

Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council

held on 9th February 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall, New Road, Easton on the Hill.

Present Cllr K Cox, Cllr A Davey (Chairman), Cllr J Garner, Cllr R Holwell, Cllr G Kendall, Cllr J Lyons, Cllr D Mitchell, Cllr J Stephenson, Cllr H Tungate and Cllr S Woodman and Clerk: Mrs J Rice.

There were 2 members of the public present, plus PCSO A. Pereira.

25/145	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive apologies sent to the Clerk. There were apologies received from Cllr C Kaye and Ward Cllr S Fairhall.	
25/146	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 and when 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 K Cox declared a pecuniary interest in item 154 b). He also stated he had just terminated his Grounds Maintenance contract with the Parish Council in writing to the Clerk just before the meeting started and therefore had no other interests to declare.	
25/147	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting. A maximum of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda. Chairman may remind Councillors of one of the Nolan Principles of Public Life and/or a Standing Order. The PCSO A Pereira introduced himself and explained the system and (reduced) resources the police team are working with and how they can help, with the call based demand across the area. He encouraged people to keep him informed by email and keep using him as much as necessary and he will always help if he can, via 1:1 meetings time permitting. He further encouraged all to use the Northamptonshire Talking messaging service, which has previously been advertised to residents by the Clerk and to complete all surveys about the service and priorities.	
25/148	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th January 2026, previously circulated. Chairman to sign. The minutes were agreed as a true record and duly signed.	
25/149	MATTERS ARISING from previous meeting, not covered. Grit bin and spare defib pads purchased and in place. Ward Empowerment grant in progress for defibs purchase. Coaching sessions in playing field started. The matters arising listed were noted with no issues.	
25/150	GOVERNANCE, TRAINING AND FINANCE	
	150.1	To receive and note finance report and internal checks until end of January 2026 and resolve any queries, herewith, to assist in decision making. The finance report was received and noted. The Clerk explained the basic budget position is still around 6% over budget but the projects budget is largely unspent, likely generating a higher reserves position at the end of the year. The bank balance is currently 30.6k, including 3.4k earmarked reserves, with approx. 9k spend to come, leaving 18k general reserves. This includes the unallocated project budget to flow through.
	150.2	To receive feedback from any training attended and agree any new training requests/cost. Cllr Woodman reported positively about the informative Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas training and it was agreed Cllr Stephenson can also attend this. Action Clerk/Cllr Stephenson
	150.3	To receive and note table of compliance in respect of Audit Assertion 10 requirements, and agree actions, herewith, including website MOT for £145, amended IT policy and reviewed publication scheme, herewith. The table was received and noted. The Clerk ran through the different elements and the website MOT offer was discussed. It was agreed to establish the ease of implementing the action plan before agreeing to it. The revised Model Publication Scheme was agreed. Action Clerk to find out more and defer item.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

150.4		<p>To resolve to exclude the public from this item on grounds of confidentiality and any members of the public to leave the room, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. It can also be resolved if appropriate to move this item to the end of the meeting for ease of proceedings. The members of the public left the meeting. The Clerk also left the room.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To receive a recommendation from the staffing committee on the 2026/2027 pay increment and resolve. Cllr Davey reported that it was resolved to implement the job evaluation of scale 27 from May 2026. 2. To receive a recommendation from the staffing committee on the formal job evaluation for role of the clerk and resolve. It was reported that it was agreed not to conduct a formal job evaluation and accept the self assessment and advice from NCALC. 3. To receive a recommendation from the staffing committee on the 2025 pay increment and resolve. It was reported that it was agreed that the lack of 2025 increment was in accordance with the contract. 4. To note changes to the staff appraisal timing. It was reported that it was agreed to conduct the appraisal before April in future. 5. To note that Cllr feedback is required on staff performance and objectives. It was reported that this was noted. <p>Members of the public to be asked back to the room under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. No members of public returned. The Clerk returned.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. To feedback a summary of actions from the above. These are listed above and the summary and notes will subsequently be provided to the Clerk. Action Staffing Committee
	PROJECTS	
151.1		<p>To note resident survey completed and circulated on line and postal copy, and agree further action on postal copies, collation of results and cancellation of subscription. Feedback was given on the survey responses so far and a plan to extend the advertising of its completion was agreed, including whatsapp groups, door to door copies, Facebook pages. A further month's subscription of £75 for the QR code was agreed and cancellation after that. Action Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Cox, Clerk, all Cllrs</p>
151.2		<p>To resolve purchase of 1 or 2 spare adult pads for the defibs. Costing £70 per pads. It was resolved that these are not necessary.</p>
151.3		<p>To receive and note update on defib refresher training for residents and decide March date. It was resolved to hold this in April to give more time and an evening date will be picked with the trainers and advertised, out of the school holidays. Action Clerk</p>
151.4		<p>To receive feedback on Land Registration work and agree any further action. Cllr Kendall updated the council on the progress at the meeting held with the company registering the 5 sites. He explained the process of statutory declarations provided by them and signed by ex/clerks and chairmen over 12 years. The Clerk raised a concern that has been pointed out to the company that this method did not work previously due to multiple access points however it is thought these ones will be more straightforward.</p>
25/152	REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES	
152.1		<p>Checkers reports/village maintenance/salt bins/defibrillators/speed control measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To receive checker report from Cllr Holwell for January and resolve any maintenance needed. To note February checker is Cllr Cox. Cllr Holwell reported no concerns and will submit the forms. The checker for February was noted. Action Cllr Holwell, Cllr Cox b. To receive any data or feedback on new mobile camera position. It was agreed that data is only useful after 2/3 months time. c. To receive and note Highways request asking the PC to take on the VAS pole or not, herewith. It was resolved to allow NNC to continue with maintenance. Action Clerk to confirm.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

		<p>d. To receive and note communication from NNC Highways reference the A43 speed limit change, herewith, and agree any follow up action, and resolve if bin stickers required. The communication was received and noted, plus the update from resident M Shepherd. The update from Ward Cllr S Fairhall was also shared as there was a mixed message about action taken by NNC. It was resolved to await the outcome of the survey to decide on spending any budget on bin stickers.</p>
	152.2	Parish Path Warden (Cllr Woodman) To receive any update. There was no update.
	152.3	Village Hall (Cllr Lyons) To note any update from the PC representative Trustee. Cllr Lyons gave an update that was noted including the Chair position still being available, the bombshelter building roof needing replacing and the offer of a free booking for the defib/first aid training plus a coffee morning to be held to thank all donors to project.
	152.4	<p>Police Liaison Representative</p> <p>a) To note update from PLR on police activity; bus shelter issues subsided and PCSO café drop in plus invite to PC meetings. The limited update was noted and the advice from the PCSO to report everything.</p> <p>b) To decide if any new Neighbourhood Watch merchandise is needed. It was resolved to wait for the resident survey feedback before spending any budget.</p>
25/153	ALLOTMENTS	
	153.1	To note any update or issues and resolve action. The Clerk reported there was no update except that the renewals will be sent out soon.
25/154	TREES AND GREENS WORKING GROUP (INCL NATURE RECOVERY) Cllr Cox, Cllr Holwell, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Woodman, plus Cllr Tungate Climate and Action Champion.	
		<p>a) To receive any new update from group. There was no update.</p> <p>b) To note review of grass cutting contract is required, to include submission of detailed servicing and maintenance sheets and agree how their insurance is paid. The clerk asked for any changes needed for the new season contract and stated that the need for servicing and maintenance records to be completed has not been fulfilled so far and this may need to be more specific in the contract and correspondence. Action Cllr Davey, Clerk</p>
25/155	PLAYING FIELD, PAVILION, PLAY AREAS, WOODLAND AREA, SPORTS CLUB HIRE AGREEMENTS	
	155.1	<p>Contractor/Health and safety –</p> <p>a) to note feedback and updated GMC (or other) list of jobs and agree new expenditure and work plus resolve any other actions necessary, including junior pitch concerns raised now, clearing out container, car park, Legionnaires, electricians etc – see summary, herewith. The list was received and noted. The situation and requirements over Legionella management was discussed and it was resolved to engage a specialist to confirm the checks and routine needed for the systems in place. It was confirmed that this, and all Health and Safety is a Parish Council responsibility, carried out with regular checking/Risk Assessments by competent people. It was decided to ask the junior pitch players to stand elsewhere to avoid pitch damage near the wicket and it was further resolved to spread and rake an offer of free granite chippings for the car park. Action Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Garner</p> <p>b) To receive and note draft updated GMC contract and discuss changes/agree, circulated. It was resolved to defer this item to the next meeting.</p>
	155.2	<p>To receive and note feedback from meeting with cricket club on hire agreements and resolve the amendments to the agreements/hire charge, following formal objection made, herewith notes. Cllr Garner gave feedback from the meeting with the cricket club and the notes and responses were received and noted. Whilst both clubs were initially unhappy, it was encouraging to note that a compromise could be reached and was agreed by increasing overall numbers of football matches, with payment upfront, excluding the whole of August and no junior matches April – September, the only crossover period being in September and no pavilion use by football during certain, agreed months. The agreements will be updated and sent out for signing ahead of the new seasons. Action Cllr Garner, Clerk</p> <p>It was resolved to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes.</p>

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	155.3	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/change and pay contributing landfill tax of £948, herewith. It was decided to defer this item. Action Clerk	
25/156	COMMUNITY SUPPORT/ENGAGEMENT/ISSUES/VILLAGE GROUPS - To suggest and agree any specific items for March's What's on the Hill and check/note of any new residents. It was resolved to include the survey again and the First Aid training date.		
25/157	CLERK CORRESPONDENCE /INFORMATION TO NOTE/DECISIONS: It was resolved to circulate this information instead and any items for the next agenda to be requested and included next time. - To note second communication re dog barking complaint and response. - To note King's Speech expected in May 2026 to include parish council changes, circulated. - To resolve action to take with clerk's old computer, any takers? Worth c.£50 Defer - To note enquiries re junior pitch affecting the cricket outfield and responses, circulated. - To note Community Governance Review material and video available, circulated, any action?		
25/158	PLANNING COMMITTEE (Cllr Kaye, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Woodman, Cllr Tungate)		
	158.1	The Planning Committee gave feedback from the Planning Committee meeting on 9/2/26: 1. 23/00612/FUL Construction of B8 and distribution building at Cliffe Road – Parish Council planning committee to decide any further response. The committee to send objection again due to concerns over traffic flow and volume. 2. To receive and note communication re consultation for comment on site proposal for 3000 homes at West Wittering, and decide response, deadline 5/3/26, circulated. Planning Committee to recommend response. It was resolved to respond as per the recommendation of the Planning Committee that the development gives rise to Highway and other infrastructure concerns, and concerns over the proximity to the RAF runway and SSSI sites, however that in summary there is not an overall objection.	
25/159	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT Payments were agreed to be made as follows;		
	159.1	Clerk reimburse for HP ink plan January shared with other PC £9.57, plus M/S office, plus mileage for January 2026	£9.57, £8.49, £26, £5.40
	159.2	HMRC employer NI payment and employee tax/NI payment March.	£139.87
	159.3	Yu Energy Briers/street lighting bills as per contract, paid by direct debit.	£510.70, £22.58
	159.4	Yu energy bill pavilion and WAVE water bill	£65.41 and £24.48
	159.5	Village hall hire	£25
	159.6	Clerk salary/hours payable 28/2/26 less tax and NI due	£1023.87
	159.7	Multipay card monthly fee and Unity bank charges, monthl	£3/£7
	159.8	Handiman grounds maintenance contract K Cox labour for January	£157.5
	159.9	Survey Monkey subscription x 2	£75 paid by card
	159.10	NNC elections from May 2025	£2028.55
	159.11	Leics Gardens VAT payments for Oct, Nov and Dec 2024, to be paid and reclaimed	£288
	159.12	Contributing third party grant payment to Augean	£948 when applic.
	159.13	NCALC for training - planning	£42
Receipt	159.14	Grant from Ward Councillor fund agreed	£750 tbr
25/160	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS It was noted that the date of the next full council meeting is on Monday 9 th March 2026 at 7pm in the village hall and the next Planning Committee meeting is to be agreed, dependent on new applications.		

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____