

Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council

held on 10th March 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall, New Road, Easton on the Hill

Present: Cllr Green, Cllr Lawson, Cllr Mountain, Cllr Nicol (Chairman), Cllr Watson (ViceChairman), Cllr Whileman and Cllr Woodman.

Clerk: J Rice and members of the public: 1

24/170	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive apologies sent to the Clerk. Apologies were received from Cllr Holwell and Cllr McAllister. Cllr Bradberry did not attend.	
24/171	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to update their register if necessary. (Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business). There were no declarations of interest made.	
24/172	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting. A max of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda. Chairman to remind Councillors of one of the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life. The member of the public did not want to raise anything in public participation.	
24/173	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 th February 2025, previously circulated. Chairman to sign. The minutes were changed due to some factual errors and the correct version agreed and signed by the Chairman.	
24/174	MATTERS ARISING from previous meeting. Cllr Woodman put forward for Parish Path Warden. Notice sent to shop re thank you for collection (no decision on what spend on as yet). BandM Recycling direct debit cancelled/emailed. These matters were noted and also that the donated flagpole sleeve has been purchased and a location will be chosen for installation at Millenium Garden.	
24/175	GOVERNANCE, TRAINING AND FINANCE	
	175.1	To receive finance report and internal checks until end of February 2025 and resolve any queries, to follow. To note reduced level of reserves predicted and advice on non standard expenditure to be restricted to April onwards. The latest position was received and noted. It was suggested that the car park expenditure be shown separately from the playing field/pavilion project which was agreed. The Clerk again reported that the current position is tight on reserves being carried forward into the next financial year due to mainly the car park and pavilion refurb coming from some of the reserves. The advice not to spend any additional unbudgeted amounts was noted and agreed. The Chairman asked everyone to be careful, including the Clerk's hours, however the Clerk explained this is always at the contracted level and no more. Action All
	175.2	To receive update on campaign for local Councillor elections in May 2025. Agree any direct approaches to village groups and others and/or a flyer. Receive and note nomination papers and instructions on completion and return date for councillors continuing on and any new individuals to encourage. Cllr Nicol explained he had made a personal plea in the What's on the Hill and flyers have been delivered through all resident doors. He stated he has had at least two enquiries and urged all Councillors to ask individuals to try to get a contested election. It was confirmed the nomination papers need to be delivered to Kettering offices and Cllr Woodman has offered to take anyone's who wishes him to. Action All
	175.3	To receive and note update on arrangements and Cllr attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 6.30pm.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

		Councillors confirmed their attendance and the format was confirmed. The Clerk will advertise the change of order. It was suggested and agreed that Councillors write a few reflective statements about being a Councillor to be read out on the evening. Action All/Clerk
24/176	PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYING FIELD WORKING GROUP (PFWG)	
	176.1	To agree cessation of Playing Field Working Group and agree ad hoc booking policy in the meantime. It was agreed that there would no more meetings of the PFWG and all issues and decisions would be brought to full council until the review of the committees and working groups in May. It was further confirmed and agreed that no more football ad hoc bookings had been, and will be, agreed until the new season.
	176.2	To receive and note update from meeting with WPFC on arrangements and resolve action in line with principles agreed at the last meeting, herewith, and issues circulated and raised by resident. An update from Cllr Nicol had been circulated following his meeting with WPFC and it was noted that there is no commitment over and above what they are doing now, so expected income/costs will not be covered, however they are thankful for the Parish Council's understanding of their position. It was noted that they will possibly be working with Ketton FC to build up the provision of youth football. It was further noted that, as previously stated, grants are more readily available to encourage youth and ladies football. It was noted that the hire principles and proposal discussed at the last meeting, in line with the issues raised by residents, were not raised with WPFC at this time. It was agreed they have cleared the pavilion and holders will be asked to hand keys back. Action Clerk/Cllr Nicol
	176.3	To resolve that the agreement terms for all hire for football next season is to be agreed after May 2025/before the next season, with revised proposal and principles. It was made clear that the issues raised by the residents at the last meeting was a factor in the restrictions placed on the current hire arrangements, however, it was agreed that hire agreements for the new season are subject to new arrangements.
	176.4	To review and agree cricket club hire agreement in line with hire principles and resident complaints over usage and agree new hire costs to include utilities charge of £50 pm. Current hire agreement attached FYI. It was noted that Addida have been consulted over the new hire charge. The increased usage of the field at weekends, in light of the previous complaints, was noted and it was suggested that it is different from football and it was agreed to see how it goes. The arrangement with payments by Addida to K Cox for work on the pitch/wicket was noted as separate from other Parish Council Grounds Maintenance and grass cutting contract work.
	176.5	To receive and note request from ACC (Addida cricket club) for additional hire of pavilion on 22/3/25 3pm to 6pm and resolve/agree cost. It was agreed to allow this booking with no charge.
	176.6	To receive and note list of work required at the pitch/PF and resolve costs of £225 for rolling pitch – to be paid in April, herewith. The list that was circulated was noted and agreed, with any payment for rolling of the pitch to be made in April due to the current budget situation.
	176.7	Health and safety - to note feedback and update on monthly play equipment and pavilion checks and agree any necessary new actions. To note some work to be agreed/paid in April. To note audit carried out and consider employing qualified H and S person to do an annual check in May. The Clerk stated that in her opinion there was nothing urgent and a list of jobs for the GMC to do has been drawn up and some equipment/painting jobs will be done in April. The raised issue of a possible fire risk in the Woodland area was not thought to be a problem. It was thought that a local Health and Safety trained person (for the village hall) might be able to do a pavilion check in future. Action Clerk
	176.8	To note community grant received and agree to accept offer and therefore decrease pieces of equipment for the amount offered – quote suggestions received. It was agreed to accept the lesser grant of 4k and reduce the number of pieces of equipment to install. It was further agreed to enquire about the cost of the combi pull down and chest press and purchase that with one other piece if possible. Action Clerk To note grant from Ward Councillor (Member Empowerment Fund) still available however Community Grant project now covered. Resolve to apply for £500 MEF for alternative project/resource. Suggestion from Cllr Woodman to do fencing, costings to follow. The Clerk confirmed that the MEF monies are still available to the Parish Council and it was agreed to apply to purchase new and extended timber fencing around the pond. Action Clerk

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

24/177	PLANNING COMMITTEE (Cllr Lawson, Cllr Mountain, Cllr McAllister, Cllr Watson and Cllr Woodman)	
	177.1	To note latest feedback from the Planning Committee, and/or meeting if held. To decide planning application for village hall kitchen storage area. It was confirmed there was no meeting of the committee. The application for the new storage area was discussed and it was agreed to support this application. Action Clerk to send.
	177.2	To note request for pre planning meeting by Froments for proposed large new build/extension and agree response/date. It was agreed that an informal meeting to hear outline plans could be held with the developers outside of the next planning committee meeting. Action Clerk
24/178	REPORTS	FROM REPRESENTATIVES
	178.1	Checkers reports/village maintenance a) To receive checker reports from Councillor Watson and address any issues raised. Cllr Green for March, volunteer needed for April/Cllr McAllister? There were no check reports submitted as yet and Cllr Woodman agreed to do April and May. b) To note any new reports of village maintenance and resolve any action, including bin lid. There were no new reports. c) To receive and note update from Parish Path warden. There was no update.
	178.2	Village Hall 1) To note any update from Cllr Green, VH representative. There was no update.
	178.3	Police Liaison Representative 1) To receive and note any update, Cllr Whileman. There was no new update. Cllr Nicol reported that the feedback from the Cuppa with a Copper (at the café) had been very positive.
	178.4	Traffic Working Group 1) To receive update from working group/Cllr Woodman on device. There was no update.
24/179	ALLOTMENTS	
	179.1	To note tenancy renewals and invoices to be sent out for 25/26. The clerk confirmed she had sent and posted/delivered tenancy renewals and will see if any vacancies in April and advertise them plus the volunteer Manager post. Action Clerk
24/180	TREES AND GREENS WORKING GROUP (INCL NATURE RECOVERY) (Cllr Green, Cllr Mountain, Cllr Holwell) a) To receive and note update on nature recovery plans and installation of boxes. It was reported that the box installation and plans are all going well. The new trees were planted on the playing field by the GMC and will be watered by him, plus new sleeves were agreed could be purchased. b) To note Pest Control contractor concerns over problems with fruit trees on a playing field and resolve action. The Clerk had received concerns over fruit trees attracting vermin and wasps etc. It was decided that any surplus of fruit in future will be cleared quickly. Action all c) To receive any other feedback and update from Trees and Greens Group. There was no further update.	
24/181	COMMUNITY SUPPORT/ENGAGEMENT/ISSUES/VILLAGE GROUPS - To suggest and agree any specific items for April's What's on the Hill. It was agreed that Cllr Nicol will do a section on the councillor elections and the cricket club commitments. - To receive and note update on the Priest's House, Cllr Lawson. Cllr Lawson explained that recent events with Priest House management looked like it being at possible risk, with maintenance issues not being addressed, despite its popularity. It was agreed that if a letter from the Parish Council in support of this valued community asset is needed, it will be furnished. Action Cllr Lawson	
24/182	CLERK CORRESPONDENCE /INFORMATION TO NOTE: a) Resident concerns over parking of food van and other locations, herewith. This was received and noted and then discussed. Cllr Woodman had tried to get a resolution using the pub however participating residents were against moving the location. It was agreed to let the resident know and ask all drivers to park and drive sensibly especially at that time and around the village in general. Action Clerk	
24/183	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT To agree payments to be made as follows;	
	183.1	Clerk reimburse for HP ink plan shared with other PCs £8.52. £8.52
	183.2	Clerk reimburse for Microsoft package (increased) March home office allowance, plus mileage £8.49, £26, £2.70
	183.3	HMRC employer NI payment and employee tax/NI payment March £71.14
	183.4	Yu Energy Briers street lighting bill as per contract, paid by direct debit, January/Feb £25.84

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	183.5	Yu Energy electricity for street lighting, paid by DD, January	£403.92 and £16.41
	183.6	EDF Energy for pavilion usage for February	£74
	183.7	Village hall hire	£tbc
	183.8	Cloud storage for camera, paid by Clerk	£17.99
	183.9	Clerk salary/hours payable 31/3/25, £1030.02 less tax and NI due – £33.60 employee	£996.42
	183.10	Multipay card monthly fee and Unity bank charges, monthly	£3/£6
	183.11	Grounds Maintenance Contractor invoice for February, labour and materials, plus invoice for public liability insurance for all contracts	£120 plus £310.23 PLI
	183.12	WPFC for works done as per agreement appendix and invoiced previously	£100 not yet paid
	183.13	NCALC for training for elections course	£50.40
	183.14	Reimburse Cllr Woodman for parts for shelters storage	£30.97
	183.15	Eon maintenance contract lighting	£285.60
	183.16	Fen Tiger pest control	£800 paid
24/184	RECEIPTS	WPFC for hire/utility Ketton FC for hire Allotment rent received	Jan and Feb due £314.35/£75. £103.69 paid 20/2/25 £51.75 so far
24/185	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS The dates of the next meetings were noted as Wednesday 12 th March 2025 for the Parish Meeting and then full council on 14 th April 2025 at 7pm and the next Planning Committee meeting is to be agreed, dependent on new applications.		

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____