



Drawn by Rosemary Ingram

Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 25th November** 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 Sandhu

In Attendance: Mrs S Wong – Parish Clerk and 4 Parishioners

Item No	
1151/2025	<p>Public Session – Parishioner Points – Lasting up to 15 minutes</p> <p>4 Parishioners were in attendance. Mr A McCarter raised concerns regarding a recent litter pick along Lower Ecton Lane carried out by the Northants Litter Wombles. In 4 hours, they never made it passed the entrance to the Ecton Household Waste Recycling Centre. During this time, they retrieved an outstanding 81 fridges, 72 tyres, and collected 102 bags of waste! Action: Clerk will contact the Wombles to give thanks and recognition for their efforts and also make contact with the waste recycling centre directly.</p> <p>The remaining parishioners raised their concerns with parking of vehicles on the corner - junction of Church Way. The parking of vehicles makes exiting the junction dangerous as drivers' line of sight is affected and drivers have to pull out of the junction on to the High Street to be able to see. Unitary Councillor Scott Brown has been in talks with the parishioners and has advised yellow line could be the way forward. The Parish Council has explored this option a few years ago but was informed by Highways we wouldn't be successful with an application. Action: The Clerk will arrange a site visit with a Highways representative in the new year to discuss what options are available to explore and also enquire about if a mirror can be installed at the Junction of Ecton Grange?</p>
1152/2025	<p>To Receive Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs C Adams, Mr S Grisewood and Unitary Cllrs S Brown and Cllr V Jessop</p>
1153/2025	<p>Receive any Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No Declarations of Interest were received</p>
1154/2025	<p>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 23rd September 2025</p> <p>It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on the 23rd September having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Mr I Whittaker.</p>
1155/2025	<p>To receive a report from North Northamptonshire Cllr Scott Brown and to Receive any updates regarding reducing the speed limit of the old A4500, Request for Yellow Lines in Church Way & Ecton Refuse Centre update</p> <p>Unitary Cllr Scott Brown was unable to attend the meeting but was able to send in an update report for the meeting.</p>

	<p>Reducing the Speed limit on A4500 Unfortunately, the reduction of the speed limit on the A4500 was rejected at the recent board panel meeting. He will submit a request to reduce the speed limit to 30 throughout the village at the next panel meeting.</p> <p>Ecton Household Waste Recycling Centre Scott has no further update on Ecton residents being able to use the Waste Recycling Centre for free since the new procedures for using the centre came into force recently, only allowing those living within the West Northants boundary of which Ecton is not. Residents can use the centre but at a cost per visit.</p> <p>Yellow Lines in the Village Scott has received communications from some residents regarding the need for yellow lines in Church Way. Scott is happy to support the PC with an application if the PC decides this is the way they want to move forward.</p> <p>Grants Scott will be meeting up Cllr C Adams to complete a grant application for another round of chair Pilates.</p>
1156/2025	<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>
1157/2025	<p>Receive any Police Updates from Cllr Ian Whittaker The Chairman Mr I Whittaker had no police updates to report at this time. No Police reports have been sent to Cllr I Whittaker in the last two months.</p>
1158/2025	<p>Correspondence – WNC Newsletters – Ian Whittaker Cllr I Whittaker reported that parishioners are receiving the West Northants Council (WNC) Newsletters despite Ecton being out of the WNC border.</p> <p>The Immediate Justice Programme from the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone has approached the PC for suggestions of areas within Ecton that their low level crime offenders can attend to, as an alternative to prosecution. Members suggested that Lower Ecton Lane and Wash Brook Lane would be good areas for litter picking. Action: Clerk to forward these locations on.</p> <p>Infrastructure and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – A consultation is running until the 21st December 2025 and is available to download from the North Northamptonshire Council website.</p>
1159/2025	<p>Receive an update on the updating of the Parish Website – Cllr S Grisewood Cllr S Grisewood was not in attendance but has confirmed the PC has now taken over the ownership of the Ecton Village website. The .gov domain will be linked to the website and the old domain removed. Updates to the website will be made in the next few months.</p>
1160/2025	<p>Financial Matters a Review of financial statement as at 25/11/25 & propose payments for bank authorisation at meeting It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in November 2025 (Appendix A) via bank transfer. These payments were authorised online the following day 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 £26,722.04 less November payments of £890.00 = £25,882.04</p>

	<p>This is broken down into £3,319 David Cross funds, £113.52 Playing Field Funds , £211.00 Chair Pilates Grant and £22,238.46 Parish Council Funds.</p> <p>Income received since September 2025 Bank Interest £77.37. Financial reports were received for information.</p> <p>b. Note submission of the Playing Field Accounts YE 31.3.25 to the Charity Commission It was noted that the Playing Field Accounts for the year end 31st March 2025 have been submitted and received by the Charity Commission.</p> <p>c. Discuss and approve draft budget for 2026/2027 and agree level of precept for 2026/2027 Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated an updated draft budget for 2026/2027. The budget was discussed and it was RESOLVED to keep the precept level at £16,335.00. Based on tax base figures of 225 paying households, for Ecton band D the cost will be £72.60 and increase from the current year of £71.96 with 227 households.</p>
1161/2025	<p>Village Services</p> <p>a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field There were no concerns to report at the Playing Field. It was noted the annual playground H&S Inspection will be due in December, to be carried out by Seagrave Inspections.</p> <p>b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower Ecton Lane fly tipping, maintenance and cleaning of bus shelters and ordering grit for salt bins It was noted that the sign in Crow Lane that was overgrown by foliage has finally been cut back. The bus shelters on the A4500 were covered in thick foliage, Cllr D Dicks has attended to this by cutting the Elder brambles back.</p> <p>Cllr D Dicks has inspected the grit bins in the village and at present no salt top up is required for any of them. Action: To continue monitoring usage.</p> <p>It was noted that Cllrs N Bond and D Dicks have cut back the bushes that were growing around the war memorial. However, there are more bushes growing around the sides of the Shrine. Action: Clerk to contact Hayeswood Landscapes to ask for a quote to cut this right back?</p> <p>Also, the footpath running from West Street into Main Street is starting to be become overgrown with brambles and nettles. Action: Clerk to instruct Hayeswood Landscapes to clear these away.</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 has now been cancelled. Action: Clerk to see if the new dog bin can be sold to another Parish Council.</p>
1162/2025	<p>Receive any reports from Parish Councillors There were no Councillor reports.</p>
1163/2025	<p>Discuss any planning related matters including those not yet determined It was noted that there are lots of objections to the application by Green Hill Solar Farm. Their website has lots of information on it. Ecton Parish Council are not able to do anything with regards to the application.</p> <p>25/01422/TCA – Tree Notification of works – 55 West Street, Ecton. The PC has no comments at this time.</p>

	<p>25/01098/HFUL – Removal of Chimney Stack – 43 High Street, Ecton. The PC has no comments at this time.</p> <p>EN0210007 – Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire – EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification - The PC has no comments at this time.</p> <p>25/000979/TCA – Remove Holy Tree at front of the property – 86 High Stret, Ecton. This application was approved on the 6th October 2025.</p> <p>25/01583/TCA – Proposed works to trees – 1 Parson Close, Ecton. This application was approved on the 20th November 2025.</p>
1164/2025	<p>Progress any Matters Arising from the previous minutes not covered by items on the agenda There were no matters arising to discuss.</p>
1165/2025	<p>Discuss any items to be considered for the next meeting There were no extra items to be considered for the next council meeting at this time.</p>
1166/2025	<p>Date of next meeting – Meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 27th January 2026 It was RESOLVED to hold the next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 27th January 2026 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
	<p>Close: The meeting ended at 8.45pm</p>

Signed by Date

Appendix A

1160/2025 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 November

Payment Method	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details
DD	76.26	3.81	Valda Energy	Street Lighting costs 1.11.25 To 30.11.2025
BT	320.60	0.83	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 01.11.25 to 25.11.25 18 hours @ LCP 27 £19.81pph = £356.58 Office & Broadband £35.42 Tax deductions £71.40
BT	71.40	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI Contribution £0 Tax S Wong £71.40
BT	318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting October
BT	160.00	0.00	Shevolution Fitness	Hire of Pilates Teacher in November 2025
BT	20.00	0.00	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath

Total value of payments £966.26

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

Payment Method	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details
BT	429.80	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 23.9.25 to 31.10.25 23 hours @ LCP 27 £19.81 = £455.63 Office & Broadband £35.42 Mileage £17.10 Stationery £10.54 Tax deductions £91.00
BT	96.79	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI £5.79 Tax S Wong £91.00
BT	318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Grass Cutting September
BT	56.25	0.00	Ecton Village Hall	Room Hire for Chair Pilates October 2025
BT	160.00	0.00	Shevolution Fitness	Hire of Pilates Teacher in October 2025
BT	97.80	16.30	Eon Energy	Light Repair to St Light 21 Opp 11a High Street

Total value of payments £1,158.64

Discuss and approve draft budget for 2026/2027

ECTON PARISH COUNCIL - EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET 2026/27
AS AT 25.11.25

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	170.59					
CHAIR PILATES GRANT	1,440.00					
TOTAL INCOME	37,340.09					
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	BUDGETED FOR 2026/27
CLERKS SALARY & HMRC	4,123.76	1,800.00	5,923.76	5,775.00	-148.76	6,000.00
STREET LIGHTING	2,579.25	800.00	3,379.25	3,245.30	-133.95	3,000.00
INSURANCE	561.52	0.00	561.52	600.00	38.48	600.00
VERGE MOWING	2,180.00	330.00	2,510.00	3,000.00	490.00	3,000.00
INTERNAL AUDIT FEES	243.00	0.00	243.00	250.00	7.00	275.00
EXTERNAL AUDIT FEES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NCALC SUBSCRIPTION	350.35	0.00	350.35	375.00	24.65	400.00
DONATION - CHURCHYARD	2,440.00	0.00	2,440.00	1,500.00	-940.00	1,500.00
DONATION - PARISH MAGAZINE	0.00	250.00	250.00	750.00	500.00	500.00
S137 WREATH	20.00	0.00	20.00	25.00	5.00	25.00
DATA PROTECTION RENEWAL	47.00	0.00	47.00	40.00	-7.00	55.00
HIRE OF MEETING ROOM	144.00	0.00	144.00	165.00	21.00	165.00
TRAINING	0.00	48.00	48.00	100.00	52.00	150.00
STATIONERY / TONER	20.25	80.00	100.25	150.00	49.75	150.00
WEBSITE COSTS	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	-100.00	150.00
PLAY EQUIP INSPECTION	0.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	0.00	175.00
ELECTION COSTS	0.00	100.00	100.00	932.00	832.00	0.00
PLAY AREA	0.00	200.00	200.00	500.00	300.00	500.00
DOG BIN	174.99	264.50	439.49	0.00	-439.49	0.00
CHAIR PILATES	1,229.00	211.00	1,440.00	1,440.00	0.00	0.00
VAT	663.99	300.00	963.99	1,000.00	36.01	1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14,777.11	4,643.50	19,420.61	20,007.30	586.69	17,645.00

NOTES

TOTAL INCOME 2025/ 2026	37,340.09	
LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2025/ 2026	19,420.61	
PARISH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2026/2027		17,919.48
ANTICIPATED VAT REFUND TO 31.3.26	963.99	
GRASS MOWING GRANT	152.97	19,036.44 Total funds to c/f to 26-27

BUDGET FOR 2026/2027	17,645.00
PLUS 10% CONTINGENCY WITHOUT PILATES	1,764.50
TOTAL	19,409.50

PC FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2026/27	19,036.44
LESS BUDGETED COSTS	19,409.50
LEAVES SURPLUS FUNDS FOR PROJECTS	-373.06

IF WE KEEP THE PRECEPT THE SAME	16,335.00
WOULD GIVE RESRVES TOTAL FOR 2026/27	15,961.94