

GREAT DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the annual parish meeting and annual parish council meeting held on 6 May 2026 at the Memorial Hall, Great Doddington

Present: Mr C Davies (Chair), Mr J Sharp (vice-chair), Mr K Howes, Mr D Kelly, Mrs E Kilsby, Mrs L Ross, Mrs A Smith and Mrs S Sharp.

(Also present: Carol Mundy, Interim Clerk).

26/01 APOLOGIES

Resolved to note that apologies were submitted by Mr P Cunningham, Mrs L Ross (for the first part of the meeting) and Mrs A Smith.

26/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that no declarations were made.

26/03 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

The chair, Chris Davies, welcomed all to the meeting and presented a report on the work of the parish council during the last 12 months.

He referenced the ongoing work that the parish council was doing within the community to benefit all parishioners. The parish council continued to receive information from the police and crime rates were fortunately low and there had been very few recorded incidents. A new Neighbourhood Watch Group had been established in the village which the parish council was pleased to support.

Highway issues continued to be high on the agenda with potholes appearing overnight. These were reported on the Fix My Street site and once inspected and marked would be the subject of repair work if that was required, this was still taking several weeks.

The streetlamps were several years old, and it was noticeable that more of the lamps were needing to be repaired with the bulbs and lamps needing replacement.

Two grass cutting contracts had been awarded for a two-year period; one for the recreation ground and the other for the cemetery and other ancillary items including the emptying and disposal of waste from the dog bins.

Following the retirement of the clerk, a new clerk had been appointed, however, due to her work commitments she was unable to continue in the role with the position being advertised again. We were pleased to welcome back the retired clerk on an interim basis. Interviews would

take place shortly and it was hopeful that someone will be in post in the next few weeks.

He thanked the parish councillors present and the interim clerk for their continuing hard work and was pleased that they all continued to participate in make the village a lovely place to live.

RESOLVED to note the chair's report

26/04 POORS LAND CHARITY

Mr Sharp reported on the Poor's Land Charity funds and how they had been used for during the year.

The charity had originally been set up to provide book vouchers for students but over the years fewer applications had been received.

The charity funds gained interest and as such it had been decided to use the funds for the good of the village. This year the funding had been put towards the pensioners lunch which had been most appreciated.

There being no further business the chair closed this part of the meeting and moved onto the **annual parish council meeting**.

26/05 NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR FOR 2026-27

The clerk asked for nominations for the position of chair.

It was proposed by Mr Howe and seconded by Mr Sharp hat Mr Davies be appointed as chair. On being put to the vote this was declared carried.

Mr Davies was happy to accept the position and was formally elected as chair.

26/06 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The chair asked for nominations for the position of vice-chair.

It was proposed by Mr Howes and seconded by Mr Kelly that Mr Sharp be appointed as vice-chair and on being put to the vote this was declared carried.

Mr Sharp was happy to accept the position and was formally elected as vice-chair.

26/07 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to note that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026 be approved and signed.

26/08 APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY GROUPS

RESOLVED to note that members be appointed to the following advisory groups/panels:

Planning (increased to 4)	Mr Howes, Mrs Ross, Mr Sharp and Mrs Smith
Governance/Employment Panel	Mr Davies, Mrs Ross and Mrs Smith
Social Media (3)	Mr Cunningham

26/09 POLICE ISSUES

It was reported that there had been four crimes registered in March relating to harassment, drugs, public order and assault offences. Further details were not known, and it was not specified whether these incidents had happened in the village directly.

(Mrs Ross joined the meeting).

26/10 HIGHWAY ISSUES

Lamp out in John Gray Road and The Ridge

Mr Sharp reported that two lamps were not working.

The clerk would report these for repair.

Millennium Tree planted by former Mayor David Smith, Church Lane

It was reported that the tree planted for the millennium by former Mayor of the Borough of Wellingborough, David Smith, looked like it was dying.

It was suggested that Mr Price be asked to give his professional opinion on whether it needed to be replaced. The clerk would speak to Mr Price.

Village Sign at Village Triangle

It was reported that the post at the bottom of the village sign was starting to fail and would potentially need replacing or strengthening with steel posts around it. The chair would speak with Mr Silk to see what he could recommend.

Conifer hedge Earls Barton Road, opposite Frost Court

It was reported that the conifers were overgrown – it was believed that this was on the Redden's Farmland. The chair would speak to them directly about this.

Potholes

There had been additional potholes added to the 'potholes list' to include a large pothole in High Street near to the shop and a large pothole at the end of The Ridge towards Wellingborough. These were both reported on Fix My Street.

26/11 PLANNING

Removal of Yew Tree, Church Lane - an application had received there were no objections

Green Hill Solar Farm - The examination period had closed and the Inspector had received over 1200 comments. The Secretary of State would now consider this with the decision being notified in late October.

Wollaston Recycling Centre - This was not expected to come before the NNC Planning Committee until late Summer/early Autumn.

26/12 FINANCE

The following invoices for payment were approved:

Chq 2159	B K Gardening (Bradley Keeber)	560.00
	Invoice 1 10 25 to 30 11 25	
Chq 2160	C A Mundy – Interim Clerk	
	April and May 2026	700.00
Chq 2161	Forde & McHugh	
	Invoice 35381 Lamp repairs The Ridge	192.00
Chq 2162	Forde & McHugh	
	Invoice 35762 St Nicholas Lamp Repair	192.00
Chq 2163	Forde & McHugh	
	Invoice 35860 John Gray Rd Lamp repair	192.00

26/13 UNITARY REPORT

NNC Councillors had been unable to attend.

Election of Leader - The clerk reported that Cllr Martin Griffiths would be re-elected as Leader of North Northamptonshire Council at the annual meeting on 21 May 2026.

Members would be allocated to committees at that meeting too.

Councillor Empowerment Fund - this would no longer be available and the funding would be put towards more youth focused provision and provided in a different way. This would not affect the application we had recently submitted.

26/14 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Zip Wire – Playground area.

As this had been damaged it had been reported to Mr Ellwood who would conduct repairs.

Sheds adjacent to recreation ground

It was noted that the old farm sheds to the right of the recreation ground were in a poor state, with some falling, looking unsightly and potentially being a hazard. The land had been purchased by Hampton Brook some years ago.

The clerk would raise this with her contact at the developers to see if they would consider taking action to improve safety and/or arrange for the area to be fenced.

26/15 ANY OTHER ITEMS

Bench, Earls Barton Road

The clerk reported that confirmation for the siting of the bench had been received. A licence would be signed to ensure this area would become our responsibility.

The funding towards the bench was being processed and we are awaiting confirmation that this was forthcoming.

Grass cutting contract - the contract for the cemetery/churchyard was going well and the parish council was pleased with the standard of cutting.

Mr Price had notified the clerk that in relation to the emptying of the dog bins, the disposal of waste had changed and there was a cost for disposal, this was done by weight, so it was difficult to know how much it would be each time. It was estimated to be in the region of 45 GDP per disposal (for all nine bins). This would increase the contract price over the year.

He had also noted that dog walkers were failing to lift the lid of the bin, which was empty, and would just place bags by the side. The worst place for this was the bin at Lower Street. He would continue to report back if this became a bigger issue in the summer months with smells and flies becoming a particular problem and it being unpleasant.

Parish councillors discussed this and it was clarified that currently the number of dog bins would remain in situ and that as such the cost for

disposal would have to be paid. This could potentially be reviewed in the future.

Noticeboard – The clerk had found several different keys which she would test to see which opened the noticeboard. The noticeboard would remain empty and once the new clerk was appointed would be refreshed with her contact details and parish councillor details.

Reference was also made to the Chapel Noticeboard near to the parish council noticeboard – this was no longer used as the Chapel had closed and a question was raised about whether it should be removed. It was noted that this was not the parish council's property and that it should be left for the present time.

Recruitment of Clerk

The interviews would be taking place on Saturday 9 May.

Church Lane – Double Yellow Lining

The clerk had received confirmation that the Highway Order had been made for double yellow lining to be placed in Church Lane. No date for this being carried out had been confirmed but all those who would be affected will have been contacted.

26/16 NEXT MEETING

The chair suggested that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 24 June at 7.30pm.

26/17 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Chairman.....