

## INFORMATION FOR APRIL 2026 MEETING

### 1. Item 182.2 – hire agreements

Dear all,

Can I say although I have sent you this email, this was a conversation Jak, Simon & I had. If you have anything you wish to address, please discuss it with all of us at the parish council meeting.

We have tried to make both contracts similar in as many ways as possible. The main points we considered were:

**Dates.** Priority has been given when the ground is shared to either team. Details in paragraph 1.

**Fees.** Fees will increase annually and ACC will pay £250 a month net rate. It saves on admin for all sides.

**Alcohol.** The contract does not specify it has to be secured, “Alcohol is to be secured on the premises in accordance with the terms of the licence”.

**Rabbit holes.** The Parish Council will inspect the ground and pavilion at the start of the season to ensure the playing field is suitable for the activity and is in a reasonably safe condition and state of repair sufficient for the activity to take place. It is then for the teams who use the field to maintain the playing area. The pest control is to be urged to monitor and take steps as necessary to control vermin.

**Brambles etc. . GMC ?**

**Fencing.** ACC could receive a £35,000 grant from the ECB. (More details are required from ACC on this. **See separate email**) It was considered some of the grant could be used to erect a fence along the cricket nets side and Deeps side of the playing field. The same type of fence as is currently in place along the bridleway. A “rabbit fence” would also be installed around the perimeter of the field.

**Cleaning.** Each team is responsible for keeping the pavilion clean. The parish council will pay for a deep clean prior to the changeover between KSFC-ACC in Apr & Sep.

**Container storage.** The boxes belonging to KSFC have been moved into the scoring shed at the side of the pavilion.

**Cricket square.** At all times, the cricket wicket must be protected from damage and use.

**Football pitch.** Spectators and players are to stand on the footpath side of the pitches.

**Cricket Contract.** The Parish Council will continue to provide and maintain the existing:??

Sight Screen

Scoreboard

Wicket Covers

The Nets

2. **Item 182.3** ACC request

Dear all,

Some background information on ACC request. No response required . To be discussed at parish council meeting.

Kevin

**From:** Adidda Club <adiddaclub@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 25 March 2026 23:00

**To:** [REDACTED]; Adidda Club <adiddaclub@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Proposal for Long-Term Partnership and Exclusive Usage – Adidda Cricket Club

Hi Kevin,

Hope you are doing well.

I am writing on behalf of Adidda Cricket Club to request a strengthened long-term partnership with the EOH council to support the development of cricket and community engagement in our village.

We request exclusive use of the Adidda Cricket Club facilities from April to 15th September each year to deliver league matches, training, junior programmes, and community events. This will help increase participation, including kids cricket, and women's cricket.

The club will take responsibility for ongoing maintenance, including the square, outdoor nets, and general upkeep, ensuring high standards while reducing the council's workload.

### **Investment and Funding**

We are actively seeking funding through external bodies such as ECB grants, Sport England, and local sponsorships to improve the quality of the ground and facilities. As you are aware, approximately £35,000 has recently been approved for square and ground improvements, demonstrating the scale of investment being committed.

To secure and effectively utilise such funding, a long-term agreement is essential. Funding bodies typically require security of tenure to justify investment into community sports infrastructure.

### **Long-Term Agreement Request**

We are therefore seeking a minimum 10-year agreement with the council, with assurance that the agreement is not subject to annual termination but secured for the full term. This long-term stability is critical to enable:

Successful grant applications

Strategic planning and phased development

Continued investment into the ground and facilities.

In addition, considering the level of investment and the club's commitment to maintaining and improving the facility, we kindly request consideration for a minimum 5-year rent-free period. The club will continue to incur seasonal costs for square preparation and ground maintenance during this time.

This partnership will enhance local facilities, increase community participation, and provide long-term value to both the council and the club.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Thanks,

3. Play equipment options – to follow

#### 4. Finance report

##### End of year report

Basic expenditure ends at 5% over budget

Project expenditure not spent from 3.5k project budget and flows through to general reserves

Taken from reserves was £2700, including election costs, new laptop, survey costs, new signs and plaque.

Other non ordinary expenditure was from grants for new defibrillators, fencing at Spring Close, new gym equipment and new LED lighting.

Basic budget lines of expenditure showing higher than expected costs are for insurance, extra training due to high number of new Cllrs, lighting energy cost

Maintenance at playing field/pavilion overspent by 1k on budget, however hire income offset 1.8k

##### Reserves position

Earmarked	1k land reg	plus £600 C/F
	1k MVAS	
	0.5k footpaths	
	0.6k notice board grant/PO colln	
	0.3k elections	should be £500
<b>Total earmarked</b>	<b>4.5k</b>	

Bank balance as at 31/3/26 21.3k

includes 3.5k "projects" carried forward and earmarked reserves above

**leaves total general reserves now of 16.8k**

(\* 19k was forecast/budgeted for)  
overspent on basic budget £1760

Basic payments (excluding VAT)	BUDGET	ACTUAL	% spent
Back pay, clerk	360.88	504.28	140%
Staff costs inc hmrc	13534	13706.83	101%
Staff other costs HO, miles, admin	828.12	792.77	96%
Audit, int and ext	664.35	661.5	100%
Memberships subs	760.14	745.89	98%

Insurance	894.04	999.72	112%
Cllr/Clerk training	493.55	737	149%
Cllr travel	0	0	#DIV/0!
Admin, bank - in above	0	0	#DIV/0!
Room hire	373.89	302	81%
Website & email	512.94	572.42	112%
Parks & Open Spaces grass, PF	2541	2128.79	84%
Parks & Open Spaces grass village	1617	1363.86	84%
Maintenance PF	5430	6457.7	119%
inspections	214.24	216	101%
Asset Maintenance, grit, defib, Drift	730.27	723.62	99%
Trees survey/works	500	340	68%
Lighting, total	5203.5	6130.89	118%
S137 payments, incl clock	550	449.49	82%
Other payments (not in budget)		0	#DIV/0!
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>35207.92</b>	<b>36832.76</b>	<b>105%</b>

<b>Reserves/projects SPEND</b>	Cumulative Budget	Spent	
General reserves contribution	4000	2706.87	
Land registration, sol fees	1000	0	
Election build up	300	0	
Footpaths C/F £500 now in reserves		0	
MVAS	1000	0	
Other projects unspecified	3500	0	
Total	9800	2706.87	28%
Other expenditure, from grants	0	11927.26	gym equipment, LED lighting, Spring Close fencing, defibs
<b>Grand total expenditure</b>	<b>45007.92</b>	<b>51466.89</b>	<b>114%</b>

#### Receipts ex vat reclaims

Precept	41212	41212	100%
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Allotments	173	157.5	91%
Bank interest	400	574.23	144%
Donations to PF/from other PC		257.22	#DIV/0!
Insurance claim		226.63	#DIV/0!
Hire income/WPFC/ACC	3150	5233.85	166%
Grant payments		7697.16	#DIV/0!
<b>Grand total income</b>	<b>44935</b>	<b>55358.59</b>	<b>123%</b>
Excluding grants	44935	47661	6%

RESERVES position as was forecast \*

cash balance March 2025	17400
includes earmarked reserves of:	
	0
Info board at PF?	320
Footpaths C/F project	500
Election	1200
PO collection	275
Earmarked reserves	2295
General reserves	15105
Plus in budget 4k reserves	4000

## 5. Item 183.4

### NCALC Strategic Engagement Plan

#### Briefing 23/3/26

#### Notes

- Current plan is 2023-2026 and they are seeking input to priorities over next 3 years
- Currently support provided mainly in
  - training courses, development framework for Cllrs and Clerks,
  - communication via E update every 2m and weekly Friday mini updates
  - devolution – help to plan and manage

- Councils should ask
  - “what’s going on in our community/council?”
  - What’s changing?
  - What support is needed?
  - What should go in the strategic plan?
- NCALC like to think of themselves as a breakdown service for councils, issues include
  - variety in councillors availability, responses, time, skills and training
  - time and resources of Clerks
  - issues that councils often have no power to control ie potholes, drugs/ASB
- Think a West and North Northants Liaison NNC to PC role is needed (vacant position atm) and a feedback session will be arranged in due course.

#### 6. Item 188 a) Woodland Area safety

Hi all,

There has been a request to grind down the tree stumps in the Woodland Area for safety reasons. As health and safety officer for the council I have assessed this.

I've not heard back from all members of the TAG group on this, as an official assessment of the situation yet but I contacted Jeff who has been co-ordinating the nature recovery project and the recent work in that section.

**His feedback is useful** - There are lots of hazards in managed and natural woodland. The trees were coppiced or pollarded with a view to them recovering and forming a a different habitat and diversity as they regrow, ie I'm planting wildflower seeds on the bare areas to augment this. Hardly anyone will go into that area anyway, it's not a public play area, access route or byway . There was not anything said about the stumps we left in the first phase we did in 2024/2025. Stump grinding will kill the trees which I assume TAG do not want. The children that go in there are supervised and I told their team leader to be careful. Other hazards in these are bramble, rabbit holes, spiky hawthorn bushes, stinging nettles etc. All part of normal wildlife. I'm not intending to stump grind as that undermines the project. The only thing is to put up a little sign saying beware of uneven surfaces/ trip hazards...which is daft anyway... because eventually we would have to put safety signs all over the patch.

An alternative to stump grinding is appropriate due to the risks involved (and subsequent damage to the trees/project) and I will propose a sign (Take care, uneven ground) initially. Anyone using this area will be watching their footing all the time anyway due to the branches over the ground, rabbit holes and other such woodland debris that has been there all the time. An information board is also planned still but not happened as yet, which can also explain more about the project and "hazards". I do not believe stump grinding is a necessary or appropriate course of action (and cost).

Item 189

Mobile signal survey/campaign – until 30/4/26

Dear Parish/Town Council,

Since being elected in 2024, constituents across East Northamptonshire have consistently raised with me their concern of the lack of mobile connectivity that they have in their home and in their community. I'm sure this is an issue that has been raised locally with you also.

I'm getting in touch today share with you my campaign to improve mobile signal in East Northamptonshire, including the launch of the **East Northants Mobile Signal Survey**.

This survey can be found here and is now live until the 30th April 2026: <https://survey.labour.org.uk/leebaronmpmobilesignalsurvey>

Your involvement in this campaign will be critical to achieving a better deal from the mobile operating companies. Therefore, I have attached a briefing document to this email that explains how you can get involved as a Parish Council, and how you can share this survey with residents.

Please let me or Isaac.Biddle@parliament.uk know if you have questions at all.

Cluster meeting for ward councils.

Dear all

**Town & Parish Councils / Parish Meetings Oundle cluster meeting  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026, Kings Cliffe Club (65 Wood Rd, Kings Cliffe, PE8 6XF)**

Sorry for the delay in following up. Thank you everyone for your positive replies. I'm pleased to confirm a meeting on the evening of Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026, from 6.30pm. My suggestion is that 6.30pm – 7.00pm is available for networking, 7.00pm for some more structured discussions, for about an hour or so. With some further time at the end for further networking.

Please feel free to attend with Clerk and Councillors. The bar (including teas and coffees) will be open.

Closer to the time I will circulate an agenda – feel free to forward any additional ideas for this to me.

In the meantime I look forward to seeing you at your next meetings, and especially Parish Meetings wherever possible.

With kind regards

*Simon*

### Cluster meeting for facilities managers

This email is being sent to the contacts for Village Halls, Community Halls, Playing Fields (including Sports Clubs with their own facilities) across the Oundle Ward of North Northamptonshire Council.

I am one of three Ward Councillors, and have a background working and volunteering in the community and voluntary sector, sport especially. I am a Head of Governance with a London based sports charity and also undertake some part-time consultancy work for Northamptonshire Sport advising local community groups and organisations on funding for sport and physical activity. I have had the pleasure of visiting a reasonable number of your venues for events and activities since I started as a Councillor last May, and have engaged strongly with the Town and Parish Councils across the Ward.

**I am writing to ask if there would be any interest from you in a cluster meeting to provide an occasion for you to share experiences, challenges and opportunities with each other. And to provide an opportunity to discuss matters in common, this often includes funding and I am happy to share information on funding opportunities in 2026-2027. Acknowledging that some of you are already quite practiced at fundraising! I am also particularly keen to share an idea for the delivery of a variety of health and wellbeing sessions in a number of venues across the Ward.**

But I would also welcome from you ideas of what is of most interest and relevance to you in your role.

If there is insufficient interest for a cluster meeting I would be very happy to share a briefing note by email, and also happy to visit each and every one of you at some point – for a bespoke meeting or to attend an event or activity.

I look forward to hearing back from you.