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CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Memorial Hall on Monday 3rd February 2025

- Present:** Cllr Stephen Pickard (chairman), Cllr Alison Gorton (vice-chairman), Cllr Trudy Martin, Cllr Stewart Holford, Cllr Emma Bullock, Pat Bird (clerk)
- 24/069 Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Wilcox, and it was **RESOLVED** that his absence be approved.
- 24/070 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 4th November 2024 be approved as an accurate record and these were subsequently signed by Cllr Pickard, as chairman.
- 24/071 Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda, were
24/041 - £1000 contribution towards the planter near Staveley Yard has been received from PA Wright and Sons.
24/042 - Tree work in Pocket Park has been completed by Julie Auld and invoice paid
24/050 – The clerk is to contact Simon Murphy re the bench on The Green to see if the work has been completed
24/053 – Whilst the clerk reported the issue with the ash tree on The Green, near the footpath, NNC Highways responded that they do not own the land/the trees along this Public Right of Way and that the tree along this path is not affecting users of this Public Right of Way, therefore no further action is required at this present time. The council asked the clerk to investigate ownership of the tree
24/053 – The clerk has met with the resident who had enquired about planting a memorial tree in Jubilee Walk. The resident is happy to plant whatever fits in with the space available and the planting will probably take place in the Spring
- 24/072 Cllr Stephen Pickard declared an interest in agenda item 24/076 being a neighbour to the proposed development at 8 St Andrews Lane

Public participation

- 24/073 The use of a barn on Duck End, near Cranford Wood, by Northamptonshire Mobile Mechanic had been raised. As the council was unaware of an approved planning application for change of use for this barn, the clerk was asked to raise this with NNC Planning.

An issue of protruding roots on the elevated path causing a mobility scooter accident had been reported to the clerk. Whilst the clerk reported this to NNC Highways, via Fix My Street, the responsibility for this is now being investigated by NNC Highways, as they said it

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wasn't their responsibility, and the clerk has disputed this providing evidence that it is their responsibility.

24/074 The ward member(s) were unable to attend the meeting, and no report was received

Planning Matters

24/075 The clerk summarised the council's responses to North Northamptonshire Council and their decisions on the latest planning applications, i.e.

[NK/2024/0177](#) – Council's response - No objections, NNC's decision - Refused.

[NK/2024/0494](#) – Council's response - No objections but clarification sought on the use of 'replacement dwelling' which appeared in the Heritage Statement. This has now been clarified that it is the existing dwelling. NNC's Decision not yet made

[NK/2024/0613](#) – Council's response - Objections to items proposed to be excluded in the Environmental Statement, especially Agriculture and Soils. NNC's Decision - Agricultural and Soils included together with other elements

[NK/2024/0673](#) – Council's response - No objections. NNC's Decision - Approved

[NK/2024/0676](#) – Council's response - No objections. NNC's Decision - Approved

24/076 Since inclusion of the item on the agenda to determine the council's response to North Northamptonshire Council for planning application [NK/2024/0662](#) – 8 St Andrews Lane, Solar panels within the roof, the clerk has been advised by the Planning Case Officer that this application is for a Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Operations and the parish council is typically not consulted on these types of applications. Therefore the council will not be responding to this

24/077 Following consideration of the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed that whilst the council is not directly impacted this, it can identify some similarities between Great Addington and Cranford. The clerk highlighted a couple of errors in the documents and will, on behalf of the council, send a consultation response.

24/078 The clerk reported that they had raised an issue with North Northamptonshire Council as they had not received communications relating to some planning applications. This has now been resolved,

Village Matters

24/079 It was noted that the dates of the Cranford Litter Blitz were 7th- 9th March. The clerk added that the Kettering Half Marathon is on 9th March and that they had informed the organiser of the Cranford Litter Blitz.

Cllr Bullock reported that there had been further incidents of graffiti and would send photos of these through to the clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** that the prioritised tasks for the community spring clean be Paint the wall in the bus shelter, clean up the graffiti, clean up the telephone kiosks, replace the broken panes in the telephone kiosk on the high street, and jet wash the Jubilee Bridge and Millennium Bridge with the decking to be treated in the summer.

24/080 The clerk reported that following the notification of the essential maintenance work on the A14 in January, they emailed National Highways asking what measures they were taking to mitigate drivers using the route through Cranford and Woodford rather than the designated

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diversion route. National Highways responded with their mitigation measures but added that they were unable to force drivers to stay on the designated diversion route. It was acknowledged by the council that the issue of Cranford being used as an alternative route to the A14 needs to be raised, probably with MP Rosie Wrighting.

Finance Matters

- 24/081 It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance Report be noted and approved, with
- a) Cash Book as at 31st January 2025, showing a balance of £15,140.05
 - b) Bank Reconciliation as at 31st January 2025, showing bank balance of £15,140.05
 - c) Budget Spend as at 31st January 2025, of £17,252.98 ex VAT
 - d) Anticipated Budget Spend following payments for authorisation showing an overspend in the Council Owned Asset Maintenance. The clerk explained that this was due to the tree work undertaken in the Pocket Park which had not been budgeted for. The clerk added that whilst this shortfall can be recovered from other areas in the council's budget, the costs of council owned asset maintenance will need to be considered and monitored moving forwards
- 24/082 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments be authorised for payment.
- 24/083 The clerk gave a verbal report on the issues with the speed indicator devices. Following consideration of the issues it was **RESOLVED** that a) the speed indicator devices be altered to be solar powered and to have Bluetooth connectivity, b) the clerk applies to the OPFCC for extra funding to complete this for both speed indicator devices, and c) If the grant application is unsuccessful, the council pays for the conversion of the speed indicator device on the approach to Cranford from Hanwood Park, and seeks further funding opportunities for the second speed indicator device.
- 24/084 Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that the tasks for the community spring clean be funded from existing budgets, grant funding be sought for traffic calming, and the bench near St Andrew's Church be purchased from existing budget. The community tree planting and catastrophic bleed kit projects will be carried forward to the next financial year's projects

Other Matters

- 24/085 The clerk reported that North Northamptonshire Council and town and parish council elections are taking place on Thursday 1 May 2025. The Notice of Election is due to be published by North Northamptonshire Council on 7th March 2025, and that anyone wishing to stand as a candidate for these elections must submit their nomination papers before 4pm on 2nd April 2025.
- The clerk added that they will be attending the NCalc Planning for Elections training on 4th February and will be publicising key information on the council's website and on its noticeboards, encouraging residents to stand as a parish councillor.
- 24/086 Cllr Pickard reported that he will continue as the Parish Path Warden and that the Parish Path Warden scheme is being relaunched.

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- 24/087 The clerk reported that they and Cllr Gorton attended a Strategic Town & Parish Forum Planning Workshop. Both felt that whilst there were some useful points picked up, these did not justify the three hours plus travel time spent. The slides will be shared with the members.
- Cllr Martin reported that she had found a map of Cranford St John that would be suitable for the map casing on The Green, as to remove the base of the map casing is not as straightforward as first seemed. The clerk reminded the members that previous discussions had considered having a map of Cranford St John and Cranford St Andrew. The clerk will contact the creator of the map and report back at the next meeting.
- Cllr Holford, asked for clarification regarding the planning conditions for the refrigerated units overnight at Staveley Yard. The clerk will investigate and report back
- Cllr Gorton reported that the main plant in one of the stone planters has had most of its leaves eaten, possibly by a muntjac, so she will put some chicken wire at the back of the planter to protect the plant.
- 24/088 The clerk proposed 24th March as a date for the next scheduled meeting, subject to members being available. This would be the last scheduled meeting of this term of office for members. It was suggested that a representative of Hanwood Park be invited to the meeting to provide an update on developments. The PCSO has also expressed an interest in attending Parish Council meetings so will be invited.
- 24/089 The meeting was closed at 8:15pm