



Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 23rd September** at 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: Mrs S Wong – Parish Clerk, Unitary Councillor Vicki Jessop and Alistair McCarter

Item No	
1136/2025	<p>Public Session – Parishioner Points – Lasting up to 15 minutes</p> <p>Parishioner Mr A McCarter raised concerns to the proposed changes to the Ecton Recycling Centre prior to the meeting and was in attendance to discuss his concerns. The refuse centre on Ecton Lane will be changing how it operates from November. People wanting to drop off their refuse will have to book an appointment online in advance first. As the refuse centre is managed by WNC, only residents with the WNC border can use the centre free of charge. Ecton is within the NNC border so will be charged to use the service. Unitary Cllr Vicki Jessop reported that Unitary Cllr Scott Brown will be writing to both the Councils to get more information.</p>
1137/2025	<p>To Receive Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Mrs S Bell. Mr A Sandhu was not in attendance.</p>
1138/2025	<p>Receive any Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No Declarations of Interest were received</p>
1139/2025	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 22nd July 2025</p> <p>It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 22nd July 2025 having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Mr I Whittaker.</p>
1140/2025	<p>To receive a report from North Northamptonshire Councillors and to Receive any updates regarding the PC’s next steps with regards to reducing the speed limit of the old A4500 Speed limits on A4500</p> <p>Cllr Vicki Jessop reported that the Highways panel board meet in August to consider reductions to 40mph from Ecton Brook through to Wilby. Vicki has asked Cllr Scott Brown for an update.</p> <p>Upgrade of Dog Waste Bin – West Street, Ecton</p> <p>Vicki has no update regarding NNC’s refusal to grant permission to install a larger dog waste bin in West Street, Ecton.</p> <p>The NNC Housing Strategy</p> <p>The NNC Housing Strategy 25-30 plan has been approved.</p> <p>NNC Finances 2025</p> <p>NNC’s finances. There has been a 9.4 million overspend this year! Most of the overspend is from</p>

	<p>Adult and child care services. There will be a 32 million funding cap for 2026.</p> <p>Grants Ward Empowerment fund is available. Each ward is allocated yearly funding for small community-based projects. Money can be awarded to parish councils, community groups, voluntary organisations and charities working in North Northamptonshire.</p>
1141/2025	<p>Parish Council Vacancies – Discuss any Applications No applications of interest have been received. The Clerk will continue to advertise the Parish Councillor vacancy.</p>
1142/2025	<p>Receive any Police Updates from Councillor Ian Whittaker The Chairman Mr I Whittaker had no police updates to report at this time.</p>
1143/2025	<p>Correspondence Closure notice of the layby on the A4500 between Earls Barton and Ecton. This problematic layby will be permanently closed imminently.</p> <p>North Northamptonshire Council’s draft Corporate Plan for 2025-2029 consultation remains open until 1st October 2025.</p> <p>Invitation to Agricultural Forum – Friday 17th October 2025. Action: Clerk to forward the invitation to Cllr Mrs C Adams.</p> <p>Magpass Air Ambulance funding request – Action: Resolved not to progress this application as Ecton is not specifically covered.</p>
1144/2025	<p>Financial Matters a Review of financial statement as at 23/09/25 & propose payments for bank authorisation at meeting It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in September 2025 (Appendix A) via bank transfer. These payments were authorised online during the meeting via NatWest Bankline by Cllr Mr 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 £29,793.97 less September payments of £1,888.37 = £27,955.60 This is broken down into £3,319 David Cross funds, £113.52 Playing Field Funds , £587.25 Chair Pilates Grant and £23,935.77 Parish Council Funds.</p> <p>Income received since September 2025 Bank Interest £29.67 30.7.25 (David Cross Fund) & £26.03 29.08.2025. Financial reports were received for information.</p> <p>b. Review of expenditure against budget report as at 23/09/2025 Prior to the meeting the Clerk provided a review of the expenditure against budget review report as at 23/9/25 to help with discussions for a new website for the PC. It was RESOLVED to look at other ways to meet our legal requirements of a website than to pay for a brand-new website, which isn’t currently financially viable. It was noted there is a discrepancy with the current pricing from Valda Energy our new street lighting electricity provider. The Clerk has already raised this and is waiting to hear back from Valda, as it appears we are being over charged on the new agreed electricity prices previously quoted. Based on their current prices the PC’s budget against expenditure for the end of March 2026 will be in deficit by approx. £2482.74.</p> <p>c. Discuss and agree to pay for works to trees at the Closed Churchyard £940.00 It was RESOLVED to award the PCC £940 to help towards the costs of the tree maintenance</p>

	<p>costs at the closed churchyard.</p> <p>d. Discuss and agree quote for creation of new Parish Council Website Prior to the meeting the Clerk provided quotes to create a brand-new website for the Parish Council. It was agreed that a new website would could cost a lot of money and taking over the village website might be a better way to meet our legal obligations instead. RESOLVED to see if the PC could take over the Ownership of the Parish Website. Action: Cllr Mr D Dicks will approach Thomas Brophy-Coulter to see if this option is possible.</p> <p>e. Discuss and agree to creating a compliant holding website page, whilst website is under construction This agenda item was put on hold for the time being.</p>
1145/2025	<p>Village Services</p> <p>a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field There were no concerns to report at the Playing Field.</p> <p>b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower Ecton Lane fly tipping The PC have received notification that the sign in Crow Lane that is overgrown by foliage will be cut back by the 3rd October 2025.</p> <p>c Discuss and agree whether to purchase a new waste bin for the bottom of West Street to alleviate the ongoing Dog Waste problems This agenda item is to be deferred to the November PC meeting.</p>
1146/2025	<p>Receive any reports from Parish Councillors Cllr Mrs C Adams reported she intends to apply to NNC again to apply for another Empowerment Fund grant to run more sessions of chair Pilates for Ecton Parishioners in Ecton Village Hall.</p>
1147/2025	<p>Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined It was noted that the outline planning application for 250 homes on land east of Northampton Road, Earls Barton has now been validated. Application NW/25/00367/OUT. The council has no comments at this time.</p> <p>Application by Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd for an order granting development consent for the Green Hill Solar Farm project – Rule 6 – Invitation to Preliminary Meeting being held on Tuesday 21st October 2025, 10am Mercure Hotel Northampton. Silver Street, Northampton. NN1 2TA.</p>
1148/2025	<p>Progress any Matters Arising from the previous minutes not covered by items on the agenda There were no matters arising to discuss.</p>
1149/2025	<p>Discuss any items to be considered for the next meeting Dog waste bin on West Street and Parish Council Website and Ownership</p>
1150/2025	<p>Date of next meeting – Meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 25th November 2025 It was RESOLVED to hold the next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 25th November in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
	<p>Close: The meeting ended at 8.55pm</p>

Signed byDate

Appendix A

1144/2025 Financial Matters

Monies must be paid out only in pursuance of statutory powers (SP) vested in the Parish Council. All paid under the General Power of Competence which was implemented in May 2025.

RESOLVED balances as presented are accepted. **RESOLVED** the following accounts be paid.

Payments to be made in September

Payment Method	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details
DD	433.76	20.66	Valda Energy	Street Lighting costs 1.9.25 To 30.09.2025
BT	357.42	0.83	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 28.08.25 to 23.09.25 20 hours @ LCP 27 £19.81pph Office & Broadband £35.42 Stationery £4.17 Tax deductions £79.20
BT	79.20	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI Contribution £0 Tax S Wong £79.20
BT	318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting August
BT	33.75	0.00	Ecton Village Hall	Room Hire for Chair Pilates
BT	160.00	0.00	Shevolution Fitness	Hire of Pilates Teacher in Sept 2025
BT	940.00	0.00	Ecton PCC	Payments towards maintenance costs/Trees

Total value of payments £2,322.13

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

Payment Method	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details
BT	207.66	9.89	Valda Energy	Street Lighting costs 1.8.25 to 31.8.25
BT	461.65	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 22.7.25 to 27.8.25 23 hours @ LCP 27 £19.81 = £455.63 Back dated pay to 1 st April £66.04 Office & Broadband £35.42 Mileage £8.96 Tax deductions £104.40
BT	120.10	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI £15.70 Tax S Wong £104.40
BT	318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting July
BT	33.75	0.00	Ecton Village Hall	Room Hire for Chair Pilates July 2025

Total value of payments £1,141.16

Review of expenditure against budget report as at 23/09/2025

ECTON PARISH COUNCIL - EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET 2025/26
AS AT 23.9.25

INCOME	1.4.25 to 31.3.26					
FUNDS AS 1.4.25	17,415.61					
PRECEPT	16,335.00					
GRASS MOWING GRANT	0.00					
VAT REFUND 2024/25	1,978.89					
BANK INTEREST	119.25					
CHAIR PILATES GRANT	1,440.00					
TOTAL INCOME	37,288.75					
EXPENSES	COSTS FROM 1.4.25 to 23.9.25	ANTICIPATED COSTS TO 31.3.26	TOTAL TO 31.3.26	BUDGETED FOR 2025/26	ACTUAL DIFFERENCE IN BUDGET	NOTES
CLERKS SALARY & HMRC	3,227.53	2,590.00	5,817.53	5,775.00	-42.53	
STREET LIGHTING INC BULB CONVERSIONS	2,425.30	2,478.60	4,903.90	3,245.30	-1,658.60	ASSUMING £413.10 X 6
INSURANCE	561.52	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	
VERGE MOWING	1,650.00	700.00	2,350.00	3,000.00	650.00	LAST YEAR SPENT £595 OCT - DEC
INTERNAL AUDIT FEES	243.00	0.00	243.00	250.00	7.00	
EXTERNAL AUDIT FEES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
NCALC SUBSCRIPTION	350.35	0.00	350.35	375.00	24.65	
DONATION - CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE	2,440.00	0.00	2,440.00	1,500.00	-940.00	
DONATION - PARISH MAGAZINE	0.00	250.00	250.00	750.00	500.00	YEARLY DONATION - MARCH 26?
S137 WREATH	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	WREATH ON ORDER
DATA PROTECTION RENEWAL	47.00	0.00	47.00	40.00	-7.00	
HIRE OF MEETING ROOM	144.00	0.00	144.00	165.00	21.00	
TRAINING	0.00	48.00	48.00	100.00	52.00	POSSIBLE IF NEW CLLR JOINS
STATIONERY / TONER		100.00	100.00	150.00	50.00	
WEBSITE COSTS	0.00	899.00	899.00	0.00	-899.00	£749 PLUS £25 PER MONTH
PLAY EQUIP INSPECTION		160.00	160.00	160.00	0.00	
ELECTION COSTS		932.00	932.00	932.00	0.00	WE MAY GET SOME CHARGES
PLAY AREA		200.00	200.00	500.00	300.00	
DOG BIN	174.99	264.50	439.49	0.00	-439.49	NEW BIN FOR WEST STREET
CHAIR PILATES	852.75	587.25	1,440.00	1,440.00	0.00	
VAT	535.77	565.00	1,100.77	1,000.00	-100.77	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	12,652.21	9,799.35	22,490.04	20,007.30	-2,482.74	