

DRAFT MINUTES

CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Memorial Hall on Monday 4th November 2024

- Present:** Cllr Stephen Pickard (chairman), Cllr Alison Gorton (vice-chairman), Cllr Paul Wilcox, Cllr Trudy Martin (joined the meeting at agenda item 24/055), Pat Bird (clerk) and 2 residents
- 24/048 Apologies and reason were received from Cllr Stewart Holford, and it was **RESOLVED** that his absence be approved.
- 24/049 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 16th September 2024 be approved as an accurate record and these were subsequently signed by Cllr Pickard, as chairman.
- 24/050 The following matters were noted, as being in progress
24/041 Contribution towards the planter near Staveley Yard
24/042 Tree work in Pocket Park
24/044 Arranging a visit from Rosie Wrighting, MP
24/045 Damaged bench on the Green
It was also noted that the bulbs have been planted in the planters
- 24/051 Cllr Paul Wilcox declared an interest in agenda item 24/055 a) NK/2024/0613 Environmental Statement Scoping Opinion for the Kettering Energy Park, being a close neighbour to the proposed development.
- 24/052 Emma Bullock, a resident of Top Dysons, had previously indicated that she would like to join the parish council. It was **RESOLVED** that Emma be co-opted to the council, filling one of the parish councillor vacancies on the council.

Public participation

- 24/053 A resident raised an issue with an ash tree on The Green which is in poor health. The tree is in close proximity to a footpath, has multiple tree stems with dead limbs and a limb overhanging a shared drive. The clerk is to report this.

A resident has asked if they could plant a memorial tree along Jubilee Walk. Whilst the council welcomed the idea of planting a tree, it was agreed that a site meeting would be held with the resident to look at options as space may be limited along Jubilee Walk

The speed of vehicles through Cranford and the volume of vehicles when there is a problem on the A14 was raised. The council recognises that this is a particular issue and will raise this with Highways, the Safer Roads team, the council's ward members and MP.

- 24/054 The ward member(s) were unable to attend the meeting.

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Planning Matters

- 24/055 It was **RESOLVED** that the council's responses to North Northamptonshire Council for the following planning applications be:
- a) [NK/2024/0613](#)
Environmental Statement Scoping Opinion – Kettering Energy Park
Frustration as the council's previous responses to the proposed Kettering Energy Park remain unaddressed. Objection to the developers' proposal that topics are excluded from the scope of the Environmental Statement. Requested clarity regarding Junction 10A of the A14 with regards to the proposed Kettering Energy Park, having recently responded to an Environmental Statement Scoping Opinion for Junction 10A, which states that Junction 10A, if built, is to be used for the Kettering Energy Park
- b) [NK/2024/0494](#)
Full Planning Permission – 32 Church Lane
No objection. With the proposed 1.5 storey over only part of the property, the appearance of a single storey property will not be completely removed. Whilst the council accepts that there will be changes to the appearance of the front of the property, the council felt that this will not adversely affect the street scene, especially as the proposed solar panels will be on the roof at the rear of the property.
- c) [NK2024/0177](#)
Full Planning Permission – Staveley Yard, Thrapston Road
No objection

- 24/056 It was **RESOLVED** that the council's responses to North Northamptonshire Council for the following planning applications be noted
- a) [NK/2024/0249](#)
Full Planning Permission – Home Farm
- b) [NK/2024/0522](#)
Environmental Statement Scoping Opinion – A14 Junction 10A and A6 link

Village Matters

- 24/057 The clerk reported that the graffiti incidents were reported to the police and whilst the graffiti has mainly been removed, there are some areas where further cleaning is required. The clerk will contact Highways to see what help they can give.
- 24/058 It was **RESOLVED** that the resident's report regarding their efforts with the speed indicator device be noted and that the resident be thanked on behalf of the council. Whilst the council needs to resolve the issues with the speed indicator device, it was acknowledged that even a working speed indicator device would probably not provide adequate traffic calming through Cranford. It was **RESOLVED** that the council investigates further traffic calming initiatives.
- 24/059 It was **RESOLVED** that for the period leading up to 31st March 2025 traffic calming would be the council's main priority, and a community spring clean, community tree planting, new bench, catastrophic bleed kits, and a meeting with representatives from Hanwood Park to hear about their current and future plans.

Finance Matters

- 24/060 It was **RESOLVED** that the local government services pay agreement 2024/25 be implemented, with effect from 1 April 2024.

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- 24/061 It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance Report be noted, i.e.
- a) Cash Book as at 4th November 2024 showing a balance of £16,813.23 (£17,196.97 as at 31st October 2024)
 - b) Bank Reconciliation as at 31st October 2024, showing bank balance of £17,196.97
 - c) Budget Spend as at 4th November 2024, of £14,591.39 ex VAT
 - d) Anticipated Budget Spend as at 31st March 2025 of over £20,000
- 24/062 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments (as below) be authorised for payment.
- 24/063 The clerk presented the Budget Proposal for 2025/2026.
The clerk outlined that as at 31st March 2024 the council's approved budget for 2024/2025 was £13,830. In May 2024, the council approved the transfer of £6,250 underspend from 2023/2024 to the 2024/2025 budget making it £21,080. In September 2024, the council approved the transfer of £2,000 from its earmarked reserves to the 2024/2025 budget making it £23,080. The clerk added that the council spent £7,436.13 (ex VAT) in 2023/2024, whereas it is estimated that the council will spend over £20,000 this financial year. As the village maintenance programme is being well received in the village, the council wished to continue with this. The council acknowledged that this financial year, the village maintenance programme has required a significant effort as a lot of the tasks had not been done for some time, and that next financial year, some of these tasks would not be required. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that the Budget Proposal for 2025/2026 be approved
- 24/064 Following consideration of the proposed sources of funding for the budget for 2025/2026, it was **RESOLVED** that the precept required by the council to deliver its 2025/2026 budget be set at £13,300 which is an increase of 10.69% on its 2024/2025 precept of £12,015

Other Matters

- 24/065 There were no further updates from the chairman
- 24/066 The clerk reported that the council's new website is live,
<https://cranfordparishcouncil.gov.uk>
- 24/067 The date of the next scheduled meeting of the council is to be Monday 27th January 2025
- 24/068 The meeting was closed at 8:30pm

Cranford Parish Council
Council meeting 4th November 2024

Schedule of Payments

Payments to be made				
Payee	Invoice Number / Order Number	Description	Total Amount (inc VAT) £	Legislation
PM Bird / HMRC		Clerk's Pay - November 2024 plus 7 months backpay	509.74	LGA 1972 s.112
Mr T Kemble		Village Maintenance Programme	437.50	Highways Act 1980 s.43 , s.50, s96(5)
				Parish Councils Act 1957, ss 1(1)
PM Bird		Reimbursement	34.50	
		Norton Anti Virus	24.50	LGA 1972 s.111
		Mobile phone top up	10.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Alison Gorton		Reimbursement	54.92	
		Vinca and bulbs for planters	54.92	Highways Act 1980, s96(5)
Community Heartbeat Trust	23317	Replacement spare defibrillator pads	69.54	Public Health Act 1936 s234
PM Bird / HMRC		Clerk's Pay - December 2024	399.49	LGA 1972 s.112