CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Village Hall on Monday 7th July 2025

Present: Cllr Stephen Pickard (chairman), Cllr Alison Gorton (vice-chairman), Cllr Emma Bullock, Pat Bird (clerk), Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore (NNC ward member), one resident

25/032 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paul Wilcox (work commitment) and Cllr Stewart Holford. It was **RESOLVED** that both absences be approved.

25/033 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 12th May 2025 be approved as being an accurate record.

25/034 **Matters arsing**

25/023 Having received three quotes, the Clerk opted for Zurich to provide the council's insurance for the forthcoming year.

25/035 No declarations of members' interests in relation to any items on the agenda were received

25/036 Two possible candidates have been identified to fill the remaining vacancies. It was **RESOLVED** to aim to fill the vacancies by the September meeting if possible, and by the November meeting at the latest

Public participation

25/037 The chairman welcomed Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore, NNC member for the Geddington and Stanion Ward, covering the parish of Cranford to the meeting. Cllr Lovell-Moore provided a brief outline of his background and his plans for his role as an NNC member for a ward with several parishes.
Issues discussed with those present at the meeting included warehouse developments, Kettering Energy Park, Hanwood Park, potholes, outstanding planning enforcement case, Wind Turbine fund and external funding opportunities, Member Empowerment Fund, Fix my Street and the A14.

25/038 A need for safer parking on Church Lane near the school had been raised by a resident. The council agreed that safer parking was required and that it needed to be enforced. The clerk will contact the school.

A resident raised an issue with reporting potholes as they felt that NNC was trying to avoid its responsibility. Cllr Lovell-Moore suggested that if the resident had any problems reporting potholes, send them through to him and he will assist.

Planning Matters

25/039 Following consideration of planning application NK/2025/0244 for a single storey side extension at 34a High Street, Cranford, NN14 4AA, it was **RESOLVED** that the council raises no objections, subject to NNC taking into consideration the comments that the council made in response to the proposed two storey side extension on this property (NK/2025/0016)

25/040 It was **RESOLVED** that the council's responses (documents 137 and 138) to planning application NK/2025/0167 for hybrid planning permission for the development of an Energy Park at Burton Wold Wind Farm (land adj), be noted.

25/041 It was **RESOLVED** that the withdrawal of the planning application NK/2025/0124 to convert single garage to office / garden room at 10 High Street Cranford, be noted.

Parish Matters

25/042 Cllr Gorton reported that work on the Jubilee Bridge and Millennium Bridge has been completed and both are looking great. The bench at St Andrew's Church has been installed, the map on the High Street has been removed and the post sanded and repainted. The noticeboard on The Green has been sanded and varnished and cork tiles have been secured to the back of the noticeboard to make it easier to pin notices. Cllr Gorton added that the work currently is general maintenance including the regular watering of the planters.
Two suggestions for inclusion in the Cranford Maintenance Programme had been received from residents. Firstly, the cutting back of overhanging foliage in Church Lane from the High Street to the school, also on Jubilee Walk, and on the High Street from Duck End over Skew bridge to opposite the Station House. Secondly, some further hedge/foliage cutting along the path/pavement at the East end of the High Street (especially from the junction with Duck End around the corner coming into the village from that side, removing the low-hanging branches further along this path (on the North side of the High Street coming into the village approaching the school, and opposite the Red Lion), possibly adding some extra grass cuts, and tidying up the edges where the grass has gradually encroached onto the paths.
Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the maintenance team would undertake hedge/foliage cutting and cutting back low branches where footpaths are impeded. However, ownership would need to be taken into consideration.

25/043 The clerk reported that the illustrated map of Cranford St John had been collected, and options had been considered for the display of this, with the map reproduced onto aluminium composite being the preferred option for outside and the paper map then framed and hung inside. To do this the council is required to purchase the image file at a cost of £125, plus costs of the aluminium composite map with required edging, plus costs of the framing of the paper map. These costs will be duplicated as the council had planned to purchase the illustrated map of Cranford St Andrew when it became available.
The clerk added that the costs of this would come from the council's £1500 budget for capital projects.
It was **RESOLVED** that the image file of the illustrated map of Cranford St John be purchased,

the aluminium composite option be pursued, and the paper map be framed and the clerk finds a suitable location for this.
It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk finds a suitable location for the outdoor illustrated map of Cranford St Andrew and that the map and image file be purchased once they are available.

25/044 Cllr Pickard reported that he is hoping to progress the tree planting project with Kier so that some trees can be planted in the Autumn. A meeting is to be arranged with Kier and the landowner to discuss details.

Finance Matters

25/045 The clerk reported that a donation of £350 had been received from the family of the late Andrew Murphy for the replacement bench on The Green. The clerk added that this followed communications between the clerk and Simon Murphy (ref minute 24/071).
It was **RESOLVED** that the council's grateful thanks for this donation be acknowledged.

It was **RESOLVED** that the July Finance Report be noted, i.e.
a) Cash Book as at 30th June 2025 showing balance of £21,855.62
b) Bank Reconciliation as at 30th June 2025 showing balance of £21,855.62
c) Budget Spend as at 30th June 2025 showing total spend (ex VAT) of £4,540.77

25/046 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments presented in the Schedule of Payments be authorised, as well as the approved payment for the image file for the map of Cranford St John (minute 25/043)

Governance Matters

25/047 Following a review of the council's Standing Orders, it was **RESOLVED** that no changes were required

25/048 Following a review of the council's Financial Regulations, it was **RESOLVED** that no changes were required.

Other Matters

25/049 The chairman reported that they and the clerk are to attend Twywell Parish Council meeting on 8th July for the presentation by Lucy Hawes on the NNC Greenway between Kettering and Woodford, and in particular connecting Twywell and Cranford.

25/050 The clerk reported that they attended the Police Liaison Representative conference where there were encouraging comments from those representing Northamptonshire Police. The clerk will provide a report to the members with the key points

Cllr Bullock reported that trees had been set alongside the border of the Pocket Park, which was welcomed by the council

25/051 It was **RESOLVED** that the date of the next meeting is to be on Monday 22nd September, subject to the availability of the Village Hall.

25/052 The chairman closed the meeting at 8:20 pm and thanked Cllr Lovell-Moore for attending