

CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Memorial Hall on Monday 24th March 2025

Present: Cllr Stephen Pickard (chairman), Cllr Alison Gorton (vice-chairman), Cllr Paul Wilcox, Cllr Emma Bullock, Pat Bird (clerk), Cllr Mark Rowley (NNC Ward Member), one resident

24/090 Apologies were received from Cllr Trudy Martin and Cllr Stewart Holford, and it was **RESOLVED** that both these absences be approved. The PCSO also sent his apologies.

24/091 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 3rd February 2025 be approved as an accurate record, and these were subsequently signed by Cllr Pickard, as chairman.

24/092 Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda,
24/073 – The clerk reported that the use of the barn on Duck End, near Cranford Wood by Northamptonshire Mobile Mechanic has been raised with Planning Enforcement at North Northamptonshire Council
24/083 – The clerk will submit an application to the OPFCC for grant funding to change the speed indicator devices to solar powered and with Bluetooth connectivity, once the grant fund re-opens in April.
24/084 – The bench for St Andrews Church has been ordered and is due for delivery next week
24/087 – The clerk has contacted the creator of the Cranford St John map but has not yet received a reply, so will chase

24/093 No declarations of interest were received from members, in relation to any items on the agenda

Public participation

24/094 A resident had raised a query regarding whether planning permission was required to replace their windows and doors. The resident has contacted NNC Planning a number of times for advice but had not received a response.
As the property lies within the Cranford Conservation Area, the council felt that planning permission would be required.
A resident raised concerns regarding Staveley Yard. Firstly, the regular accumulation of litter in the vicinity of Staveley Yard which is in despite of a local resident doing a weekly litter pick in the area. Secondly, the chiller engine noise, which is all times of the day, including weekends.
Also concerns were raised as to what Staveley Yard is actually used for, as it is supposed to be a Haulage Yard but at least one business which is not a haulage and distribution business is registered at Staveley Yard.
Cllr Pickard explained that six months ago PA Wright and Sons had informed the council that

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the intention was to install hook up points (a bit like electric car chargers) and that electric will be the preferred option, which should address the noise option

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk contacts PA Wright and Sons to find out how the plan to install the hook up points was progressing, and raise the litter issue, and enquire as to the nature of the businesses using Staveley Yard.

- 24/095 Cllr Rowley said that with the Elections imminent, council business for members was relatively quiet. Cllr Pickard asked if Cllr Rowley could assist with some of the council's issues. The clerk replied that their main issue was the lack of updates from NNC regarding ongoing cases, such as the damaged lamp post in Crarves field, and the planning enforcement case.
- Cllr Pickard said his main issue was the state of the roads. He added that there are four roads into and out of Cranford and three of them are not fit for purpose, even though Thrapston Road has been closed on 5 occasions over the last year for road maintenance. The High Street in Cranford being used as a diversion route for the A14 is a concern as is the proposed Kettering Energy Park. Cllr Wilcox asked for clarification on the role of Executive Advisory Panels as the Kettering Energy Park website implied that an EAP meeting had been held in October 2024, which the council was unaware of. Cllr Rowley explained the purpose of EAPs adding that non public EAP meetings may be held.

Planning Matters

- 24/096 It was **RESOLVED** that North Northamptonshire Council's refusal to grant a Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Operations for the installation of solar panels within the roof at 8 St Andrews Lane, i.e. planning application [NK/2024/0662](#) be noted. NNC have deemed that planning permission is required for the proposed development as the property is a curtilage listed building associated with the neighbouring property.
- 24/097 It was **RESOLVED** that the council's response to North Northamptonshire Council regarding planning application, [NK/2025/0016](#) – 34a High Street, Two storey side extension, be noted
- 24/098 It was **RESOLVED** that the Notification of Works to Trees in Conservation Areas, [NK/2025/0052](#) – 28 High Street, Cranford, [NK/2025/0097](#) – 8C High Street, Cranford, and [NK/2025/0122](#) – 3 Rectory Hill, Cranford, be noted.
- It was **RESOLVED** that whilst the council is not a statutory consultee to Notification of Works to Trees in Conservation Areas planning applications, the clerk should enquire whether the skyline is taken into account by NNC in deciding on this type of application

Village Matters

- 24/099 It was **RESOLVED** that the amazing effort of the Cranford Litter Blitz team be acknowledged and appreciated, with the collection of 180 bags of small rubbish, 24 tyres, 7 wheel discs, and 3 abandoned roadside sign easels. The team also cleared the site of a car burn-out, residue from a cannabis farm, and a dumped fitted storage system.
- 24/100 Cllr Gorton reported that Jubilee Bridge is currently being prepared for repainting. Although every effort is being taken to protect the brook, one complaint had been received. Cllr Gorton added that a tree root is coming through the bridge, and that there is a big gap in the fencing at the end of Jubilee Walk which could be a safety issue. Cllr Gorton asked if this could be reported to North Northamptonshire Council. Cllr Gorton added that Jubilee Walk is benefitting from last year's cutting back of overgrown vegetation.

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Cllr Gorton reported that the nest of rabbits which were living in one of the planters and eating most of the plants have been removed and that wire netting has now been installed to prevent further inhabitants. Cllr Gorton advised that the inside of the bus shelter is to be repainted imminently.

The clerk reported that two people have volunteered to repaint the telephone box in the High Street. The clerk added that the paint has been donated by Crown Decorating Centres, via the Community Heartbeat Trust.

24/101 It was **RESOLVED** that the update received from Chris Langdon, Project Director, Hanwood Park, be noted, and that whilst the council appreciated the updates on the different elements of Hanwood Park, it was disappointed at the lack of progress in finding a safe footpath between Hanwood Park and Cranford, to avoid people having to walk on Cranford Road

24/102 Cllr Pickard reported that, as the Parish Path Warden, he has walked all the footpath network in Cranford. Whilst no particular issues were identified, Cllr Pickard felt that some improvements could be made to signage and access, and that maybe there could be an opportunity for funding from the Wind Farm fund.

Cllr Gorton asked the clerk to check if the council was required to do anything with regards to the Cranford, Twywell, Woodford Greenway connections.

24/103 The clerk reported that they were struggling with Fix My Street. Issues previously reported, were getting closed down even though sometimes the work had not been completed. Also, issues reported by others were not easy to find.

Finance Matters

24/104 It was **RESOLVED** that the Finance Report be noted and approved, with

- a) Cash Book as at 28th February 2025, showing a balance of £13,914.86
- b) Bank Reconciliation as at 28th February 2025, showing bank balance of £13,914.86
- c) Budget Spend as at 28th February 2025, of £18,394.72 ex VAT
- d) Anticipated Budget Spend as at 31st March 2025 of £19,905.04 ex VAT

24/105 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments be authorised for payment.

24/106 Following consideration of a request for St John's PCC for a contribution towards a commemorative bench for the late Queen Elizabeth II, to be located in the churchyard, it was **RESOLVED** that a sum of £400 be approved, either for the purchase of a bench or for a contribution to a bench to be purchased by St John's PCC.

Governance Matters

24/107 Following a review of the council's Risk Management policy and Risk Assessment, it was **RESOLVED** that no changes were required

24/108 Following a review of the council's Asset Register, it was noted that the stone planters, bench for outside St Andrew's Church and the new mobile phone for the clerk had been added. It was **RESOLVED** that no further changes were required.

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24/109 The Clerk outlined the process for the Parish Council Elections on 1st May, which was set out on the council's website. This was noted. All members in attendance indicated that they would be seeking re-election

Other Matters

24/110 There were no further updates from the chairman

24/111 There were no further updates from members or the clerk

24/112 The date of the annual meeting of the council, following the elections was set for Monday 12th May, and will follow the Annual Parish Meeting

24/013 The meeting was closed at 8:15pm