



**Minutes of the Meeting held at Earls Barton Library and Community Centre
on Monday 13th November 2023**

Present: Cllrs P Morrall (Chair), T Brennan, N Chapman, S Dodds, V Gould, P Hadman, C Lloyd-Staples.

147/23 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public were in attendance to address the parish council.

148/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Bond, L Morrison and C Wells.

149/23 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

No declarations of pecuniary interest were received.

150/13 Resignation of Cllr Sam Weller

The resignation of Cllr Weller was received and accepted, and thanks were expressed to Cllr Weller. The Clerk will begin the process to advertise the vacancy

151/23 Minutes of the Meeting of 9th October 2023

It was resolved to adopt the minutes as a correct record.

152/23 Accounts

(a) Expenditure - it was resolved to pay the following accounts:

	Chq no	Payee	Details	£
137	D/Debit	SSE	EB Library – utilities	492.69
138	B/Transfer	WeedWise	Grounds Maintenance (Oct)	3056.00
139	B/Transfer	Midland Tree Specialists	Treework	756.00
140	B/Transfer	Mowerman	Grounds Maintenance (Oct)	1233.00
141	B/Transfer	Parish Online	Website	378.00
142	B/Transfer	Brown & Co	Pioneer – ½ year rent	625.00
143	B/Transfer	Countrywide Fencing	Project – Aggate Way	2809.92
144	B/Transfer	Community Heartbeat	Repairs – Defib Battery	169.80
145	300074	Royal British Legion	Remembrance Sunday Wreath	30.00
146	B/Transfer	Wayman Architects	Sports Dev – Architects	960.00
147	B/Transfer	Npower	Street Lighting	270.08
148/151	B/Transfer/300075	Salary Costs	Clerk/Registrar/Y-Club Leader/Tax&NI/Pension	4622.70
152	300076	EBPC	Transfer to Sports Fund	487.52

(b) Income – it was resolved to approve the receipts received for October 2023.

(c) Internal Financial Checks – it was resolved to approve the updated budget, including income and expenditure, as presented by the Clerk, and a bank reconciliation to 31st October 2023.

153/23 Planning

(a) Planning Applications Received:

NW/23/00626/FUL – demolition of conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension – 5 Oxford Close.

NW/23/00695/ADV – display of double sided (v) advertisement boards (non-illuminated) mounted on poles 2.5 metres from ground to underside – field east of junction of Mears Ashby Road and Earls Barton Road with Washbrook Lane, Mears Ashby.

NW/23/00708/FUL – first floor office extension – 2 Titley Bawk Avenue

NW/23/00726/FUL – proposed single storey rear extension and conversion of the existing roof to habitable accommodation including two front and one rear dormer windows – 47 Spring Gardens. Following discussion, it was resolved that no comment was required on the applications received.

(b) Licensing Application Received:

23/01805/LAPNEW – Premises Licence – Scotch Lodge Farm Shop, Scotch Lodge, 67 Mears Ashby Road.

Following discussion, it was resolved that no comment was required on the application received.

154/23 Police/Community Safety

(a) Crime Figures and Report – crime figures acquired from the police.uk website indicate that 35 crimes were reported in September. The Clerk reported on changes in the hierarchy at Northants Police.

(b) OPFCC Virtual Meeting – the clerk will attend the meeting on 29th November.

155/23 Sports and Leisure Development

(a) The Grange Sports Development Update – It was noted that planning permission has still not been granted. The Clerk advised that the Ecology Report is being finalised before submission. It was resolved to appoint Wayman Architects to draw up plans for the refurbishment of the existing pavilion.

156/23 Finance

(a) Clerk's Salary Review – it was resolved to approve the clerk's salary settlement, backdated to 1st April 2023.

(b) Website – the clerk reported that the new parish council website is now up and running. Councillor's email addresses will be issued soon.

(c) Review of Cemetery Fees – it was resolved to increase cemetery fees by 10% from 1st January 2024.

157/23 Events

(a) Bonfire Night – Cllr Chapman reported on the Bonfire Night event. It was well organised and went well and areas have been identified to improve the event next year.

(b) Christmas Market – Cllr Hadman reported that all the stalls for the event have now been allocated and arrangements are now being finalised.

158/23 Committees

(a) Grounds Maintenance Committee – date for meeting to be confirmed.

(b) Finance Committee – date for meeting to be confirmed.

(c) Allotment Committee – date for meeting to be confirmed.

159/23 Biodiversity Duty

Following discussion, it was recognised that EBPC are already acting through the Climate Action Plan. The Environment Sub-Committee will review the plan to ensure that it covers all areas required by Environment Act 2021.

160/23 Highways and Maintenance

(a) Builder's Compound on Library Car Park – following receipt of new information, this matter was considered again. Following discussion, it was resolved to refuse permission for a builder's compound to be situated on the library car park during building work at the primary school on safety grounds and due to the adverse effect, that it would have on the library.

(b) Request for Introduction of Parking Restrictions on The Square – following discussion, it was resolved that EBPC would not support the request or parking restrictions.

(c) Bus Stop, High Street – concerns were raised that the bus stop opposite the junction of High Street/Manor Road has still not been replaced/repaired. Cllr Scott Brown was asked to investigate this.

- (d) Electric Vehicle Charging Points on Churchill Road – it has been confirmed that, due to the feedback received, this proposal has now been discarded. EBPC will put forward the locations of Little Green car park on The Square, Park Street car park and Mallard Close for the next round of consultations.
- (e) Tree Report – deferred to December’s meeting.

161/23 North Northants Council

- (a) Councillors Report – Apologies were received from Cllr Lawman. Cllr Brown reported the following:
 - Children’s Services has been rated good following a recent inspection.
 - Kettering Library requires repairs to the roof quoted at £6.8m.
 - Grants are available for rural businesses (closing date is 24th November)
 - The contract for services with the Autistic Society has been extended for a further 6 months.
 - As a result of the boundary review, Earls Barton ward will lose Great Doddington, Wilby and Redwell Grange, and the number of ward councillors will be reduced from 3 to 2. Overall, the number of councillors for North Northants Council will be reduced from 72 to 68. These changes come into effect from the next NNC election.
 - An online Climate Conference will be held on 22nd November.
 - The Coats for Kids appeal is now open.
 - The Recall Commission for Peter Bone has been organised and will run for 6 weeks.
 - There are four consultations currently live on the NNC website.
 - Cllr Brown has been engaging with the community, most recently holding an evening of Q&As with scouting groups from Earls Barton

A leaflet drop relating to parking in New Barton has been arranged. Cllr Brown will send the wording to the Clerk for approval.

- (b) NNC Survey – Reviewing the Strategic Town and Parish Council Forums – the Councillors were encouraged to complete the questionnaire.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11th December 2023 – 7.15pm

It should be noted that these minutes are subject to the approval of Earls Barton Parish Council

Rosemary Smart – Clerk to the Council

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