CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Village Hall on Monday 22nd September 2025

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

25/053 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Stewart Holford.
It was **RESOLVED** that this absence be approved.

25/054 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 7th July 2025 be approved as being an accurate record

25/055 The following matters arising were noted:
24/073 An update regarding the unauthorised use of a barn at Wood Lodge, Duck End by Northamptonshire Mobile Mechanic had been received and shared with members
24/106 The clerk has received details of the PCC's bank account, so will arrange for the payment, approved in March, to be made
25/038 Having contacted the school regarding the need for safer parking on Church Lane, the school responded saying they will send a reminder to parents to be more considerate with their parking. The school also thanked the parish council for bringing this to their attention.

25/056 No declarations of members' interests in relation to any items on the agenda were received

25/057 No expressions of interest have been received to join the council, and the position of the council having two vacancies was noted.

Public participation

25/058 Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore discussed various topics with the members such as the planning enforcement process, frustrations of using Fix My Street, the need for Highways to cut back overgrown vegetation on the verges, potholes, and speed indicator devices.
Cllr Pickard raised an issue he had with accessing the documents on the new online planning system. Cllr Lovell-Moore acknowledged this issue which has been reported by others and is currently being investigated by NNC
The clerk thanked Cllr Lovell-Moore for his support with the council's application to the OPFCC Road Safety Community Fund

25/059 No other members of the public attended the meeting and no requests to raise anything had been received by the clerk, chairman or members.

Planning Matters

It was **RESOLVED** that planning application **25/00736/HFUL** installation of heat pump to side elevation at 4 Church Lane, Cranford, which was received after the Agenda was circulated, be considered at the meeting.
Having considered the application, it was **RESOLVED** that the council raise no objections to this proposed development subject to no objections being raised by the neighbours.

25/060 North Northamptonshire Council's decisions on the following planning applications, were noted
a) **NK/2025/0244** for a single storey side extension at 34a High Street, Cranford, NN14 4AA
Application Permitted/Approved

b) **NK/2023/0697** for 2 no. two storey side extensions, single storey rear extension, glazed link passage and remodelling of courtyard to rear, alterations to outbuildings to create annexe, remove external staircase to rear, insert window to first floor west elevation, internal works to include staircase to basement and insert rooflights at 1 Rectory Hill, Cranford, NN14 4AH
Application Permitted/Approved

c) **NK/2024/0249** for the construction of bund to join the two existing bunds in point 3 and build roof onto northern silage clamp at point 5. Regularisation of various buildings, uses and development to include silage fed anaerobic digester (not built); anaerobic digestion plant;.2 no. landscaping bunds; western silage clamp; northern silage clamp; agricultural building and biomass boiler; agricultural building; 2 no. slurry lagoons and highway access track at Home Farm, Duck End, Cranford, NN14 4AD
Application Permitted/Approved

25/061 Planning application **NK/2025/0253** for a Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Operations for the erection of microgeneration solar PV panels on roof of existing non-domestic buildings at Wood Lodge, Duck End, Cranford, NN14 4AN was noted.
This being at the same location as the planning enforcement case was also noted.

Parish Matters

25/062 Cllr Gorton provided an update on the Cranford Maintenance Programme.
The bench at St Andrews Church has been secured, the bench near the telephone box has been re-varnished. The map has been installed in the High Street. Planters have been watered regularly, paths have been cleared of weeds, including the high level path and from Duck End towards the school, grass has been cut / strimmed, in particular, leading up to the planters. Jubilee Walk has been weeded, trees trimmed and plants tidied.
Cllr Gorton added that work would slow down now with an emphasis on keeping the high level path clear.

25/063 Cllr Gorton reported that a copy of the illustrated map of Cranford St John has been printed onto an aluminium composite board and reinforced with a wood backing and mounted on the plinth near the telephone box on the High Street
The clerk reported that they had collected the paper copy of the illustrated map of Cranford St Andrew.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk should contact the Village Hall Committee to ask if they would like the paper copies of the illustrated maps for display in the Village Hall.

25/064 Cllr Pickard provided an update on a meeting requested by the PCC to discuss the siting of the bench at St Andrew's Church. At the meeting it was agreed that the bench would remain where it is as and that its location be reconsidered should any problems arise.

25/065 Cllr Pickard provided an update on the tree planting project with Kier. Cllr Pickard had met with the landowner to discuss various options for both restoration and new tree planting. Cllr Pickard and the clerk met with a representative from Kier to talk through the various options. Unfortunately, the landowner wasn't able to attend this meeting but the representative from Kier will arrange a further meeting with the landowner to agree the way forward. Kier is looking to get this project underway in time for planting this year

25/066 The clerk reported that they had been informed, that morning, that the council had been successful with its application to the OPFCC for funding from the Road Safety Community Fund. As the council had received money previously from this fund, it will receive 50% of the amount it applied for.
It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk prepares a report, including finance options, for discussion at the next meeting.

Finance Matters

25/067 The clerk provided a summary of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/2026 and the impact of this on the council's budget.
It was **RESOLVED** that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/2026 be implemented, i.e. an increase of 3.2% for the clerk, with effect from 1 April 2025.

25/068 It was **RESOLVED** that the September Finance Report be noted, i.e.
a) Cash Book as of 31st August 2025, showing a balance of £19,782.11
b) Bank Reconciliation as of 31st August 2025, showing the bank balance of £19,782.11
c) Budget Spend as of 31st August 2025 being £6801.43 ex VAT

25/069 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments presented in the Schedule of Payments be authorised

Governance Matters

25/070 Following a review, it was **RESOLVED** that the council adopt the Equality and Diversity Policy from the National Association of Local Councils, with 'Employees' changed to 'Officers and Members'. This being the only change from the council's existing policy.

25/071 Following a review, it was **RESOLVED** that the council adopt the Grievance Policy from the National Association of Local Councils. This being a refreshed version of the council's existing policy.

Other Matters

25/072 There were no further updates from the chairman.

25/073 The clerk reported that they had collected a vast amount of documents from the daughter of the late Joy Beeby. These documents include parish council documents and Cranford

historical documents. The clerk will categorise the documents before considering where and how they should be stored.

There were no further updates from members.

25/074 It was **RESOLVED** that the date of the next meeting be set as Monday 10th November with the setting of the council's budget and precept for 2026/2027 being the primary matter, and a decision regarding the speed indicator device

25/075 The chairman closed the meeting at 20:05 and thanked Cllr Lovell-Moore for attending