p><b>Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined</b>  <b>Discuss the impact of the new Green Hill Solar Farm to Ecton Village</b>  Cllr L Lawman gave members an update on the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm. Local views will need to be heard before a planning application can be submitted. Because the application is so large it will not be presented to North Northants Council but will be seen at national level by the Secretary of State. A pressure group from surrounding parish councils has been formed to fight the application.</p>
1047/2024	<p><b>Date of next meeting –Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to hold the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
	<p><b>Close: The meeting ended at 9.00pm</b></p>

Signed by .....Date .....

## Appendix A

### 1042/2024 Financial Matters

Review Financial Statement as at 23/07/2024 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.

Payment Method	Amount	Vat	Payee	Details	Power
BT	408.71	28.46	Southern Electric	Electricity 1.6.24 – 30.6.24	Highways Act
BT	348.10	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 23.6.24 to 23.7.24 21 hours @ LCP 26 £18.10pph Office & Broadband £35.42 Mileage 13.4miles @ £8.58 Tax deductions £76.00	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	76.00	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI Contribution £0 Tax S Wong £76.00	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting June 2024	Open Spaces Act
BT	81.00	13.50	EON	Lighting Repairs	Highways Act
BT	360.00	0.00	Ecton Golden Oldies	Financial assistance for River Trip 19.7.24 using David Cross Funds	LGA 1972

**Total value of payments £1,591.81**

### To note approved payments made out of meeting in June by the Clerk using delegated powers

Payment Method	Amount	Vat	Payee	Details	Power
BT	788.23	50.76	Southern Electric	Electricity 1.4.24 – 31.5.24	Highways Act
BT	333.60	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 21.05.24 to 23.6.24 20 hours @ £362.00 Office & Broadband £35.42 Mileage 13.4miles @ £8.58 Tax deductions £72.40	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	49.27	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI £0 Tax S Wong £72.40 Less a HMRC Credit of £23.13	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	480.00	80	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting May 2024	Open Spaces Act

**Total value of payments £1,651.10**