

DRAFT MINUTES

CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Village Hall on Monday 19th January 2026

Present: Cllr Stephen Pickard (chairman), Cllr Alison Gorton (vice-charman), Cllr Stewart Holford, Cllr Emma McCullough, Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore (NNC ward member), Pat Bird (clerk), 3 members of the public

- 25/097 Cllr Pickard welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 25/098 Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Wilcox (family reasons). It was **RESOLVED** that his absence be approved.
- 25/099 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held 10th November 2025 be approved as being an accurate record
- 25/100 There were no matters arising from the minutes which were not included on the agenda
- 25/101 No declarations of members' interests in relation to any items on the agenda were received
- 25/102 Gary Kennedy had expressed an interest in joining the parish council. Gary gave a brief outline of why he wanted to join, and what he felt he could bring to the parish council. It was **RESOLVED** that Gary be co-opted to the council.

Public participation

- 25/103 Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore reported that the main focus at NNC has been the budget setting. Cllr Lovell-Moore reported that he had attended an NNC Highways Briefing that morning, as did the clerk, and is encouraging everyone to report all Highways issues online using [North Northamptonshire Council FixMyStreet](#)

Cllr Pickard asked Cllr Lovell-Moore to report back to the NNC Executive, the council's dismay that the council meeting of November 10th, attended by many residents of Cranford, where Cllr Kirk Harrison outlined the proposal for a Travellers Temporary Stopping Site at General's Corner Woodford was not even mentioned by Cllr Harrison in his presentation to the NNC Executive on 11th November. Even more concerning was the distinct lack of questions raised by NNC Executive Members on this particular item at the meeting. Cllr Pickard added that concerns have been raised by residents that the decision to have the Travellers Temporary Stopping Site at General's Corner has already been made by NNC.

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25/104 The following issues were raised by residents

- parking on verges by the school, and parking near a bend
- state of Thrapston Road, between Staveley Yard and A14 junction, dangerous to cyclists, motorcyclists and cars
- speeding along the High Street and down Rectory Hill
- state of the area occupied by Northamptonshire Mobile Mechanic, looking like a scrapyard, and potentially land contamination
- noise intrusion, particularly over Christmas period, from chiller units working off the chiller trailer at Staveley Yard
- footpath sign at Stanbridge Hill damaged
- footpath out of Top Dysons very muddy, could some work be done to the footpath to help prevent it becoming so muddy
- 'Private land' signs being erected, causing confusion as to where the public can access
- installation of gates at Pack's Yard

A resident notified the council of an accident on the High Street damaging a fence and highways sign.

Planning Matters

25/105 It was noted that a retrospective planning application has been submitted to North Northamptonshire Council for the change of use for Wood Lodge Cranford Road, which is currently being used by Northamptonshire Mobile Mechanic without planning permission. The clerk advised that the planning application is currently being validated, before being published for consultation.

The members expressed their frustration as firstly, this issue was notified to planning enforcement in February 2025, and secondly, the council is unable to assure residents that planning regulations apply to all.

Licensing Matters

25/106 Following consideration of the licensing application 26/00046/LAPVAR for Premises Full Variation at the Red Lion, 42 High Street Cranford, it was **RESOLVED** that this be supported subject to the listed conditions being adhered to, especially 'Whenever the external servery is operational, a sufficient number of staff members, which will be determined on a risk assessed basis, will operate, monitor and supervise the area for customer behaviour and to monitor noise levels'

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Parish Matters

- 25/107 Following consideration of the Urban Highway Grass Cutting report, it was **RESOLVED** that the council does not enter into a Section 136 Agreement with North Northamptonshire Council for Urban Highway Grass Cutting. Therefore, the provision of this service would remain with NNC who will undertake this service 3 times a year.
It was **RESOLVED** that the council would monitor NNC's fulfilment of its contractual requirements of this service.
- 25/108 Following consideration of the Damage to Vehicles on Church Lane report, it was **RESOLVED** that the council would not install CCTV in Church Lane.
The clerk advised that NNC Highways had responded to their request for a review of Church Lane, near the school in terms of safer roads, safer vehicles, and safer pedestrians, saying that 'looking at available data, this area is considered safe but your Community Liaison Officer for Highways would be happy to discuss further'.
It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk contact the Community Liaison Officer and arrange a meeting with the affected residents and report back to the council.
- 25/109 Cllr Gorton reported that the Cranford Maintenance Programme has been dormant since November, but with spring approaching, work will resume and the spring bulbs should start to appear in the planters. Cllr Gorton added that appreciative comments have been received from residents and that residents will be asked to suggest areas to be considered for inclusion in the Cranford Maintenance Programme.
- 25/110 Cllr Pickard outlined Kier's proposal for the tree planting project on Kip's farmland at Duck End. The proposal is for 10 Willow trees to be planted along the watercourse in the planting area which will re-establish the look of the area before the watercourse was changed, and 40 trees to be spread across the two other areas identified for planting. The trees will be supplied with basic support stakes and ties to provide support to help the roots establish. Kier will also be able to provide watering for the trees planted for 1 year to enable trees to become established.
Kier will not be able to provide heavy duty guards to protect against livestock or fencing around areas where pockets of trees will be planted. Therefore, this additional protection for trees will need to be funded either by Cranford Parish Council or by other means.
It was **RESOLVED** that Kier's proposal be supported and that the council's financial commitment to this project be approved with external funding options explored.
- Cllr McCullough left the meeting, due to family reasons
- 25/111 The clerk reported that the speed indicator device has been delivered and that whilst this is to be located at the approach to Cranford from Hanwood Park, the exact location is still to be determined. One option is an existing pole, at the start of the 30mph zone, which requires a pole extension. Confirmation is being sought that the pole extension can take the weight of the speed indicator device, the batteries and the solar panel. Another option is an existing pole, within the 30mph zone, which does not require a pole extension.
It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk works with Cllr Gorton on this project, and seeks support from others as required.

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25/112 The clerk circulated details relating to the NNC Local Transport Grant and Active Travel England funding. The clerk said that this was an opportunity for the council to submit transport schemes and identify locations for the provision of cycle parking. It was suggested that a safe cycle path between Hanwood Park and Twywell Hills and Dales with cycle parking provided at both locations be explored for submission to the NNC Local Transport Grant. The clerk added that the closing date for submissions is 16th February.
It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk drafts a submission to the NNC Local Transport Grant based on the suggested idea and that this is reviewed and agreed by members before being submitted.
The need for traffic calming down Rectory Hill was identified, and it was **RESOLVED** that funding for traffic calming measures down Rectory Hill be explored.

25/113 The clerk reported that they are still awaiting a response from the Village Hall regarding the illustrated paper maps of Cranford St Andrew and Cranford St John.
The clerk added that whilst the council's intention is to have a similar map board for the illustrated map of Cranford St Andrew as it has for Cranford St John, the big question is where should it be located.
It was **RESOLVED** that ideas be sought as to the location of the Cranford St Andrew map board; permission from Highways be sought, if required; and the required materials be purchased, and map board installed.

Finance Matters

25/114 The January Finance Report was noted, with
a) Cash Book as at 31st December 2025, showing a balance of £13,958.58
b) Bank Reconciliation as at 31st December 2025, showing a bank balance of £13,958.58
c) Budget Spend as at 31st December 2025, showing a spend of £13,904.84 ex VAT

25/115 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments presented in the Schedule of Payments be authorised

25/116 Following consideration of the Budget Proposal for 2026/2027, it was **RESOLVED** that an amount of £150 for the Village Hall Rental be included, and that the Budget Proposal 2026/2027 be then approved

25/117 It was **RESOLVED** that the precept required by the council for 2026/2027 be set at £13,875.00, a 4.32% increase from 2025/2026

Governance Matters

25/118 The clerk reported that NNC was undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR) to help ensure local governance reflects local identities, reflects the interests of the community, and is working as effectively and conveniently as it should. The clerk added that consultation on the CGR is open until 12th March and that even if the council did not want to change any aspects of its local governance, it was still requested to respond to the consultation.

The council considered whether it wished to change its parish boundaries, the number of its parish councillors, the name of its parish, its electoral arrangements, or to be grouped with

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another parish or parishes, or change from being a parish council to a parish meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that its response to the CGR consultation be that no changes to any aspects of its local governance be requested. Also, the clerk to make residents aware of the consultation so that they could have their own say.

- 25/119 The clerk outlined the benefit of a council Facebook page to signpost residents to information on the council's website, and other sources of information. The clerk added that guidance would be sought from NCALC for the setting up of this. It was **RESOLVED** that a council Facebook page be set up by the clerk for the purpose of signposting residents

Other Matters

- 25/120 The chairman had no further updates
- 25/121 Cllr Gorton said that they would explore funding opportunities available through the Burton Wold Community Wind Farm Fund for the council
- 25/122 The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 16th March 2026
- 25/123 Cllr Pickard thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 20:35