



Painted by Rodney Ingram

Ecton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting of Ecton Parish Council** held in the Village Hall, High Street, Ecton on **Tuesday 28th July 2026** at 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: Mrs S Wong – Parish Clerk & Unitary Councillor Vicki Jessop & 1
Parishioner

Item No	
1225/2026	Public Session – Parishioner Points – Lasting up to 15 minutes 1 x Parishioner was in attendance and spoke regarding agenda item 1232/b. He was concerned that Ecton Estates were not allowing residents to become new allotment members at Ecton Allotments and asked if the PC could make contact with Fisher German, Ecton Estates agents to find out why? Action: The Clerk will make contact with Fisher German.
1226/2026	To Receive Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr S Grisewood and Unitary Cllr Scott Brown.
1227/2026	Receive any Declarations of Interest Cllr S Bell declared that she was a regular attendee of the Chair Pilates – agenda item 1234/b.
1228/2026	To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 19th May 2026 It was RESOLVED the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parish Council held on the 19th May 2026 having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Mr I Whittaker.
1229/2026	To receive a report from North Northamptonshire Councillor Vicki Jessop Cllr Vicki Jessop reported the following NNC Update: Transport: Local Transport Grant: decisions should be end of summer. A4500: I attended a meeting with MP Stuart Andrew, and Leader of the Council Martin Griffiths on 13 July to discuss the appeal letter in respect of a highways request to reduce Ecton Village section on A4500 to 30 mph. Flagged the vulnerable pedestrians using this section of road. Awaiting the outcome. Environment: A Green Flag Award has been given to Sywell Country Park during the scheme's 30th anniversary year for being one of the best managed green spaces in the country. Food Waste: Here is the link for what can go into food caddies. https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/bins/food-waste-recycling-starting-kettering-and-wellingborough-areas

	Grants: Young People: Grants to support projects that help young people thrive and reach their full potential are being made available. Local organisations and community groups are invited to apply. £76,500 Youth Offer Small Grants Scheme is open for applications, with grants between £500 and £2,500. The grants are available to organisations, community and voluntary groups working with young people aged 11 to 19 (and up to 25 years with SEND). Details can be found at: Youth offer small grants scheme North Northamptonshire Council. Apply by 13 August 2026.
1230/2026	Parish Council Vacancies – Discuss any Applications No applications of interest have been received. Action: The Clerk will continue to advertise the Parish Councillor vacancy and provide supporting information on what a Parish Councillor does on social media and place a new advert in the noticeboards. The Chairman will also put something in the Ecton Magazine regarding the role and that of the PC.
1231/2026	Receive any Police Updates from Councillor Ian Whittaker The Chairman Cllr I Whittaker had no police updates to report at this time. The Police are looking for things that they can investigate. Ian was asked to find out if motorbikes riding down Green Lane are perceived to be a nuisance and if it is illegal for them to ride there? Action: Ian will ask the police if they make their presence known at Green Lane?
1232/2026	Correspondence a. Letter to Secretary of State – Despite the Clerk writing to the Secretary of State three times regarding WNC & NNC the PC hasn't received any responses. The Chairman Cllr I Whittaker has forwarded a copy of the PC's letter to our local MP Stuart Andrew, to see if he can get a response on the PC's behalf, failing that, the Chairman will contact the local press. b. Ecton Allotments – This item was discussed under agenda item 1225/26 Public Session. Action: The Clerk will make contact with Fisher German.
1233/2026	Receive an update on the updating of the Parish Website and when it will go live – Cllr S Grisewood Prior to the meeting, Cllr S Grisewood reported to the Clerk that the Accessibility Statement has been tried and tested and uploaded to the new website. The Councillor vacancy notice will be uploaded to the website. It was noted the website could use some extra images on it. A redirection notice also needs to be placed on the old website redirecting users to the new PC website. Action: The Clerk will contact Sheila Ingram to see if the PC can use Rodney Ingrams illustration of Ecton as the websites main image? Cllr S Grisewood to make website changes as above.
1234/2026	Financial Matters a Review of financial statement as at 28/07/26 & propose payments for bank authorisation at meeting It was RESOLVED to approve payments to be made in July 2026 (Appendix A) via bank transfer. These payments were authorised online during 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 £33,869.18 less July payments of £785.91 = £33,083.27 This is broken down into £3,356.25 David Cross funds, £24.18 Playing Field Funds, £36.00 Chair Pilates Grant and £29,666.84 Parish Council Funds. Income received since May 2026 29.5.26 £25.83 Bank Interest and 30.06.26 £26.74 Bank Interest. Financial reports were received for information.

	b. Does the PC want to continue with Chair Pilates now NNC funding is no longer available It was Resolved not to use PC funds to fund a new season of chair Pilates classes in September. Action: Cllr C Adams, will look into the classes being run at a small cost to attendees instead. Cllr C Adams will also look into the Youth Grants NNC Councillor Vicki Jessops reported in her earlier report and see if the PC can organise anything on behalf of Ecton Youth. The deadline for applications is 13th August, which is very tight, so quite likely to short a time frame to put a proposal together. Internal Financial Inspection for 2026-2027 It was noted that the first Internal Financial Inspection for the period end 30th June 2026 was carried out on the 15th July 2026 by Cllr N Bond. Nigel found all receipts and payments to have been recorded accurately during his financial inspection.
1235/2026	Village Services a Receive any update reports on the Playing Field Alistair McCarter has repaired the concrete path on behalf of the Council. His concrete costs will be re-imbursed to him. b Receive updates and discuss any village maintenance matters inc the Lower Ecton Lane It was discussed many areas in the village could do will another spraying of weed kill. Action: Clerk to instruct Hayeswood Landscapes to carry out another weed kill of the village. It was also discussed that a new fly tip had been dumped along Lower Ecton Lane this week. Action: Councillor Vicki Jessop will report for the fly tip to be cleared away. c Speed limits in the village discuss the PC's next steps The Transport Grant decisions will be made by the end of summer. The council has submitted an application which includes for measures to be put in place to be able to cross over the old A4500 highway more safely. On the 13th of July Councillor Vicki Jessop, MP Stuart Andrew and the Leader of NNC Martin Griffiths discussed Ecton's problems with vehicle speeds and our recent appeal letter. NNC have a new speed management plan. Action: Councillor Vicki Jessop will follow up for a response.
1236/2026	Receive any reports from Parish Councillors A number of large Anglian Water vehicles have been seen travelling through the village recently. The Clerk has reported them all to Anglian Water to remind them their vehicles are not to use Ecton Village as a cut through. The question was raised do the ANPR cameras in the village flag the Police when HGV's travel through the village? Action: The Clerk will contact the Police to find out.
1237/2026	Discuss any planning related matters a 25/02199/FUL – 2 Parsons Close – Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a 3-bedroom detached one and a half story - This application has been approved by NNC taking the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan into account. No permitted development is one of the conditions applied to the approved application. Action: Clerk to request a copy of the conditions made regarding the materials to be used. b 26/01121/LBC – 86 High Street, Ecton – Listed Building Consent – Remove existing surface in front garden and replace with grassed area and replace fencing. This application was withdrawn 16.7.2026 26/01135/HFUL – 47 West Street, Ecton – Planning permission – Single Storey rear extension to form habitable accommodation (ground floor bedroom, gym & ensuite) – This

	application was approved by NNC on 25.6.26. c Receive any updates on setting up a new Ecton Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee The Clerk has heard back from Mike Haybryne the planning consultant the council employed to help create the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan and he has informed the Clerk he won't be able to help with the updating of the plan as he has retired. Action: The Clerk will contact Sue Bateman – Planning Policy at NNC to see if she can recommend anyone in house who could check the councils plan for any minimal changes? Or speak with locality.org.uk.
1238/2026	Progress any Matters Arising from the previous minutes not covered by items on the agenda Cllr Vicki Jessop reported that Councillor Scott Brown was tasked to find out what was allowed to be put in the new food caddies being circulated to parishioners shortly? Vicki has provided a link on her Councillors report agenda item 1229/26.
1239/2026	Discuss any items to be considered for the next meeting Grass cutting contract to be put on the agenda for review.
1240/2026	Exclusion of the Press and Public To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
1241/2026	To receive and consider a formal request from the Parish Clerk regarding a temporary variation to contract terms and a period of extended unpaid leave in 2027 The Council considered a formal request from the Parish Clerk for a temporary variation to contract terms and a period of extended unpaid leave in 2027. Resolved: That the request from the Parish Clerk for a temporary variation to contract terms and a period of extended unpaid leave during 2027 be approved, subject to the Clerk ensuring temporary cover arrangements are put in place, and preparing a detailed handover file in December covering ongoing projects, planning applications, key contact details and carrying out a handover with the income locum.
1242/2026	Date of next meeting – Meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 22nd September 2026. It was RESOLVED to hold the next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 in Ecton Village Hall at 7.30pm.
	Close: The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

Signed byDate

1234/2026 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 July 2026

Payment Method	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details
DD	96.67	4.60	Valda Energy	Street Lighting costs June 2026
BT	339.34	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 1.7.26 to 31.7.26 18 hours @ LCP 28 £20.29ph = £365.22 Office & Broadband £35.42 Mileage 26 miles @0.45ppm = £11.70 Tax deductions £73.00
BT	73.00	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI Contribution £0.00 Tax S Wong £73.00
BT	48.58	8.10	Toner Giant	Ink for Printer
BT	318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Village Maintenance – Grass Cutting for June 26
BT	6.99	1.17	Mr A McCarter	Concrete for the path in the play park

Total value of payments £882.58

Note approved payments made out of meeting in June 2026 by the Clerk using delegated powers

Payment Method	Total Amount	Vat	Payee	Details
BT	109.35	5.21	Valda Energy	Street Lighting costs May 2026
BT	376.31	0.00	Shirley Wong	Clerks Salary 01.06.26 to 30.06.26 21 hours @ LCP 28 £20.29 = £426.09 Office & Broadband £35.42 Tax deductions £85.20
BT	86.56	0.00	HMRC	Employer NI £1.6 Tax S Wong £85.20
BT	7.55	0.62	Shirley Wong - Expenses	Secretary of State Recorded Delivery costs £3.80 & Stationery £3.75
BT	318.00	53.00	Hayeswood Landscapes	Village Maintenance – Grass Cutting for June 26
BT	1500.00	0.00	ECTON PCC	Grant towards maintenance costs at the closed churchyard
BT	200.00	0.00	Shevolution Fitness	Chair Pilates June 2026

Total value of payments £2,597.77