

DRAFT MINUTES

CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Memorial Hall on Thursday 28th September 2023

Present: Cllr Alison Gorton (Chair), Cllr Stephen Pickard (Vice Chair), Cllr Stewart Holford, Cllr Mark Rowley (NNC Ward Councillor), Pat Bird (Clerk)

- 23/041 Apologies were received from Cllr Fergus Gallagher (work commitment), Cllr Ian Jones (work commitment), Cllr Trudy Martin (work commitments). All were approved.
Cllr Neil Bradley tendered his resignation prior to the meeting. Cllr Bradley's resignation was considered and accepted.
Cllr Elliot Prentice and Cllr Lloyd Bunday (NNC Ward Councillors) sent their apologies.
- 23/042 It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th July 2023 be approved as a correct record. The Minutes were subsequently signed by Cllr Gorton
- 23/043 The following **matters arising** were noted:
23/030 i) – Clerk visited the bus shelter and could see no sign of any wasps so didn't report this to Street Doctor. Cllr Rowley advised that NNC only deal with wasps in domestic properties.
- 23/044 No declarations of interest, in relation to items on the agenda, were received.

Public participation

- 23/045 George Potter had contacted the Clerk to say that he had straightened and secured the Pocket Park sign. The Clerk had shared this with councillors and, on behalf of the council, thanked George for this and for his generous donation of his time and materials.
- 23/046 Cllr Rowley gave a verbal report advising that he was no longer Chair of the NNC Planning Committee as he was now a member of the NNC Executive Committee. Cllr Rowley added that NNC was exploring options regarding the Community Payback scheme. Cllr Rowley mentioned the community funding grants which were now available and which may be of interest to the council. Cllr Rowley asked if the council had received his contribution, via the Member Empowerment Fund, towards the council's assistive listening system. Having heard that the council had not received this, Cllr Rowley said he would investigate and get the payment made.

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Finance Matters

23/047 Although Cllr Jones was unable to attend the meeting, he had confirmed to the Clerk that he had completed the June and July and the August and September Internal Control Checks and that everything was in order. The checks covered bank reconciliation against bank statements, income received, invoices, orders for invoices, receipts for Clerk's reimbursements, Clerk's payslips, and details of VAT claimed and/or VAT to be claimed.

23/048 It was **RESOLVED** that:

- the Cash Book as at 21st September 2023 showing the balance of £24,286.82 be noted;
- the Budget Spend report as at 21st September be noted, and that it be acknowledged that expenditure in such areas as training and development, council owned asset maintenance, village maintenance, and capital projects will be incurred in the next few months; and that
- the Schedule of Payments, listed below, be approved

Schedule of Payments

Payments to be made

Payee	Description	Amount	Legislation
PM Bird (Clerk) / HMRC	September Salary	£316.99	LGA 1972, s112
PM Bird (Clerk)	September Reimbursement	£19.99	LGA 1972, s112
Community Heartbeat Invoice 18279	Defibrillator pads	£68.34	Public Health Act 1936 s.234
PM Bird (Clerk) / HMRC	October Salary	£316.99	LGA 1972, s112

Planning Matters

23/049 a) [NK/2023/0508](#)

Home Farm, 39 Duck End, Cranford NN14 4AD

Agricultural building and biomass boiler (part retrospective)

Full Application

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that no objections be raised to this proposed application. The agricultural building is already in place, and it was acknowledged that the proposed development will assist the ongoing operation of the agricultural business on site

b) [NK/2022/0241](#)

Outdoor Amenity Area Noise Assessment – Document 18

Clarks Barn, Kettering Road, Cranford NN14 4AA

Barn conversion to create 2 no. dwellings including utilising existing access and amenity land

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Section 73A Retrospective Application

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that no additional comments be added to the council's original response where it raised concerns regarding the noise impact from the A14

- 23/050 Cllr Pickard provided an update on the proposed Kettering Energy Park. Cllr Pickard stated that the NNC Executive Advisory Panel Planning Communities meeting scheduled for 13th September had been cancelled with no new date scheduled. Cllr Pickard is continuing to work with other interested communities and organisations and concern has been expressed about attempts to frustrate the due diligence and community engagement regarding the Kettering Energy Park Masterplan. Also, there is concern regarding the lack of visibility of a traffic management plan and confusion over whether this has actually been completed.

Project Matters

23/051 **a) Cranford Maintenance Programme**

The Clerk reported that there has been no interest in the Lengthsman role, although two local businesses and one organisation have expressed an interest in doing ad hoc work on the Cranford Maintenance Programme. The Clerk added that the bin next to the bench on the elevated footpath is due to be moved soon

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Chair meet with both businesses and the organisation to discuss what needs to be done, who will do what, when, and to ensure effective use of the council's financial resources

b) Speed Monitoring

The Clerk reported that Steve Barber, facilitator for the Parish Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Self Purchase Scheme, has offered to review the current setup of the council's speed indicator devices and advise the council on a more sustainable way forward, as currently the batteries appear to need changing weekly and the data download is via a wired connection. Steve will also download the data which will then be shared with the councillors and published on the council's website.

It was **RESOLVED** that Steve's recommendations be reviewed as soon as possible

c) Repair of bench

Cllr Holford offered to take a look as to what needs to be done, advise the Clerk, and if required, arrange for the repair to be done.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be authorised to pay for the necessary repair, with approval from the Chair and Vice-Chair

d) Planting of oak trees

The Clerk advised that they are to arrange a meeting between the Chair, Vice-Chair and Sir John Robinson to discuss the possibility of planting the three oak trees on Stanbridge Hill

e) Map Sign

Although Cllr Jones has spent some time researching ideas for the map sign, he reported to the Clerk that he has been unable to identify a suitable solution.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council explores alternative uses for the sign and if nothing materialises considers removing the sign and that the Clerk contacts George Potter who installed the sign

f) Planters

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Cllr Holford had previously circulated photos of zinc planters for consideration. Cllr Gorton shared a photo of a stone built planter she had seen at Grendon.

As stone reflects Cranford's character, it was **RESOLVED** that the council pursues the idea of stone built planters at the village gateways from Hanwood Park and from Junction 11 of the A14.

g) Kissing gates

The Clerk advised that they will contact Lucy Hawes (Projects Officer in the Projects and Development Team at NNC) to establish how the plans for the kissing gates to replace three stiles and the footpath to Hanwood Park fit in with North Northamptonshire Council's Greenway Strategy.

h) Footpath to Hanwood Park

Cllr Gorton reported that Chris Langdon (Project Director at Hanwood Park) has asked if he can attend the Parish Council meeting in November to present an update.

It was **RESOLVED** that Chris be invited to the Parish Council meeting in November to present an update on the developments at Hanwood Park and it was noted that more people are walking on the Cranford Road, where there is no footpath

i) Defibrillator training and catastrophic bleed kits

The Clerk reported that they have had no success in sourcing catastrophic bleed kits and defibrillator training. Cllr Rowley suggested that the Clerk contacted Martin Hammond at Kettering Town Council for details of the supplier he used

j) Street Light review

The Clerk advised that a review of the Street Lights will be carried out before the next Parish Council meeting

k) Pocket Park

The Clerk advised that they will contact the Wildlife Trust to ask if they would be willing to assess the Pocket Park and suggest some possible ideas for how it could be used.

Other Matters

- 23/052 There were no further updates from the Chair
- 23/053 The Clerk informed the council that
- a) Grafton Underwood Parish Council had paid Cranford Parish Council £213.90 for its contribution to the Clerk's administration costs, i.e., costs of equipment, computer software licences, consumables, courses, and CiLCA qualification
 - b) The Mayor or Kettering Town Council is visiting the Old Forge on Tuesday morning (3rd October)
 - c) The Clerk will be attending the NCALC Annual Conference and AGM on Saturday 7th October
- 23/054 It was noted that the next meeting is to be on 23rd November 2023 in the Church Room at St John's Church, with the presentation from Chris Langdon from Hanwood Park and budget setting being the main items.
- 23/055 The meeting was closed at 8:10pm

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