

CRANFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Cranford Parish Council at Cranford Memorial Hall on Monday 7th September 2026.

Present: Cllr Stephen Pickard (chairman), Cllr Emma McCullough, Cllr Stewart Holford, Cllr John Hunter, Pat Bird (clerk), Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore (NNC member for Geddington and Stanion Ward), Lucy Hawes (NNC Greenway Projects Officer)

26/054 Cllr Stephen Pickard welcomed everyone to the meeting

26/055 Apologies were received from Cllr Alison Gorton (family commitment), Cllr Paul Wilcox (work commitment), Cllr Gary Kennedy (family commitment). It was **RESOLVED** that each of these absences be approved.

26/056 A presentation from Lucy Hawes, NNC Greenway Projects Officer, about the proposed North Northamptonshire Greenway connecting Cranford and Twywell as part of the wider identified Route KT Kettering to Thrapston was well received and generated interest amongst the members. Lucy also outlined the Camino Ingles, a long distance walk from Durham to Southampton as part of the wider Camino de Santiago, which will come through North Northamptonshire. Lucy will work with the parish council and landowners on both of these projects.

26/057 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held 27th July 2026 be approved as being an accurate record

26/058 There were no matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda.

26/059 No declarations of members' interests, in relation to any items on the agenda, were received

Public participation

26/060 Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore gave a brief report. He had no further update on when the consultation for the Travellers Temporary Stopping Site is to take place. Comments on the planning application for the Kettering Energy Park are still being received. Issues raised during the Highways Engagement meeting with the parish council on 24th August are being considered by NNC.

26/061 The clerk reported that a resident has raised concerns regarding the again damaged wall in St Andrews Lane, also asking if the parish council can look into applying to get the wall in St Andrews Lane and the wall at St Johns listed. The resident asked if the parish council knew what the plans for the wall were and when it would be repaired. The members hoped that the wall in St Andrews Lane will be repaired soon.
A resident has submitted a proposal for highways changes for Church Lane and High Street.

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This had been sent through to members. Before arranging a meeting with NNC Highways to consider this proposal, the members felt that a consensus of opinion was required amongst those affected by this proposal

The clerk reported that a number of concerns regarding potential breaches of development control have been raised by residents.

Planning Matters

- 26/062 The council's response to North Northamptonshire Council on the planning application [NK/2025/0167](#) Kettering Energy Park, Burton Wold Wind Farm (land Adj) Wold Road Burton Latimer, was noted, and no further questions or comments were received.
- 26/063 North Northamptonshire Council's decisions for the following planning applications was noted
- a) [26/01217/LBC](#) - St Andrews Church, St Andrews Lane, Cranford, i.e. Approved
 - b) [26/00870/LBC](#) - Round House Farm, Thrapston Road, Finedon, i.e. Approved
 - c) [26/01361/FUL](#) - 5 St Andrews Lane, Cranford, i.e. Approved

Parish Matters

- 26/064 The clerk reported that with August being so hot and dry, not a lot gardening has been done on the Cranford Maintenance Programme. A total of 10 Hours has been spent, mostly watering planters, cutting back brambles and tree branches at the elevated path and Jubilee Walk.
- 26/065 Following approval at the last council meeting, the clerk suggested to the OPFCC funding officer that the council would like to use the underspend from the OPFCC Road Safety Fund for the purchase of the remote access device for the speed indicator device plus a three year subscription. Unfortunately, the funding officer said that this would not be possible as the remote access device was not listed in the original application, and the Road Safety Fund does not generally cover revenue costs.
- Therefore, the council will need to repay the £455 (50% of £3810 proposed project budget less £2900 actual spend). It was **RESOLVED** that the council repays the OPFCC £455.
- As the council had been unsuccessful in its attempt to use the Road Safety Fund to cover the costs of this, it was **RESOLVED** that the council purchases a remote access device plus a two year subscription at a cost of £500 ex VAT plus postage.
- 26/066 Following consideration of Julie Auld's quotation for works in the Pocket Park, i.e. the removal of hazardous dead, damaged and hanging branches, improving clearance over the pedestrian pathway and leaving the route safe, accessible and tidy, it was **RESOLVED** that the quotation of £780 be accepted and that following the completion of this work, the parish council will engage with residents to plan the future of the Pocket Park.
- 26/067 Cllr Stephen Pickard, Cllr Gary Kennedy, Cllr John Hunter, Cllr Brendon Lovell-Moore and the clerk attended the Highways Engagement meeting with the Highways Community Liaison Officer, Cllr Chris McGiffin (Executive Member for Highways and Travel), and a member of the Kier team. The meeting focussed on road conditions on all approaches to Cranford, excessive use of HGVs on rural roads, speeding issues down Grafton Road, communications regarding road closures, overgrown vegetation, 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs, drainage concerns on Grafton Roads. The meeting was deemed as useful and positive, and improvements have been seen, although not all issues have been resolved. It was **RESOLVED**

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that the parish council members and residents be encouraged to report all Highways issues / defects at [Report potholes or a highway defect | North Northamptonshire Council](#)

- 26/068 The clerk had contacted Lucy Hawes at NNC to ask if there were any potential funding sources available to enable the council to undertake the improvement to the path from Top Dysons towards Hanwood Park (GF5). Lucy had advised that Awards 4 All would be a possibility and the clerk should also contact the Northamptonshire Community Fund. It was **RESOLVED** that following contacting Northamptonshire Community Fund, the clerk submits an application to Awards 4 All, and any other appropriate funding sources for funding to improve GF5.

Finance Matters

- 26/069 The September Finance Report was noted, i.e.
- a) Cash Book as at 31st August 2026, showing a balance of £20,665.84
 - b) Bank Reconciliation as at 31st August 2026, showing a bank balance of £20,665.84
 - c) Budget Spend as at 31st August 2026, showing a total spend of £6,073.66 ex VAT
- 26/070 The clerk outlined the financial impact of the 3.3% increase for the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27, for the clerk, and the council. The increase in the clerk's pay is within the council's 2026/27 budget for the clerk's contracted salary. It was **RESOLVED** that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27 be implemented by the council.
- 26/071 It was **RESOLVED** that the payments presented in the Schedule of Payments be approved.

Governance Matters

- 26/072 The clerk outlined the need to review the council's Records Retention policy. The clerk recommended that the council adapts and adopts the Document Retention and Disposal Procedure produced by Society of Local Council Clerks which has been compiled from various sources of recommended best practice. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk's recommendation be approved

Staffing Matters

- 26/073 The clerk reported that they had received useful documents from Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (NCALC) to help with the recruitment of a new Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer. It was **RESOLVED** that the council advertises the vacancy before the next parish council meeting in November.

Other Matters

- 26/074 There were no further updates from the chairman
- 26/075 Cllr Emma McCullough said that she found the NCALC Off to a Flying Start Course useful. The clerk added that Cllr Gary Kennedy and Cllr John Hunter would be attending this course during the next few months. The clerk reminded the members about the setting up of their council email addresses.
- 26/076 It was noted that the date of the next meeting is Monday 16th November 2026, starting at 7pm
- 26/077 Cllr Stephen Pickard closed the meeting at 8:30pm

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