

## Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council

**held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall, New Road, Easton on the Hill.**

Present Cllr K Cox (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Davey (Chairman), Cllr J Garner (arrived 1955 166.1e), Cllr J Lyons, Cllr D Mitchell , Cllr J Stephenson and Cllr S Woodman and Clerk: Mrs J Rice.

There were 2 members of the public present.

<b>25/161</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive apologies sent to the Clerk.</b> There were apologies received from Cllr Holwell, Cllr Kaye, Cllr Kendall and Cllr Tungate.
<b>25/162</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
	To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to complete and 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). Cllr Cox raised a query regarding declarations of interest for item 172b) and then declared an interest in this item and later an interest in 166.1d. Cllr Mitchell confirmed a personal interest was declared at the Planning Committee meeting.
<b>25/163</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>
	<b>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.</b> A member of public raised a safety issue with tree stumps that are left in the Woodland area after the recent Nature Recovery group work there, and a request was made that the area is cordoned off. It was explained that action had been taken and it was not deemed to be urgent and that advice was given to ask Trees and Greens/Nature Recovery group to further assess it and advise about the tree stumps and rabbit holes. Another person raised that the list of matches at the end of the Drift had not been updated and this was acknowledged and will be rectified. They also asked that the time the football club will finish is also displayed and this will be looked at.
<b>25/164</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>
	<b>To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026, previously circulated. Chairman to sign.</b> The minutes were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.
<b>25/165</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING from previous meeting, not covered here. Local Plan alternative site response sent.</b> This was noted and also the Clerk raised the safety issue at the Woodland area that had arisen and been dealt with – see above.
<b>25/166</b>	<b>PLAYING FIELD, PAVILION, PLAY AREAS, WOODLAND AREA, SPORTS CLUB HIRE AGREEMENTS</b>
	It was agreed to change the order of the agenda to deal with 166.5 at this point.
	<p><b>166.1 Contractor/Health and safety –</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>a) to note feedback and updated GMC/other list of jobs and agree expenditure and work, plus any other actions necessary, including clearing the container/trophies, attached.</b></p> <p>The list of current work was received and noted and nothing urgent to deal with until a new GMC is contracted. The Clerk confirmed the PAT testing has been done and documented and action taken. Following a request to the Clerk to clear the container of old football items and old trophies, a discussion was held about this and it was agreed that a heritage/history display in the pavilion would be good and an item for a new group to action. <b>Action C/F</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>b) To receive and note quotes for Legionella disease risk assessment and resolve.</b></p> <p>The Clerk explained that specialist advice to assess the frequency and types of maintenance checks for the systems and usage in place is needed as no-one is sure. It was agreed to contract this out to a company for £295 from the 2 quotes received.</p> <p><b>Action Clerk</b></p>

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

		<p><b>c) To receive and note updated risk assessments for the pavilion and playing field and resolve any queries, herewith.</b> The RAs were received and noted and some feedback was given. They will be updated and circulated. <b>Action Clerk</b></p> <p><b>d) To receive and note updated draft GMC contract and discuss/agree, herewith, taking into account Trees and Greens idea to move hedge cutting and nettles to GCC.</b> The contract review was received and noted and it was agreed to remove some work to the grass cutting contract as stated, at the prices quoted. <b>Action Clerk</b></p> <p><b>e) To agree a way forward for recruitment of a new Grounds Maintenance Contractor or an alternative (as suggested by Cllr Woodman).</b> Cllr Woodman suggested that Councillors could do the work on a rota basis however this was not thought to be workable due to the amount of work. It was agreed to advertise the contract asap. <b>Action Clerk</b></p> <p><b>f) To agree how weekly and monthly checks are to be done in the meantime before a new GMC is contracted and agree training required. See checklists, herewith.</b> It was resolved that Cllr Cox will do the monthly checks for March and April and Cllrs Davey and Woodman will do the weekly checks. <b>Action Cllrs</b></p>
	166.2	<p><b>To receive and note revised hire agreements and agree hire charges and conditions, issues update circulated.</b> It was resolved that the cricket agreement is unchanged (as their complaint has been resolved) and the football agreement can be done at a later date before the next season. It was further agreed that the cricket club will again get the £100 pm offset their rental cost for the wicket works done, with invoices presented. <b>Action Clerk to C/F</b></p>
	166.3	<p><b>C/F To receive and note award of another Augean grant of £8490 for new swings/equipment at the Close play area and resolve action to accept or change and pay contributing landfill tax of £948, herewith.</b> The award of the grant was received and noted. It was resolved to leave the old swings in situ due to a new safety report and method of monitoring. It was further resolved to install a new piece of equipment – possibly a rota bounce if quotes/design allow - and swap 2 swings for a basket swing. <b>Action Clerk to pursue 3 comparable quotes and supplier/costs tba at the next meeting.</b></p>
	166.4	<p><b>To note the poor state of the surface of Ketton Drift and resolve action or not.</b> The condition of the Drift was noted. It was resolved to take some action and pay £150 max. for materials for a volunteer to kindly do the work.</p>
	166.5	<p><b>See item 166. To receive proposal to set up a delegated committee for playing field related business and decisions and resolve a way forward, circulated.</b> It was agreed that there is a lot of time spent in meetings on the playing field, hence the suggestion to take items out of full council . The pros and cons of a working group or committee were received and noted. The Clerk recommended that a committee can save time by making decisions about ongoing management and is more appropriate than a working group (normally set up for a project) that still has to have decisions agreed afterwards by full council. It was agreed to trial another playing field working group from May 2026 and agree the terms of reference, frequency of meetings and members at that point. <b>Action Clerk to C/F to May</b></p>
<b>25/167</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE, TRAINING AND FINANCE</b>	
	167.1	<p><b>To receive and note finance report and internal checks until end of February 2026 and resolve any queries, herewith, to assist in decision making.</b> The finance report was received and noted with no queries. The Clerk summarised the position as 95% spent on basic expenditure at 92% through the year so a slight improvement. Project budget is largely unspent so far (and will flow through to reserves). The bank balance is currently 26.9k and includes 8.7k earmarked reserves and general reserves are predicted at 12.5k taking off the expenditure to come. The Clerk will assist Cllr Cox with the finance checks. <b>Action Clerk/Cllr Cox</b></p>

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

	167.2	To receive feedback from any training attended and agree any new training requests/cost, including code of conduct/interests, circulated. There were no new requests.
	167.3	To agree amended IT policy, plus receive more feedback on “website MOT” for £145 and resolve way forward to comply with Assertion 10. It was resolved to pay for the MOT to sort out any accessibility issues with the website. <b>Action Clerk/Cllr Stephenson</b>
	167.4	To receive and note data protection training notes and resolve any queries, uncertainty, personal email addresses. This was noted with no queries and the email address is to be done asap. <b>Action Cllr Mitchell</b>
	167.5	To receive a revised recommendation from the staffing committee on the 2025/2026 pay increment to be applied from April 2025 and resolve. The Clerk left the room and then returned after a discussion had taken place. The Chairman confirmed that the recommendation was approved. <b>Action Clerk to process</b>
	167.6	To agree appointment of internal auditor, as previously. Cost tbc The appointment was approved as per AGAR requirements.
<b>25/168</b>	<b>PROJECTS</b>	
	168.1	To note resident survey delivered and further circulated and review and resolve any feedback or action. To confirm cancellation of subscription. Cllr Stephenson summarised briefly the 128 completed surveys so far and it was resolved to put a deadline of 20/3/26 and to do a final push for residents to complete it and hand in paper copies. It was resolved that a presentation of results can be done at the Annual Parish (Village) Meeting on the 27/4/26. Thanks were recorded to Mrs Healey and grandson for helping to deliver the survey copies. <b>Action Cllrs/Cllr Stephenson</b>
	168.2	To receive and note date for first aid/defib refresher training for residents on 15/4/26 and resolve any more action, including a PC donation. The Clerk confirmed the date was booked with the village hall and date advertised to residents. It was resolved to donate £50 to St John’s Ambulance. <b>Action Clerk</b>
	168.3	To agree Spring Close clean up date 21/3 or 28/3 and volunteer request/co-ordinator role. To note other pond work planned for nature recovery. It was resolved to leave the clean up at this time to allow the Trees and Greens/Nature Recovery Group and volunteers to do their pond work and plans in late Summer.
	168.4	To note all 19 streetlights have now been updated to LED and grant being processed. This was not covered due to time. To C/F
<b>25/169</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
	169.1	Checkers reports/village maintenance/salt bins/defibrillators/speed control measures a. To receive checker report from Cllr Cox for February and resolve any maintenance needed. To note March checker is Cllr Tungate and April is Cllr Woodman. This was not covered due to time. To C/F. Reports were returned to the Clerk by Cllr Cox before the meeting.
	169.2	Parish Path Warden (Cllr Woodman) To receive any update. This was not covered due to time. To C/F
	169.3	Village Hall (Cllr Lyons) To note any update from the PC representative Trustee. This was not covered due to time. To C/F
	169.4	Police Liaison Representative a) To hear any new feedback on police activity and feedback on village issues and agree any new action or defer until survey results in. Notes circulated. This was not covered due to time. To C/F
<b>25/170</b>	<b>ALLOTMENTS</b>	
	170.1	To note any update or issues and resolve action. Cllr Cox said that a tenant was giving up their allotment and another resident reported an issue with overhanging brambles into her garden to be dealt with and will be added to the list of jobs. <b>Action Clerk</b>
<b>25/171</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SUPPORT/ENGAGEMENT/ISSUES/VILLAGE GROUPS</b> - To suggest and agree any specific items for April’s What’s on the Hill and check/note of any new residents. This was not covered due to time. To C/F	

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

25/172	<b>TREES AND GREENS WORKING GROUP (INCL NATURE RECOVERY) Cllr Cox, Cllr Holwell, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Woodman, plus Cllr Tungate Climate and Action Champion.</b>	
	a) <b>To receive update on free trees for PC land.</b> This was not covered due to time. To C/F	
	b) <b>To receive and note reviewed grass cutting contract and possible extra costs and agree, herewith – see 166.1d plus resolve payment, in full, of contractor’s invoice for their public liability insurance.</b> This was received and noted with extras as agreed above at 166.1d, including the payment in full of the contractor’s insurance. <b>Action Clerk</b>	
25/173	<b>CLERK CORRESPONDENCE /INFORMATION TO NOTE/DECISIONS:</b>	
	- <b>C/F To resolve action to take with clerk’s old computer, any takers? Worth c.£50. Company will take for £20.</b> This was not covered due to time. To C/F	
	- <b>Campaign to survey mobile signal received in village and resolve support.</b> This was not covered due to time. To C/F	
25/174	<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE (Cllr Kaye, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Woodman, Cllr Tungate)</b>	
	174.1	<b>To note latest feedback from the Planning Committee meeting/applications.</b> <a href="https://publicaccess.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/">https://publicaccess.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/</a> These items were not covered due to time. To C/F
		<b>1. See attached minutes from the last meeting and updates/responses since;</b> <b>2. To note attendance at Local Plan review and feedback.</b>
25/175	<b>ORDERS FOR PAYMENT To agree payments to be made as follows; Payments were agreed as follows:</b>	
	175.1	Clerk reimburse for HP ink plan February shared with other PC £9.57, plus M/S office, plus mileage for February 2026
		£9.57, £8.49, £26, £8.10
	175.2	HMRC employer NI payment and employee tax/NI payment April.
		£278.48
	175.3	Yu Energy Briers/street lighting bills as per contract, paid by direct debit.
		£414.45/£66.21
	175.4	Yu energy bill pavilion
		£19.86
	175.5	Village hall hire
		£25
	175.6	Clerk salary/hours payable 31/3/26 less tax and NI due
		£933.66 plus back pay £322.68 less tax
	175.7	Multipay card monthly fee and Unity bank charges, monthly
		£3/£6
	175.8	Survey Monkey subscription February
		£75 paid by card
	175.9	Contributing third party grant payment to Augean
		£948 when applic.
	175.10	D Mitchell (Pothole filling)
		£150
	175.11	Handiman (K Cox) for reimbursement of public liability insurance
		£275.16
	175.12	Eon quarterly maintenance and Eon for LED light project (from grant)
		£281.40 and £7809
	175.13	Transfer to current account if VAT not received.
		£5000
	175.14	Fen Tiger pest control contract
		£800
	175.15	S Woodman for bench wood agreed January 2026 meeting
		£53.55
<b>Receipt</b>	175.16	Cans for cash donation
		£240 paid in 6/3/26
	175.17	Grant payment from NNC – second instalment and for defibs
		£3262 paid in 6/3/26 £750 paid in 13/2/26
25/176	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS</b> The date of the next full council meeting is on Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm in the village hall and the next Planning Committee meeting is to be agreed, dependent on new applications, usually the same date.	

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_