



Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 25th March 2025** at 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: Mrs S Wong – Parish Clerk and 3 residents

Item No	
1090/2025	<p>To Receive Apologies Apologies were received from all 3 of our Unitary Councillors Cllr S Brown, L Lawman and C Hallam.</p>
1091/2025	<p>Receive any Declarations of Interest Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Mr A McCarter regarding a financial donation to the Ecton Newsletter, agenda item 1095/25/B.</p>
1092/2025	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 28th January 2025 It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 28th January 2025 having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Mr I Whittaker.</p>
1093/2025	<p>To receive a report from Unitary Councillors and to Receive any updates regarding the PC's next steps with regards to reducing the speed limit of the old A4500 No Unitary Councillors were in attendance. Cllr S Brown submitted a Councillors report. NNC's annual budget has been approved at £400 Million. Council tax changes: An increase of 4.99% increase in core council tax. Capital programme £208.5 Million over 4 years. Forecast budget deficit: 26/27 £33m, 27/28 £53m, 28/29 £73.6m. Local elections are being held 1st May, Ensure you are registered to vote, nominations for candidates are now open. Council Leader Jason Smithers will not be seeking re-election.</p> <p>Important Public Warning – QR Code Scam QR codes have been fraudulently placed on some pay and display parking machines. NNC does not use QR codes for parking, if you see one, do not use it!</p> <p>Unfortunately, Cllrs Lawman and Hallam are not re standing for election so they will no longer be attending any Ecton PC meetings again. The Clerk has sent emails of thanks to both Councillors, the Council fully appreciates everything they have done to help parishioners and the council during their time as the PC's Unitary Councillors.</p> <p>Public Session – 3 residents were in attendance at the meeting and the Chairman invited them to</p>

	<p>speak. 2 raised concerns and the 3rd stated they were here to observe.</p> <p>One resident raised concerns about crossing over the old A4500 to the bus stop. The chairman advised that Unitary Cllr S Brown is working with the PC to try and get the speed reduced to 40mph. Our VAS signs were erected today which should help slow down vehicles approaching Ecton and leaving Ecton and any data collected from the VAS if sufficient will be used to back up our request to reduce the speed on the road. We can also ask Cllr S Brown if it is possible to install a pedestrian crossing there as well?</p> <p>The second resident updated members on a recent incident outside the school whilst they were in their car at around 3.15pm when the school was just finishing for the day, which left them feeling shaken up and asked if zigzags could be installed on the other side of the road. Unfortunately, this wouldn't be possible. Cllr A McCarter will speak to the school regarding the incident.</p>
1094/2025	<p>Progress any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by agenda items</p> <p>The fly tipping along the public right of way footpath TE10 has now been cleared away following the help of Unitary Cllr S Brown chasing up our 'Fix my Street' request.</p> <p>Cllr N Bond reported her has registered to be the Parish Footpath Warden but hasn't heard back from Kier as yet.</p>
1095/2025	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a Review of financial statement as at 25/03/25 & propose payments for bank authorisation at meeting</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in March 2025 (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 £21,733.02 less March payments of £1,100.92 = £20,682.10.</p> <p>This is broken down into £3,266.49 David Cross funds, £85.52 Playing Field Funds and £17,330.09 Parish Council Funds.</p> <p>Income received since January 2025</p> <p>Bank Interest £50.45 financial reports were received for information.</p> <p>b Discuss and agree whether to make a financial donation to the Ecton Newsletter</p> <p>it was RESOLVED to make a financial donation of £250 to the Ecton View Newsletter to help with printing costs.</p> <p>c Street Lighting Electricity Costs – Discuss and agree whether to pay electricity contract with Tomato Energy by Direct Debit</p> <p>The Clerk has been informed to be able to continue with moving over to Tomato energy as our new electricity Suppliers, we need to agree to pay by monthly direct debit. As per our financial regulation 7.9 the PC is allowed to pay utilities by direct debit. It was RESOLVED to sign up to direct debit payments with Tomato Energy.</p> <p>d Discuss and agree to purchase 1 x large dog waste bin</p> <p>At the January meeting it was discussed to install a larger dog waste bin at the kissing gate in West Street and move that to Franklins Close. The Clerk has submitted an application to the</p>

	<p>Waste Team to ask about adding the bin at Franklins Close to the bin emptying schedule. Quotes were sourced and shared prior to the meeting. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Wybone Limited for a 56-litre dog waste bin in red with black shute lid. Total price of £209.99 including vat.</p> <p>e Receive updates on the two grant applications submitted to NNC and steps of the ‘Chair Fit Pilates’ The Clerk has been informed the NNC grant application for the IT project which was submitted at the end of 2024 was not successful. However, we recently submitted a Councillors Empowerment Grant application for a Chair Pilates program to NNC. This application has been successful and an award of £1440 should be made to the PC shortly. The program will be run in two stages, the first 12 weeks after Easter, then a break and then another 12 weeks program. 15 residents will be able to take part. Cllr C Adams to arrange the promoting of the scheme and printing of flyers.</p> <p>f To note the appointment of NCALC Internal Auditor Tina Charteress to carry out the Internal Audit for 2024/2025 and PKG Littlejohn External Auditors The Clerk reported NCALC Internal Auditor Tina Charteress will carrying out the Internal Audit for 2024/2025 and PKG Littlejohn are appointed as the PC’s External Auditors again.</p>
<p>1096/2025</p>	<p>To discuss any correspondence received Parish Elections Parish Elections will be taking place on the 1st May 2025. The Chairman will be hand delivering Councillors Nomination packs to the council this week. Cllr A McCarter will not be standing for re-election, all other councillors are re-standing. Depending on what the final results of the election bring, the PC may have a vacancy for a Councillor in May.</p> <p>The Clerk has received correspondence from a concerned resident regarding an increase of HGV lorries coming through the village and asked if we are we able to get more ‘No HGV vehicle access’ signs put up? It was also noted the ‘No HGV vehicle access’ sign along Crow Lane is obscured by overgrown foliage. Cllr J Fernley has reported the overgrown foliage obscuring the sign to ‘Fix my street’ and will forward on the reference number. Action: The Clerk will contact Unitary Cllrs James Hill and Scott Brown for their help to get the foliage cut back and more signs put up.</p> <p>Thomas Brophy has now reported that the new domain name and councillors new email address converting from.org.uk to.gov.uk will be transitioning shortly.</p> <p>The Clerk received a temporary closure notice from NNC notifying of Order to prohibit pedestrians, equestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles from proceeding along the length of Public Byway TE10 in Ecton. The order will come into effect on 26th February for a period of six months. Interestingly Cllr J Fernley reported the notice on site states the closure is for 2 weeks only and but it is TE11 that has been blocked off and not TE10.</p>
<p>1097/2025</p>	<p>Village Services a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field Following the recent Health & Safety inspection report, Cllrs Mr A McCarter and Mr D Dicks have repaired the spinner and tightened some of the rope fixings on the climbing frame as some were out. Everything that needed tightening has been tightened.</p> <p>b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower Ecton Lane fly tipping The Clerk recently wrote to a household in West Street following a number of complaints about</p>

	<p>the lack of street lighting being illuminated from the street light situated in the alleyway in West Street, due to over grown foliage coming from their holy bush. The PC was also informed that shrubs extending from the front of the property prevented pedestrians from using the public footpath when any vehicles are parked adjacent to it. Following the Clerks letter the householder has since informed the Clerk that both matters have now been attended to.</p> <p>It was noted weeds are coming up around the village. It was RESOLVED to instruct Hayeswood Landscapes to apply weed killer to these areas. Action: Clerk to contact Hayeswood Landscapes.</p> <p>Cllr D Dicks reported that the substation at the bottom of West Street has a flimsy fence and some of it has fallen down: Action: Clerk to report the fence to National Grid</p> <p>c Receive any updates on the installation of VAS Signs along the A4500 Cllr I Whittaker reported that he has today installed the two VAS signs along the old A4500. They are currently sitting a little low on the poles, but he will go back with a ladder and raise them higher. Statistics can be downloaded about the speeds of passing vehicles and this information will be used to support our need to reduce the speed to 40mph along the old A4500.</p>
1098/2025	<p>Councillors reports and to discuss any items to be considered for the next agenda Cllr A Sandhu attended the Strategic Town and Parish Forum held at the Wellingborough Council Chamber on the 13th March 2025 and gave councillors a brief update on items discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr N Bond reported that the PCC will be submitting a grant request for help towards costs of tree works shortly for the closed churchyard. They have some dead trees Silver Birch and Holly trees. Quotes for works have come in at £1500.</p>
1099/2025	<p>Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined Following the statutory consultation in December regarding the Green Hill Solar Farm application, the clerk has been informed there are some changes now being consulted on. The PC has no further comments to make at this time.</p> <p>Planning applications NW/24/00497/FUL – Listed building consent for removal of damaged section of boundary wall to create enlarged Access. and NW/24/00498/LBC – 2 Parsons Close, Ecton, Northampton. NN6 0QJ - Demolition of existing derelict bungalow and erection of replacement 3-bedroom detached part two storey, part one and a half story dwelling with detached garage including alterations to boundary wall, widening of access and hardstanding for parking and turning of vehicles have been rejected.</p>
1100/2025	<p>Date of next meetings – Annual Meeting of the Parish and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – Election of the Chair - Tuesday 20th May 2025 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 to meet legal requirements. As this is a year of ordinary elections the meeting must be held within 14 days of the day on which councillors come into office. Meetings must be held between the 6th and 22nd May. The meetings will be held on Tuesday 20th May in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
	Close: The meeting ended at 8.50pm

Signed byDate

1095/2025 Financial Matters

Review Financial Statement as at 25/03/2025 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	348.77	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 25.02.25 to 25.03.25 20 hours @ LCP 26 £18.72pph Office & Broadband £35.42 Mileage 21.8 miles £13.95 Tax deductions £75.00	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	75.00	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI Contribution £0 Tax S Wong £75.00	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	19.75	2.79	Shirley Wong - Expenses	Election Posters and Stationery	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	327.70	24.07	SSE	Street Lighting Costs 1.02.25 to 28.02.25	Highways Act
BT	57.60	9.60	Northants Calc	Off to a Flying Start – Ash Sandhu 21.1.25	LGA 1972 s
BT	22.10	3.68	Ian Whittaker		Highways Act
BT	250.00	0.00	Ecton Village Hall Committee	Financial donation towards printing costs of the Ecton Newsletter	S137

Total value of payments £1,100.92

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

Payment Method	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details	Power
BT	335.02	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 28.01.25 to 25.02.25 20 hours @ £374.40 Office & Broadband £35.42 Tax deductions £74.80	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	74.80	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI £0 Tax S Wong £74.80	LGA 1972 s 112
BT	3.35	0.00	Shirley Wong Expenses	Postage	LGA 1972
BT	362.81	26.69	SSE	Street Lighting costs 1.01.25 to 31.01.25	Highways Act
BT	739.44	123.24	E M Pell & Partners Ltd	Installation of 2 x VAS Poles	Highways Act
BT	475.00	0.00	NNC	Section 50 Licence	Highways Act

Total value of payments £1,990.42