



**Minutes of the Meeting held at Earls Barton Library and Community Centre
on Monday 9th March 2026**

Present: Cllrs V Gould (Chair), T Brennan, N Chapman, S Charouneau, S Dodds, C Wood.

031/26 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

032/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bond, Broadhead, Lloyd-Staples, Morrison, Olloman, Smith and Wells.

033/26 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

No declarations of interested were received.

034/26 Minutes of the Meeting of 9th February 2026

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

035/26 Accounts

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

	Chq no	Payee	Details	£
273	B/Transfer	EB Sports Association	Sports Fund – reimburse electric	2133.54
274	B/Transfer	Mowerman	Projects – new bins	4862.34
275	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Pioneer	108.61
276	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	EB Library – utilities	455.18
277	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Chapel	21.06
278	B/Transfer	Npower	Street Lighting	779.65
279	B/Transfer	N Chapman	Projects – trees for planting	441.93
280	B/Transfer	C Wells	N/Plan Website Renewal	129.46
281	B/Transfer	WeedWise	Grounds Maintenance (Feb)	3100.00
282	B/Transfer	Mowerman	Grounds Maintenance (Mar)	3424.85
283	B/Transfer	Wilby Tree Surgeons Limited	Tree Survey	1560.00
284	B/Transfer	Northants CALC	Training – planning	42.00
285	B/Transfer	Total Energies	EB Library – utilities	29.40
286	B/Transfer	North Northants Council	Professional Fees – Rec licence	70.00
287	B/Transfer	James Peel Consulting	Sports Dev – professional fees	900.00
288	B/Transfer	Apex Scaffolding Ltd	Sports Dev – pavilion roof	2286.00
289	B/Transfer	Midland Counties Fencing	Sports Dev – boundary gates	984.00
290	B/Transfer	Midland Tree Specialists	Emergency Treework	2520.00
291	B/Transfer	Trendgrey Construction Ltd	Sports Dev – pavilion	44916.00
292	B/Transfer	Mineral Star Construction Ltd	Sports Dev – kitchen	9708.32
293	B/Transfer	EB Sports Association	Sports Dev – reimburse Clubspark	345.60
294	B/Transfer	Npower	Electricity – Festive Lights	51.06
295	B/Transfer	Northants CALC	Training – Canva	55.20
296	B/Transfer	SLCC	Annual Membership Fee	376.00
297	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Chapel	19.04

298	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	EB Library – utilities	354.64
299	B/Transfer	Pozitive Energy	Electricity – Pioneer	65.97
300-303	B/Transfer	Salary Costs	Clerk/EBYC Leader/Tax&NI/Pension	3868.79
304	B/Transfer	EB Cricket Club	Sports Dev – training nets	14939.96
305	Int Transfer	EBPC	T/F from Sport Fund to Current a/c	18241.90

- (b) Income – income received in February was noted and approved.
- (c) Internal Financial Checks – the Chair of the Finance Committee sent a report to confirm that all internal checks had been carried out and that there are no discrepancies or concerns to report.

036/26 Planning

- (a) Planning Applications Received:
25/02172/VAR – Variation of Condition (s73): Variation pursuant to condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission reference 25/00974/HFUL to reduce the size of a single storey rear and side extension and raised patio through the substitution of drawing number 166-25/02 with drawing number 166-25/02A – 131 Dowthorpe Hill.
Following discussion it was resolved that no comment was required on the application received. Application to be heard at NNC Planning Committee on 11th March 2026:
NW/25/00360/FUL – construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure with fire water storage tank and pumphouse, landscaping, attenuation pond, CCTV cameras and fencing – 301 Grendon Road.
It was noted that no members of EBPC were available to attend the Planning Committee meeting. Therefore, the planning officer will be advised that the objection of EBPC stands.
- (b) Green Hill Solar Farm – Cllr Wood reported on a meeting held between Island Green Power/Green Hill Solar and the Stop Green Hill Solar group. It was noted that the enquiry will hold further open floor hearings this week. Funding raising continues to meet the costs accrued by SGHS.
- (c) Neighbourhood Plan Review – It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2026. It was noted that the minor amendments to the Plan have now been approved by NNC. A briefing has been held by NNC to update on the new timings for the Local Plan. A meeting will now be sought with the Planning Policy Officers at NNC to discuss how a further review of the N/Plan can align with the emergence of the new Local Plan.

037/26 Police/Community Safety

- (a) Crime Figures and Report – no figures received.

038/26 Sports and Leisure Development

An update on the development was shared. Following discussion, it was noted that the refurbishment of the exiting pavilion would sit under the Government tendering threshold and, therefore, the parish council would follow the ‘below threshold’ procurement rules set out in part 6 of the Procurement Act 2023.

039/26 St John Ambulance

The searches have now been complete and the results were noted. It was resolved to continue with the purchase of the building at the agree price.

040/26 EB Carnival Committee

A further meeting has been held and arrangements are being made for Earls Barton Carnival together with Rock Out on the Rec on Saturday 20th June.

041/26 Finance

- (a) Treework Contractor – following discussion, it was resolved to award the treework contract for 2026/27 to contractor 1 (Midland Tree Specialists)
- (b) Request for Litter Bin – following discussion, it was resolved that Stagecoach be contacted regarding the request for a bin at the bus stop on Northampton Road.

042/26 Hedgehog Protection and Monitoring

This item has been referred to the Environmental Strategy Sub-Committee.

043/26 EB Advice Access Surgery

- (a) Advice and Signposting for Local Residents – it was resolved that no action be taken on this proposal at present.
- (b) EBPC Parish Councillor Surgeries – it was agreed that a rota be drawn up for two parish councillors to attend the monthly coffee mornings at EB Library and Community Centre.

044/26 NCALC/SLCC/ACRE Correspondence

- (a) NCALC Strategic Plan – details of the engagements sessions were shared with members.

045/26 Highways and Maintenance

- (a) Road Closure of Grendon Road – details of the closure for 4 nights (8pm-6am) from 13th April were noted.
- (b) Road Closure of Main Road – details of the closure for 3 nights (8pm-6am) from 15th April were noted.

046/26 North Northants Council

- (a) Councillors Report – apologies were received from Cllr Jessop. Cllr Brown reported on the following:
 - A CQC assessment of Adult Social Care has resulted in a rating of ‘requires improvement. NNC will use the assessment as an opportunity to accelerate the improvement that have already been seen.
 - NNC signed the Northamptonshire Womens’ Charter, which pledges to prioritise keeping women and girls safe across our communities.
 - NNC’s budget for 26/27 has been approved by the full council.
 - White Mills Bridge – no major updates or changes to the timeline, with works expected to be completed at the end of June 2026.
 - The Ward Empowerment Fund is now closed and is due to reopen in April 2026. Local organisations looking for funding should contact the EB Ward Councillors for more information.
- (b) Repairs to Railings in the Village Centre – NNC confirmed an inspection was carried out in February and, as no safety defects have been identified, no repair works will be carried out.
- (c) Repairs to Retaining Wall and Removal of ‘cock and hen’ stonework – NNC have advised that there are no plans to replace the stonework and the mortar used to replace it is acceptable within the Conservation Area.
- (d) Councillors Empowerment Fund – the application for funding to install power in the village centre has been submitted.
- (e) North Northants Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Projects – following discussion, it was resolved that the Clerk respond to the call for public engagement asking why Earls Barton has been allocated less charging points than other comparable villages, and to questions whether the sights suggested are the right locations for a charging point.
- (f) North Northamptonshire Empty Homes Strategy – the Clerk reported that she had responded to the consultation.
- (g) Shaping the Future of Leisure in North Northamptonshire – following discussion, it was agreed not to respond to the consultation.

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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