

DRAFT MINUTES

CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Pat Bird
Rosedale
Twywell
NN14 3AL

clerk@cranfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07522 582251

<https://cranfordparishcouncil.gov.uk>



Minutes of the meeting of Cranford Parish Council held at Cranford Memorial Hall on Monday 27th July 2026

Present: Cllr Stephen Pickard (chairman), Cllr Paul Wilcox, Cllr Emma McCullough, Cllr Stewart Holford, Cllr Gary Kennedy, Cllr John Hunter, Pat Bird (clerk), Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore (NNC member for Geddington and Stanion Ward), 10 residents

- 26/031 Cllr Stephen Pickard welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 26/032 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Alison Gorton (family commitment). It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Gorton's absence be approved.
- 26/033 The presentation from Lucy Hawes, NNC Greenway Projects Officer on the Northamptonshire Greenway Connecting Cranford and Twywell as part of the wider identified Route KT Kettering to Thrapston, was deferred to the next meeting
- 26/034 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held 18 May 2026 be approved as an accurate record, with an ease of reading amendment to the last word in item 26/005, i.e. 'the clerk' instead of 'me'.
- 26/035 The following matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda, were noted:
26/008 a) Damaged foot board on the Millennium Bridge has been repaired
- 26/036 Cllr Wilcox declared an interest in item 26/039 b) Kettering Energy Park as a near neighbour. No other declarations of members' interests were received.

Public participation

- 26/037 Cllr Lovell-Moore gave a brief update on the key issues affecting Cranford.
- 1) Kettering Energy Park – Brendon attended the meeting at St Andrew's Church, Kettering where there were approximately 200 people, and he was keen to explore how Cranford Parish Council and others can become collectively involved with this proposed development
 - 2) Travellers Temporary Stopping Site – Brendon advised that a six-week consultation on this is due to be launched shortly. Cllr Pickard added that as soon as the parish council was aware of this consultation, it will share the details via Cranford Community News
 - 3) Junction 10A – Brendon advised that whilst this was directly connected to a number of houses being built at Hanwood Park, it was still subject to a planning application. Cllr Pickard added that he would expect Cranford Parish Council to be a consultee on the planning application.
 - 4) State of Cranford roads – Brendon advised that he will be attending the meeting with

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parish councillors and Highways on 24th August to seek a plan of action to address the areas requiring attention

- 26/038 Residents addressed the council on the following matters:
- 1) Planning application for 1 Battle Close, highlighting highway safety concerns
 - 2) Temporary Travellers Stopping Site, highlighting a lack of communication since the NNC council meeting in November, and concern that they may not be included in the consultation
 - 3) Kettering Energy Park, highlighting the adverse impact on the capacity and safety of the local highways network, questioning whether there is a demand for further warehouses, challenging that the proposal is not for an energy park, and voicing their objections to the proposed development
 - 4) Overgrown vegetation at A14 Junction 11 westbound is restricting visibility , especially for those wishing to turn right heading towards Cranford. The clerk advised that this has been reported to National Highways and they have responded to say that the worst of the overgrown vegetation has been cleared.

Planning Matters

- 26/039 Following consideration, it To determine the council's response to North Northamptonshire Council on the following planning applications
- a) [26/00153/HFUL](#) 1 Battle Close, Cranford – Following discussions that the concerns previously raised by the parish council had not been addressed, it was **RESOLVED** that the council objects to this planning application on the grounds of highway safety issues if vehicles do not have access at all times to a turning head, and also over development of this site.
 - b) [NK/2025/0167](#) Kettering Energy Park, Burton Wold Wind Farm (land Adj) Wold Road Burton Latimer – Following discussions that the issues previously raised by the parish council had not been addressed, and with further issues being identified in the discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that the council strongly objects to this application and that the clerk resubmits the issues raised previously by the council and summarises the further issues identified.
- 26/040 It was **RESOLVED** that the council's responses to North Northamptonshire Council on these planning applications, dealt with under the council's Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk, be noted
- a) [26/01217/LBC](#) - St Andrews Church, St Andrews Lane, Cranford
 - b) [26/00870/LBC](#) - Round House Farm, Thrapston Road, Finedon (Declaration of interest was received from Cllr Wilcox, as a buyer from the Farm)
 - c) [26/01361/FUL](#) - 5 St Andrews Lane, Cranford (Declaration of interest was received from Cllr Holford, as the property owner)

Parish Matters

- 26/041 The clerk gave a brief update on the recent work undertaken on the Cranford Maintenance Programme, i.e. Planters - watering, weeding, topping up with soil, High level path - strimming, cutting back tree branches, brambles, clearing Millennium Bridge, Jubilee Bridge - strimming, weeding, cutting grass, watering new cherry tree, Duck End - strimming, cutting back brambles, clearing walking path, benches - sanding, painting, bench at St Andrews Church and bench at the illustrated map in Crarves Field. Members expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken on the Cranford Maintenance Programme.

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- 26/042 The clerk shared reports with the Members showing speed monitoring data from 18th April to 29th June. The clerk added that each report appeared to have a rogue figure and this has been raised with the supplier. As well as showing speeding issues, the data also highlighted when there was a problem on the A14, as the number of vehicles travelling through Cranford far exceeded the norm.
- Moving forward, the clerk asked the council to consider purchasing a remote access solution to download the data, the cost of this would be £500 ex VAT plus postage for the device with a two year subscription, the device plus a three year subscription would be £660 ex VAT plus postage
- The clerk added that as the grant from the OPFCC was for £3810, of which the OPFCC paid 50%, the OPFCC have requested the council pays back £455 as the council has only spent just over £2900.
- Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that the council purchases a remote access device plus a three year subscription at a cost of £660 ex VAT plus postage, and that the clerk resubmits the project costings to the OPFCC.
- Regarding the Community Speed Watch initiative, the clerk reported that they had received interest from three residents. As six volunteers were required, the clerk will put another notice on Cranford Community News, seeking further volunteers. The Community Speed Watch runs from March to October, so this will probably be a project for next year.

- 26/043 Following consideration of the report on the tree planting project, it was **RESOLVED** that for this year the council commits to the watering, maintenance, and provision of appropriate tree guards for the 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.
- The council will then review its commitment for the other 40 trees identified in Kier's original proposal.

- 26/044 The clerk reported that they had received one quote for a tree risk assessment survey for the Pocket Park. Julie Auld has agreed to provide a quote, and a further quote will be sought before the next parish council meeting in September for consideration by the members.

Finance Matters

- 26/045 It was **RESOLVED** that the July Finance Report be noted, i.e.
- a) Cash Book as at 30th June 2026, showing a balance of £22,277.51
 - b) Bank Reconciliation as at 30th June 2026, showing a bank balance of £22,277.51
 - c) Budget Spend as at 30th June 2026, showing a spend of £4282.66 ex VAT
- 26/046 It was **RESOLVED** that the financial contribution from the Evans family for a replacement tree in Jubilee Walk, be acknowledged and the members expressed their grateful thanks for this.
- 26/047 It was **RESOLVED** that the quote from Artisan Sign for £30 plus VAT to update the chairmans' board be approved.
- 26/048 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments presented in the Schedule of Payments be approved

Staffing Matters

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- 26/049 The clerk shared their resignation letter, sent to the chairman, with the members. Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that the clerk initially contacts NCALC for their advice and that a plan to have a new clerk in place by March is discussed at the next meeting

Other Matters

- 26/050 The chairman reported that they had been in touch with Mark and Alex Robinson regarding known issues and exploring opportunities for new projects
- 26/051 Cllr Hunter mentioned the faulty streetlight on Rectory Hill.
- 26/052 Acknowledging that now with seven members, the risk that five were unable to attend the same meeting was low, it was **RESOLVED** that dates for the remaining meetings in the year be set for the third Monday in the month, i.e. Monday 16th November 26th, Monday 18th January 2027, and Monday 15th March 2027, with the next meeting being Monday 7th September 2026
- 26/053 Cllr Pickard thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 21:10