

DRAFT MINUTES

CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at the Cranford Memorial Hall, Cranford on Thursday 25th January 2024

Present: Cllr Alison Gorton (chairman), Cllr Stephen Pickard (vice chairman), Cllr Stewart Holford, Cllr Ian Jones, Cllr Trudy Martin, Cllr Paul Wilcox, Pat Bird (clerk)

23/077 Cllr Gorton welcomed Paul Wilcox to the council, following his co-option to the council at its meeting in November. Following introductions, Paul signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

23/078 Apologies were not received from Cllr Fergus Gallagher
Apologies were received from the Ward Councillors as they were all attending an NNC meeting.

23/079 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 23rd November 2023 be approved as a correct record. The minutes were subsequently signed by Cllr Gorton, as chairman

23/080 The following matter arising from the minutes was noted.
23/070 b) Planning application [NK/2023/0661](#) at 3 Duck End, Cranford for a single storey side extension and detached double garage with stone facing to front of dwelling and fence to front boundary has not yet been decided.

23/081 No declarations of interest, in relation to items on the agenda, were received.

Public participation

23/082 The following issues were raised:

- a) There has been a significant increase in flytipping in the parish and whilst these incidents are being reported, it takes a long time before the items are removed. The clerk to investigate and to remind residents how to report flytipping and to publish details of the waste and recycling centres. The clerk to ask Hanwood Park if they could publish these details in their newsletter to residents.
- b) Concern was raised for the trees along Cranford Road as hedgerow maintenance was being carried out late in the evening. Further investigation is required to establish if any damage had been caused to the trees and who may have caused the damage.

23/083 The Unitary Ward members were unable to attend the meeting and no report was provided.

Parish Matters

23/084 a) The award, in the New Year Honours, of the British Empire Medal to Rachel Davis for services to the community in Cranford was acknowledged. The clerk, on behalf of the parish council, to congratulate Rachel on this significant achievement.

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- b) Cllr Pickard provided a summary of the recent flooding at the cottage near Sandy Spinney, Duck End. Members of the local community worked together to alleviate the issue and prevent a major incident
- c) The planting of trees by The Top House was acknowledged and welcomed
- d) The need to replace the noticeboard outside the Memorial Hall was acknowledged. The clerk to obtain the necessary quotes and look to source one as per the specification agreed for the one on the Green
- e) The appointment of Revd Jeremy Safford, the new rector for Cranford was acknowledged, and welcomed
- f) The non re-appearance of the village sign was acknowledged.

Planning Matters

23/085

- a) [NK/2023/0748](#) – Full Application

8 High Street, Cranford, NN14 4AA

Single storey side extension with replacement rear single storey roof and windows and doors throughout. Rear door to be replaced with full height window and insertion of 5 no. rooflights to rear

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that this proposed application be supported as it will bring the property back into use, having been empty for approximately 12 years. The council also supports the use of white UPVC for the replacement windows, especially as the appearance of individual panes of glass will be maintained. The adjoining Grade II listed property has UPVC windows and originally both properties were one property. The parish council believes that this proposed application has no adverse impact on neighbouring properties, or the street scene. It feels that this proposed application will be an improvement.

- b) [NK/2023/0749](#) - Listed Building Consent Application

8 High Street, Cranford, NN14 4AA

Single storey side extension with replacement rear single storey roof and windows and doors throughout. Rear door to be replaced with full height window and insertion of 5 no. rooflights to rear

It was **RESOLVED** that this application be acknowledged with the council's comments on this proposed development submitted under planning application NK/2023/0748

- c) [NK/2023/0796](#) – Full Application

Wood Lodge, Duck End, Cranford, NN14 4AN

Erection of grain store

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that no objections be raised by the council to this proposed application, however, concerns were identified and conditions are to be sought to address these concerns.

Firstly, having submitted a previous application NK/2021/0878 for the change of use of an agricultural building for B8 storage, effectively to establish the principle of development, a similar application could be submitted for this agricultural grain store, once approved. Therefore, the parish council requests that if this proposed application is to be approved, an appropriate

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condition is imposed to maintain the building as an agricultural building, rather than change its use then build a further agricultural building.

Secondly, whilst the applicant does not believe that this proposed development will increase the number of vehicles utilising the highways network, a condition be requested that traffic management assessments are undertaken if the number of vehicles utilising the highways network does increase due to this proposed application

23/086 Cllr Stephen Pickard provided an update on the proposed Kettering Energy Park. NNC has stated that consultation by the promoters needs to improve and that they need to take on board local concerns. NNC's Executive Advisory Panel - Planning Communities has requested that it reviews the revised Draft Masterplan before it is to be considered by NNC's Planning Committee. The promoters have offered to brief the council on their wider consultation programme and hear the thoughts of the council. Cllr Pickard also referred to the two recent refusal decisions made by planning inspectors with regards to the proposed warehouse developments at Weekley Hall Wood and between Northampton and Great Houghton

It was **RESOLVED** that the meeting with the promoters be accepted and the council's expectations for the meeting to be communicated to the promoters.

Concern was raised that local residents don't appear to be raising issues regarding this proposed development and that it was **RESOLVED** that the council needs to do more to raise their awareness of the Kettering Energy Park.

It was acknowledged that the council needs to continue working with other parish and town councils affected by this proposed development and lessons need to be learned from others facing similar proposed developments, e.g. STAUNCH at Titchmarsh.

Cllr Pickard reiterated that he needs the support of other councillors to attend meetings, read documents etc

The minutes of the NNC Executive Advisory Panel – Planning Communities meeting where the Kettering Energy Park Draft Masterplan was discussed are available on the [NNC website](#)

Finance Matters

23/087 The clerk explained that this month, one request for payment has been received for £125. There were no clerk reimbursements to be checked for payment this month. For completeness, the clerk will send the request for payment plus the two payslips for the clerk to the internal control councillor to check. It was **RESOLVED** that the internal control councillor completes the internal control checklist and that it is emailed to all the members.

23/088 It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) the Cash Book as of 31st December 2023 showing the balance of £21,814.04 be noted;
- b) the Budget Monitoring report as of 31st December 2023 be noted.
- c) the Bank Reconciliation as of 31st December 2023 be noted; and that
- d) the Schedule of Payments presented, listed below, be approved

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Schedule of Payments

Payments to be made

Payee	Description	Amount	Legislation
PM Bird (Clerk) / HMRC	January Salay	£341.99	LGA 1972, s. 112
PM Bird (Clerk) / HMRC	February Salary	£341.99	LGA 1972, s. 112
Tony Kemble	Cranford Maintenance Programme	£125.00	Highways Act 1980 s.43

- 23/089 The clerk has received a request for four further litter/dog waste bins in Cranford St John
- One at the top of Duck end at the finish of the new extended foot way, on the old railway bridge off the high street.
 - One opposite the church next to the grit bin on the junction with Church Lane and Duck End
 - One at the bottom of Duck End on the junction of the private road leading to the Hall.
 - One outside the school gate, for use by parents

As there is a cost to the council for each new bin, it was **RESOLVED** that further investigations be made by the clerk as to the actual cost, the practicality of installing these bins, and the need for the bins to see if a reduced number of extra bins would meet the need before the council is to approve expenditure on these. Also, that the clerk reminds people of the need to use existing bins for dog poo bags.

Project Matters

- 23/090 a) Cranford Maintenance Programme
- Cllr Alison Gorton reported that unfortunately Simon Craggs was unable to fulfil the role required and this work has been taken on by Tony Kemble. Tony has cut back the overgrown vegetation at the millennium bridge, making a significant difference to the appearance in this area. He will continue to work along the elevated footpath cutting back overgrown vegetation to both boundaries. The clerk will publish an article, via Cranford Community News, providing an update on the Cranford Maintenance Programme
- b) Planters
- The clerk has confirmed the council's approval of the building of the stone planters and will meet with Richard Moisey in March to finalise the details.
- c) Speed Monitoring
- Steve Barber has questioned the height of the speed indicator devices. He is yet to investigate the data and advise the council on a more sustainable way forward.
- d) Map Sign
- Cllr Jones reported that he had been unable to progress the creation of a map to fit in the frame. Concern was expressed that the frame itself needed significant repair or replacement. Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that the Map sign will be removed and that the area along the high street be considered for the planting of fruit trees, creating a community orchard. Further details to be provided at the next meeting in March for consideration.
- e) Footpath to Hanwood Park
- Cllr Gorton reported that Hanwood Park will be opening up the permissive path between Cranford

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and Hanwood Park. Cllr Gorton is also in discussions with Lucy Hawes from NNC regarding Cranford, Twywell, Woodford connections on the North Northants Greenway Kettering to Thrapston route.

Other Matters

- 23/091 There were no further updates from the chairman.
- 23/092 There were no further updates from the clerk.
- 23/093 It was noted that the next meeting is to be on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall, Cranford.
- 23/094 The meeting was closed at 8:30pm