

Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council

held on 13th April 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, Cllr Holwell, Cllr Kaye, Cllr Kendall, Cllr J Lyons, Cllr D Mitchell, Cllr J Stephenson, Cllr Tungate and Cllr S Woodman

and Clerk: Mrs J Rice.

There was 1 member of the public present, plus Ward Councillor S. Fairhall.

25/177	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive apologies sent to the Clerk. There were no apologies, all Councillors were present.	
25/178	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillors must also update their registers when appropriate.	
	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). There were no declarations made.	
25/179	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. The member of the public mentioned that there were around 70 cars using the Drift for the sport over the weekend and drivers were going too fast, plus the fixtures board was still out of date. It was stated it is a playing field for the village not a sports field. This was noted.	
25/180	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 th March 2026, previously circulated. Chairman to sign. The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
25/181	MATTERS ARISING from previous meeting, not covered here. Vision ICT website MOTs to be done still. Ketton Drift potholes addressed. Free trees picked up and planted. Fence at allotments done. LED lights project completed and grant monitoring form completed. Defib check form updated. This was all noted.	
25/182	CLERK CORRESPONDENCE /INFORMATION TO NOTE/DECISIONS:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - C/F To resolve action on Clerk's old laptop. Worth c.£50. Co. will take for £20 or SW proposal. It was agreed that Cllr Woodman can have the laptop for use in the meetings. - C/F Campaign to survey mobile signal received in village and resolve support, herewith. It was agreed to support the campaign and share it accordingly. Action Clerk, all - To note first Oundle Cluster meeting date set for 27/4/26 and resolve attendance (APM) - This was noted but there were no volunteers to attend, however Ward Cllr S Fairhall said notes of the meeting will be shared. - To note request for interest in cluster meeting for managers of eg sports facilities meeting and resolve response, herewith. This was also noted and interest noted by the Ward Cllr S Fairhall. 	
25/183	C/F THE CLOSE GRANT SUPPLIER OF EQUIPMENT	
	183.1	Grant - To receive and note play equipment quotes and suppliers for new equipment at The Close to purchase with grant of £8500 and resolve preferred supplier, herewith summary. To follow. The options and recommendation from the sub-group were shared and noted and it was agreed to accept the quote from Wicksteed, as a whole package and within budget. Action Clerk to send details to Augean
25/184	GOVERNANCE, TRAINING AND FINANCE	
	184.1	To receive, note and agree finance report and internal checks until end of March 2026 and also the AGAR accounting statement in readiness for the internal audit meeting, herewith. The end of year finance report and accounting statement were received and noted. The Clerk said the basic budget ended up at 5% over budget with some key budget lines overspent eg lighting costs (being queried), training for a number of new Cllrs, insurance costs increase and playing field maintenance – this is offset by the hire income.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

		The bank balance is 21.3k with some earmarked reserves in this figure of 4.2k, leaving 17k in general reserves. This includes project budget of 3.5k carried forward as no new projects were started. The resident survey was carried out instead in order to inform the council's priorities in 26/27.
	184.2	To receive feedback from any training attended and agree any new training requests/cost, circulated. There was none.
	184.3	To note invites sent for Annual Parish Meeting on 27/4/26 and agree attendance and format (6:30 for 7pm start), plus budget for light refreshments. Draft agenda herewith. The update on the meeting was received and noted and a max budget of £100 agreed for refreshments. The Clerk suggested asking a representative from Highways to attend which was agreed. Cllrs agreed to attend where possible and Cllr Stephenson will present the resident survey results, with Cllr Davey as a back up. Cllrs will do reports for groups. Action All
	184.4	To receive and note feedback from NCALC Strategic Plan input requested, herewith. The feedback was received and noted. There were no requests or ideas for NCALC's plan.
	184.5	To receive and check current asset register for AGAR and insurance purposes to ensure fully insured, renewal due 31/5/26, herewith. The asset register will be updated and values increased following comments and checks to be done on buildings and machinery values. An initial insurance quote for 500k building value to be obtained. Action Clerk
25/185	PROJECTS	
	185.1	To receive and note results of recent resident survey and discuss and resolve next steps. Cllr J Stephenson presented a summary of the results which were noted. It was commented on how good the presentation is and thanks given. The main highlights and takeaways were noted and will be presented at the Parish Meeting, and also on the council website and What's on the Hill. Action Cllr Stephenson, Clerk
	185.2	To note first aid/defib refresher training for residents on 15/4/26 advertised and resolve any more action, including help/attendance on the night. The update on the training was received and noted and the clash with the church meeting discussed. It was agreed that the venue may be changed to the church if the organisers were ok with it. Action Clerk
25/186	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES	
	186.1	Checkers reports/village maintenance/salt bins/defibrillators/speed control measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To receive checker report from Cllr Tungate for March and resolve any maintenance needed and April checker is Cllr Woodman and new rota, May is Cllr Kaye. The checker report was received and noted with no action necessary. b. To note report of work required to clear brambles/tree clean at Spring Close (and allotment hedge) and resolve contractor or volunteer. It was agreed to ask the Nature Recovery group if they can do this as part of their work in Summer. The hedge at the allotments has been done and will be checked for any more needed. Action Cllr S Woodman.
	186.2	Parish Path Warden (Cllr Woodman) To receive any update. There was no update.
	186.3	Village Hall (Cllr Lyons) To note any update from the PC representative Trustee. Cllr J Lyons updated the meeting on the project to replace the flat roof section, being funded by the VH charity themselves.
	186.4	Police Liaison Representative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To hear any new feedback on police activity and feedback on village issues and agree any new action. To note opportunity to ask questions of P,F and CC. It has been reported that in some specific areas there is thought to be regular drug dealing. It was noted that the survey reported 65% of responders would not object to use of CCTV, however, only 16% responded to say they thought there was a drugs issue. Concerns over the management of the CCTV data and costs were expressed. It was agreed that a small group to investigate further the installation of CCTV will be formed. Action Clerk to C/F
25/187	ALLOTMENTS	
	187.1	To note renewals nearly all done and all plots taken atm. This was noted.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

25/188	COMMUNITY SUPPORT/ENGAGEMENT/ISSUES/VILLAGE GROUPS - To suggest and agree any specific items for May's What's on the Hill and check/note of any new residents for welcome pack. It was agreed to mention the survey results, defib training feedback and the new resident letter of information, mobile phone signal survey. Action Clerk	
25/189	TREES AND GREENS WORKING GROUP (INCL NATURE RECOVERY) Cllr Cox, Cllr Holwell, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Woodman, plus Cllr Tungate Climate and Action Champion. (Last tree survey Aug 2025) a) To receive and note proposals for Woodland Area and resolve to grind out tree stumps as a perceived risk or possibly erect two "Take care, uneven ground" signs for £20 – see circulated feedback from Clerk and project leader. The report from the Woodland Area Nature Recovery project leader was received and noted and also the advice from the responsible Health and Safety Officer/Clerk that tree stump grinding was not necessary or conducive to the nature recovery plans. The Cllrs voted not to accept this advice and instead agreed £100 expenditure to grind the tree stumps out, as proposed by Cllr K Cox. This work is being done FOC by the Grass Contractor K Cox, with their own public liability insurance. Action Clerk/GCC b) Resolve volunteer(s) to design nature recovery area information board with project leader, using grant money. It was agreed that a Cllr will get some ideas on design and liaise. Action Cllr Lyons	
25/190	PLAYING FIELD, PAVILION, PLAY AREAS, WOODLAND AREA, SPORTS CLUB HIRE AGREEMENTS 190.1 Contractor/Health and safety – a) to note feedback from checks carried out by Councillors and Legionella specialist booked for 17/4/26 and resolve any action and expenditure necessary. Cistern, cleaning, plus shower? The list was received and noted. It was agreed to get plumber quotes to re-seal the showers that is creating mould on the walls and also to get a cleaner for the between season clean up to £120. It was noted that the toilet cistern had kindly been replaced quickly due to a leak. Action Clerk b) to receive and note any tenders for the PF/Pavilion Maintenance Contract and resolve successful quote and/or decide on future plan of action for checks and jobs. To resolve formal play equipment checks training. To follow. The Clerk said there had been two tenders and gave details of both. It was decided to accept the terms from Terry Cowling and he will start the work on 20/4/26. Action Clerk 190.2 Hire agreements -To receive and note draft revised hire agreements (circulated) and clarify terms and conditions, following informal meeting discussion, herewith. See item below. The draft cricket club hire agreement was received and noted and the changes agreed, including clarification that the rent will reduce to £250 pm in recognition of ground work being done by the club. It was agreed to insert a paragraph to protect the council from automatic renewal and then re-issue. Action Cllr Cox, Cllr Kendall, Clerk 190.3 To receive and note request from ACC on rent free hiring and exclusive use Apr-Sept and resolve response (also response to communication regarding fencing, rabbit holes and brambles), circulated. It was agreed that these agreement changes will be deferred to later on for the 27/28 season. It was further agreed that the rabbit holes will be filled in at the weekend but the brambles are outside the scope of the agreement. Action Cllrs, Clerk	
25/191	PLANNING COMMITTEE (Cllr Kaye, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Woodman, Cllr Tungate) 191.1 To note latest feedback from the Planning Committee meeting/applications. https://publicaccess.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/ See attached minutes from the last meeting and updates/responses since; there was no planning meeting necessary this month, and one windows application being dealt with under delegated powers to respond. Action Clerk To note attendance at Local Plan review, receive and note feedback (Cllr Davey It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting due to meeting time left.	
25/192	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT Payments were all agreed as follows. The invoices have all been examined, verified and certified by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO);	
	192.1 Clerk reimburse for HP ink plan February shared with other PC £9.57, plus M/S office, plus mileage for March 2026. (Ink plan to change 17/4/26 as one council only)	£9.57, (£8.49), £26, £8.10

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	192.2	HMRC employer NI payment and employee tax/NI payment April.	£ 151.25
	192.3	New supplier for Briers/street lighting bills as per contract, paid by direct debit.	£319.10
	192.4	Yu energy bill pavilion electricity	£66.12
	192.5	Village hall hire	£25
	192.6	Clerk salary/hours payable 30/4/26 less tax and NI due £49.82	£1043.41
	192.7	Multipay card monthly fee and Unity bank charges, monthly	£3/£7
	192.8	Survey Monkey subscription March if not refunded	£75 paid by card
	192.9	NNC for waste collection service	£208.50
	192.10	White House Products for grass cutting contract/mower parts	£44.53
	192.11	Viking Raja Group for A4 paper	£29.88
	192.12	NCALC for subs nd internal audit	£986.28
	192.13	New cistern for pavilion – Screwfix - paid	£48.98 paid
	192.14	Donation to St John's Ambulance	£50
25/193	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS It was noted that the Annual Parish Council meeting is on Monday 11 th May 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. The Annual Parish/Village Meeting is on Monday 27 th April from 6:30pm.		

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____