



**Minutes of the Meeting held at Earls Barton Library and Community Centre
on Monday 10th March 2025**

Present: Cllrs V Gould (Chair), J Bond, T Brennan, G Broadhead, S Dodds, C Lloyd-Staples, P Morrall, L Morrison, C Wood.

031/25 Public Speaking Time

A member of the public attended to address the members regarding the church floodlighting.

032/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs N Chapman, P Hadman, D Smith and C Wells.

033/25 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

No declarations of interested were received.

034/25 Minutes of the Meeting of 10th February 2025

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

035/25 Accounts

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

	Chq no	Payee	Details	£
234	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Pioneer Sports Field	104.96
235	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	EB Library – utilities	161.15
236	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Cemetery Chapel	26.50
237	B/Transfer	JBL Services	Installation of Memorial Bench	370.00
238	B/Transfer	Mowerman	Grounds Maintenance (Mar)	3381.65
239	B/Transfer	WeedWise	Grounds Maintenance (Feb)	3100.00
240	B/Transfer	E-on	Repairs – street light	42.00
241	B/Transfer	TDP Limited	Replacement plaque-memorial bench	56.40
242	B/Transfer	Northants ACRE`	Annual Membership – 2025/26	42.00
243	B/Transfer	C Wells	Reimbursement – N/Plan website	870.93
244	B/Transfer	Society of Local Council Clerks	Clerk Annual Membership – 2025/26	355.00
245	B/Transfer	Earls Barton Cricket Club	Grant – mower upkeep	3500.00
246	B/Transfer	MSM Insurance	Soap Box Derby 2025 – insurance	975.00
247	Sports Fund	David Smith Associates	Sports Fund – Civil Engineering	2220.00
248	B/Transfer	Total Energies	EB Library – utilities	29.40
249	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Pioneer	87.97
250	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Cemetery Chapel	16.07
251	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	EB Library – utilities	811.76
252	B/Transfer	EB United Football Club	Pioneer – repairs to driveway	3500.00
253- 256	B/Transfer	Salary Costs	Clerk/EBYC Leader/Tax&NI/Pension	3591.46

(b) Income – income received in February was noted and approved.

(c) Internal Financial Checks – the Chair of the Finance Committee reported that all internal checks had ben carried out and that there are no discrepancies or concerns to report.

036/25 Planning

- (a) Planning Applications Received:
NW/25/00059/FUL – single storey rear extension, with patio area extended – 19 Mears Ashby Road.
NW/23/00360/FUL – development of battery energy storage system (BESS) with associated infrastructure including; access, drainage and landscaping (updated layout and updated EIA information received January 2025) – Grendon Lakes, Main Road, Grendon
Following discussion, it was resolved to object to application NW/23/00360/FUL raising concerns relating to the location, risk of flooding and environmental impact. No comments were required on the other application received.
- (b) Green Hill Solar Farm – it was noted that the community consultation has reopened. Of the 95 responses received so far, 69.8% indicate that they are against the Green Hill Solar Farm proposal.

037/25 Police/Community Safety

- (a) Crime Figures and Report – it was advised that 12 crimes were reported in February.

038/25 Sports and Leisure Development

The discharge of one planning condition is now outstanding. A decision on this is expected by 26th March, at which point a start date can be set. A section 184 licence has now been granted for access of construction vehicles from the A4500. The plans for the new pavilion are being finalised, at which point negotiation will begin with the preferred contractor identified in the tender process to reprice the build.

The wording for the resolution for the previously agreed PWLB application was agreed: it was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £200,000 over the borrowing term of 11 years for The Grange Sport and Community Development. The annual loan repayments will come to around £24,000.

039/25 Finance

- (a) Skipton Building Society Sports Fund – after investigating alternative instant access high interest accounts, it was resolved to move the sports fund from Skipton Building Society to Unity Trust.
- (b) EB Library and Community Centre – it was resolved to defer this item to April's meeting, following a meeting of the Trustees.

040/25 Election 2025

- Nomination forms are now available from the Electoral Commission website or can be access via the Clerk.
- Nominations open – Friday 7th March
- Nominations close – 4pm Wednesday 2nd April
- Electoral Roll numbers can be provided for the candidate, proposer and seconder by the Clerk.
- Nomination papers must be delivered, by appointment, to the NNC offices in Kettering during the dates stated above.

For more information, please contact the clerk.

041/25 Committees

- (a) Carnival Committee (Working Party) – it was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Terms of Reference, including the associated parameters. It was noted that whilst EBPC are keen to continue to support the Earls Barton Carnival, concerns were raised over changes in the format and a letter will be sent to the Carnival Committee.
- (b) Environmental Strategy Sub-Committee – it was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of 27th February 2025 as a correct record.

042/25 Cllr George Blackwell

Following discussion, it was proposed that a bench in tribute to George be installed in the new Community Garden on Aggate Way. This proposal, along with proposals from EB Sport and Community Trust, will be discussed with George's family before further action is taken.

043/25 Making Earls Barton a Fair-Trade Village

A representative from Fair-Trade attended to address the members. It was resolved that EBPC promote Earls Barton becoming a Fair-Trade village. It was also resolved that Cllr Lloyd-Staples would join the Fair-Trade Committee.

044/25 Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held directly before the April Parish Council meeting.

045/25 EB Youth Club

The EBYC Junior Leader is standing down. It was agreed that the position be advertised with a starting rate of £15 per hour, reviewed after 6 months. The Clerk will meet with Cllr Bond and representatives from EBYC.

046/25 Highways and Maintenance

- (a) Station Road (south of River Nene) – a joint letter asking for a copy of the coring assessment is to be sent to NNC Highways from EBPC and Grendon PC.
- (b) Memorial Bench – it was resolved to approve a request for a memorial bench on the Rec. The Clerk will finalise details of the location.
- (c) Proposed Prohibition of Motor Vehicles except access: A4500 layby – it was resolved to support the proposal.
- (d) Grendon Road – a road closure order for 28th April 2025 was noted.
- (e) Waendal Walk Day 1 – a road closure order for Grendon Road/Station Road on 10th May 2025 was noted.

047/25 North Northants Council

- (a) Councillors Report – apologies were received from Cllrs Lawman and Hallam. Cllr Brown reported the following:
 - A balance annual budget has been set for 2025/26 of £400m+. This represents a core council tax increase of 4.99%, with an additional 2% for adult social care.
 - Events have been held around the NNC area for Children’s Mental Health week.
 - In the week of International Women’s Day, it was noted that all the people sitting at the top table in NNC Council meetings are women.
 - Local elections will take place on 1st May 2025 – please register to vote if you haven’t already done so.
 - A scam involving QR codes on parking machines has been detected. Please note that NNC do not use QR codes on any of their parking meters.
 - Mud and debris on the A4500 footpath is being dealt with.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14th April 2025 – 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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