



Ecton Parish Council

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

Present: Mr I Whittaker (Chair), Mrs C Adams, Mrs S Bell, Mr N Bond, Mr D Dicks, Mr J Fernley and Mr A McCarter

In Attendance: Mrs S Wong – Parish Clerk, Unitary Councillor Scott Brown and Vicky Jessop

Item No	
1065/2024	<p>To Receive Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mr S Grisewood and Unitary Councillors Cllr L Lawman and C Hallam.</p>
1066/2024	<p>Receive any Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were received.</p>
1067/2024	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 24th September 2024 and the Extra Ordinary Meeting minutes held on the 3rd of September 2024 It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 24th September 2024 having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Mr I Whittaker. The Extra Ordinary meeting minutes of 3rd September to be signed at the next PC meeting.</p>
1068/2024	<p>To receive a report from Unitary Councillors Unitary Councillors S Brown gave a report on matters relating to North Northants Council. Currently they are in the process of budget scrutiny. A number of grants are open – including Community Grant funding and Member Empowerment funding. Current consultations Consultation on the Adult Social Care Strategy. – Closes 16th December Harmonising payment options – Closes 3rd December Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Closes 9th December Hackney Carriage and Private Hire policy review – Closes 9th December School admission arrangements – 29th December Term Dates for schools 2026-27 – Closes 29th December</p>
1069/2024	<p>To discuss proposal - proposed bid for Community Chair-based Pilates group – Cllr C Adams Cllr C Adams circulated a proposal including costs. prior to the meeting for the PC to run a 12 week program of “Chair fit Pilates” classes to run at Ecton Village Hall. The classes would improve mobility, functional strength, balance and co-ordination in older adults, to be funded or partially funded through a grant from NNC. It was RESOLVED to support the proposal and a grant application is to be submitted to NNC.</p>
1070/2024	<p>To discuss proposal - proposed bid for IT Support and Connectivity project – Cllr C Adams</p>

	<p>Cllr C Adams circulated a proposal including costs. prior to the meeting for the PC to run a 4 x 1 ½ hour drop-in IT support sessions every quarter at to run at Ecton Village Hall. The sessions would help improve the connectivity and internet understanding of attendees such as avoiding scams, connecting to the internet, fixing wi-fi problems, saving to the cloud etc. It was RESOLVED to support the proposal and a grant application is to be submitted to NNC Community fund.</p>
1071/2024	<p>To discuss proposal – to reduce the speed limit of the old A4500 – Cllr I Whittaker The PC were not happy with the size of the new speed signs that were recently installed on the old A4500 and have now been informed that bigger signs are not permitted. There is some overhanging foliage on some of the old signs along the old A4500. Action: Unitary Cllr Scott Brown will report.</p> <p>It was discussed that the old A4500 really needs to have a speed reduction, Councillors agreed this is necessary as parishioners are not able to cross over the highway easily or safely to get to and from the bus stop on the other side of the road. The Chair Cllr I Whittaker made two proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have the speed along the A4500 reduced to 40mph 2. To have the Ecton Section of the A4500 reduced to 30mph Proposals SECONDED by Cllr J Fernley. All were in favour. Unitary Cllr S Brown will support our efforts to get the speed reduction
1072/2024	<p>Progress any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by agenda items 2 Parsons Close – Planning application. Kate Skidling from NNC Planning Department carried out a recent site visit. Cllrs J Fernley and S Bell and I Parishioner were in attendance. No decision has been made on the application as yet.</p> <p>The overhanging foliage on the wall at 2 Parsons Close still hasn't been cut back. Action: Clerk to chase up the owners.</p>
1073/2024	<p>Financial Matters a Review of financial statement as at 26/11/24 & propose payments for bank authorisation at meeting It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in November 24 (Appendix A) via bank transfer. These payments were authorised online following 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: Current Account £50.00, Reserves Account £31,522.61 less November payments of £986.85 = £30,585.76 This is broken down into £3,232.75 David Cross funds, £225.82 Playing Field Funds and £27,127.49 Parish Council Funds.</p> <p>Income received since September 2024 Bank Interest £80.61. Financial reports were received for information.</p> <p>b Note submission of the Playing Field Accounts YE 31.3.24 to the Charity Commission It was noted that the Playing Field Accounts for the year end 31st March 2024 have been submitted and received by the Charity Commission.</p> <p>c Discuss and approve draft budget for 25/26 and agree level of precept for 25/26 (to follow) Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated a draft budget for 2025/2026. The budget was discussed and subject to some amendments is to be submitted at the January meeting for agreement.</p>

1074/2024	<p>To discuss any correspondence received To note road closure - TTRO 24/25 N646 - High Street, Ecton - 13/01/25 – 24/01/25</p>
1075/2024	<p>Village Services</p> <p>a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field The Health & Safety inspection report will be carried out in December.</p> <p>b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower Ecton Lane fly tipping informal meeting with Cllrs & the NCC Waste Management Team Following on from a tree inspection by an NNC Tree Officer of one birch tree and one conifer and a Scots pine tree at the corner of Church View. It was confirmed the trees need removing by the owners Ecton Estates. The Clerk has forwarded the Tree Inspectors report on to Fisher German, Ecton Estates Management team.</p> <p>An informal meeting with members of the PC, our Unitary Councillors and members of the Waste Management Team at NNC took place on Wednesday 23rd October 2024 to discuss if there are any measures that can be taken / explored to try and reduce the amount of fly tipping taking place along Lower Ecton Lane. Unitary Councillor S Brown is still waiting to hear back from WNC regarding sharing the costs of the clear ups that NNC takes on that really should be covered by WNC.</p> <p>c Receive any updates on the A4500 Ecton Traffic Calming Proposals / Installation of VAS Signs The Clerk still hasn't received a quote from Highways with regards to installing posts into the verge along the old A4500 highway for the 2 new VAS signs or confirmation of the site locations of said posts and VAS signs. Action: The Clerk will continue to chase up Steve Barber and will also get quotes from Highways approved contractors for the works too.</p> <p>d Street Lighting Electricity Costs – Time to look for a better deal on cost The Clerk has been in contact with Utility Aid and is waiting to receive quotes to change utility provider. This appears to be taking a while and the Clerk will seek out another comparison company to help provide quotes for changing contracts.</p>
1076/2024	<p>Councillors reports and to discuss any items to be considered for the next agenda Nothing new to report.</p>
1077/2024	<p>Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined Green Hill Solar Farm Limited have sent through a copy of the Statutory Consultation on the Green Hill Solar Farm to the PC. The PC previously responded to North Northants Council, Development Management Service on the 12th September on this and forwarded a copy of our response to Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd at the same time. Response letter can be seen with the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 3rd September 2024.</p>
1078/2024	<p>Date of next meeting –Tuesday 28th January 2025 It was RESOLVED to hold the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 28th January 2025 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
	<p>Close: The meeting ended at 9.00pm</p>

Signed byDate

Appendix A

1073/2024 Financial Matters

Review Financial Statement as at 26/11/2024 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	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details	Power
BT	518.46	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 22.10.24 to 26.11.24 26 hours @ LCP 26 £18.72pph 140 hours pay increase backdated at 0.62ph Office & Broadband £35.42 Mileage 38miles @ £24.32 Tax deductions £114.80	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	£114.80	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI Contribution £0 Tax S Wong £114.80	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	£318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting Oct 2024	Open Spaces Act
BT	20.00	0.00	Royal British Legion	Remembrance Poppy Wreath	Section 137
BT	15.59	0.00	Zoom	Zoom Hosting Costs	LGA 1972

Total value of payments £986.85

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

Payment Method	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details	Power
BT	362.60	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 24.09.24 to 22.10.24 22 hours @ £398.20 Office & Broadband £35.42 Mileage 13.4 Miles £8.58 Tax deductions £79.60	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	79.60	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI £0 Tax S Wong £74.80	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting Sept 2024	Open Spaces Act
BT	563.16	93.86	EON	Lantern Shield – Light on footpath by 54 High Street	Highways Act

Total value of payments £1,323.36