



**Minutes of the Meeting held at Earls Barton Library and Community Centre
on Monday 12th January 2026**

Present: Cllrs V Gould (Chair), J Bond, T Brennan, G Broadhead, N Chapman, S Charouneau, S Dodds, C Lloyd-Staples, L Morrison, S Olloman, D Smith, C Wells, C Wood.

001/26 Public Speaking Time

Members of the public raised concerns with the parish council relating to the lack of signage for pedestrians at the closure of White Mills bridge.

002/26 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

003/26 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

No declarations of interested were received.

004/26 Minutes of the Meeting of 8th December 2025

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

005/26 Accounts

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

	Chq no	Payee	Details	£
216	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Pioneer	78.61
217	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	EB Library – utilities	356.60
218	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Chapel	20.37
219	B/Transfer	Trendgrey Construction Ltd	Sports Dev – pavilion construction	94620.00
220	B/Transfer	WeedWise	Grounds Maintenance (Dec)	3100.00
221	B/Transfer	Mowerman	Grounds Maintenance (Jan)	3424.85
222	B/Transfer	Greener Ground Care	Grounds Maintenance	960.00
223	B/Transfer	J R Garden Solutions	Pest Control	200.00
224	B/Transfer	James Wilson Associates	Professional fees – planning	400.00
225	B/Transfer	Anglian Water	Water – Cemetery	24.26
226	B/Transfer	Anglian Water	Water – Allotment	19.22
227	B/Transfer	Anglian Water	Water – Pioneer Sports Field	14.17
228	B/Transfer	Anglian Water	EB Library – utilities	90.55
229	B/Transfer	Total Energies	EB Library – utilities	32.55
230	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Pioneer	90.77
231	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	EB Library – utilities	349.49
232	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Chapel	21.06
233	B/Transfer	Wayman Architects	Sports Fund – Professional Fees	4656.00
234	B/Transfer	CS2 Ltd	Sports Fund – Professional Fees	1710.00
235	B/Transfer	North Northants Council	Sports Fund – Professional Fees	817.73
236	B/Transfer	Midland Counties Fencing	Sports Fund – fencing	23313.60
237	B/Transfer	D Smith	Reimbursement – CoTS/Xmas Trail	179.33
238	B/Transfer	MB Tree Services	Sports Dev – treework	250.00
239	B/Transfer	EBS&CT Management Comm	Sports Dev – reimburse electricity	667.60

240	B/Transfer	Proactive Heating & Plumbing	Repairs – Cemetery Lodge	908.00
241	B/Transfer	EBPC	Int Transfer Sport Fund to Current a/c	105542.04
242-245	B/Transfer	Salary Costs	Clerk/Reg/EBYC Leader/Tax&NI/Pension	4180.54
246	B/Transfer	All Saints PCC	Church Floodlighting	462.83
247	B/Transfer	Npower	Street Lighting	816.26
248	B/Transfer	Central Beds Council	Sports Dev – Archaeology	6246.00
249	B/Transfer	EBPC	Closure of Skipton B/Soc Sports Fund	66045.30 + interest

- (b) Income – income received in December was noted and approved.
- (c) Internal Financial Checks – the Chair of the Finance Committee, Cllr Bond, reported that all internal checks had been carried out and that there are no discrepancies or concerns to report.
- (d) ¾ Bank Reconciliation – it was resolved to approve the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2025 as presented by the Clerk.

006/26 Planning

- (a) Planning Applications Received:
 - 25/01347/HFUL – Householder Planning Permission: two storey side extension – 3 Berry Close.
 - 25/01578/HFUL – Householder Planning Permission: demolition of rear conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension – 7 Sheffield Way.
 - 25/01597/LDP – Lawful Development – Proposed: Certificate of Lawful Development proposed for the installation of a ramp – 5 Elizabeth Close.
 - 25/01645/HFUL – Householder Planning Permission: garage conversion to habitable accommodation including the removal of garage door, alterations to fenestration, two storey rear extension and demolition of conservatory – 10 Dowthorpe End.
 - 25/01763/HFUL – Householder Planning Permission: single storey flat roof extension – 52 Northampton Road.
 - 25/02191/LDP – Lawful Development – Proposed: single storey extension – 34 Clarke Court
 Following discussion, it was resolved that no comments were required on the applications received.
- (b) Green Hill Solar Farm – it was reported that a further face to face meeting expected in March. Cllr Wood explained that the Stop Green Hill Solar group have incurred significant expenses. Following discussion and approval of the 2026/27 budget, it was resolved that a donation of £1000.00 be made to the Stop Green Hill Solar group from the 2025/26 budget, along with a further minimum contribution of £1000.00 from the 2026/27 budget towards their expenses.
- (c) Neighbourhood Plan Review – It was confirmed that the councillors comprising the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be Cllrs Wells (Chair), Broadhead, Charouneau, Dodds, Gould, Morrison and Wood.

007/26 Police/Community Safety

- (a) Crime Figures and Report – it was advised that 18 crimes were reported in December
- (b) Community Speed Watch – it was resolved to support volunteer participation in Community Speed Watch 2026 with equipment borrowed as part of the scheme. The Clerk to request further information about purchasing equipment for the group before a decision is made on that aspect.

008/26 Sports and Leisure Development

The programme is almost on schedule, although may have been hit by the recent bad weather. Timers have now been fitted to the contractor's dry room in order to deal with issues over electricity charges.

009/26 Finance

- (a) Finance Committee – it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8th January 2026.
- (b) Grants 2026/27 – following discussion and some amendments, it was resolved to approve the grants for 2026/27.
- (c) Risk Assessment/Asset Register/Audit Controls 2026/27 – following discussion, it was resolved to approve the Asset Register, Audit Controls and Risk Assessment 2026/27, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

- (d) Budget and PRECEPT 2026/27 – following discussion and some amendments, it was resolved to approve the budget and PRECEPT 2026/27 (total figure £254456, Band D equivalent £112.69 – an increase of £2.05 per month or 22.25%. This included increases for the Public Work Loan Board loan to acquire the St John Ambulance building and an increase in the Neighbourhood Plan budget.
- (e) Village sign – it was resolved that, due to the increases in the budget for 2026/27 already agreed, the refurbishment of the sign would be postponed.
- (f) Future Plans for Christmas Lighting – it was agreed that a grant would be applied for to cover part of the cost of event lighting on The Square, with the additional being covered by earmarked reserves.
- (g) Cemetery Fees – it was resolved that cemetery fees be increased by 5% from 1st April 2026.

010/26 St John Ambulance

It was resolved to accept the Heads of Terms/Overage proposed by St John Ambulance. Solicitors have now been appointed to deal with the purchase.

011/26 EB Carnival Committee

A meeting is to be arranged between the EBPC Events Committee and EB Carnival Committee.

012/26 EB Allotment

It was noted that EBPC Allotment marks its 50th anniversary this year. It was agreed that the Allotment Committee be asked to organise an event to mark the occasion.

013/26 Carols on The Square

Cllr Chapman and Cllr Smith reported on the event, which went well. All feedback received will be shared with Churches Together at their next meeting.

014/26 Highways and Maintenance

- (a) Road Closure on Station Road/Grendon Road – it was noted that work has begun on White Mills Bridge. NNC will be asked to improve diversion signage for pedestrians.
- (b) Community Safety Issues on alleys at Dowthorpe End/Sheffield Way and Elizabeth Way/The Wickets – it was agreed that the Clerk liaise with Cllr Brown about lighting for these areas. In addition, local residents will be asked to cut back any foliage around these areas.

015/26 North Northants Council

- (a) Councillors Report – apologies were received from Cllrs Brown and Jessop. Cllr Brown provided a written report on the following:
 - Work has begun on White Mills bridge.
 - NNC Draft Budget for 26/27 is out for consultation. An increase of 4.99% is expected.
 - A new transformation programme is underway to make planning records more accessible to the public, boost productivity and deliver savings.
 - The Licensing Committee are working on harmonising fees for taxi/private hire licencing.
 - Potential future changes to Household Waste Recycling Centres are being considered.
 - The only grant currently available is the Empowerment Fund, available through ward councillors.
- (b) Bus Shelter Doddington Road – the Clerk has requested an update on this matter.
- (c) Community Governance Review – the Clerk shared information on the review process. It was agreed that EBPC would engage in the process. The consultation will be shared with all members and the matter deferred to February for further consideration.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9th February 2026 – 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

01604 812850 clerk@earlsbarton.gov.uk

www.earlsbarton.gov.uk