

NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes - Nassington Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 7.00 pm in Nassington Village Hall

26.2699. Attendance

Present: Cllr Matt Blakeley, Cllr Elliott Clark (chair), Cllr Alain Kingsley, Cllr Charlotte Lemmon, and Cllr Andy Russell. Apologies received from Marcus Hurcombe Officer present: The clerk. Also present North Northamptonshire Council Ward Cllr Simon Fairhall.

26.2700. Declaration of interests.

Dispensations were agreed for all members of the council who are also members of the cricket club, for members with association/governorship with the school, preschool, and for members with association with the church. The council has previously acknowledged that associations with and membership of other organisations might on occasion be pecuniary or registerable under the council's code of conduct but felt those to be incidental to the member's council role rather than of pecuniary advantage or disadvantage to the member, that the roles would not conflict, and that members would put their statutory duty to act in the best interest of the council as duly appointed members of the council as priority in any decision-making process.

26.2701. Approval of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes, circulated in advance of the meeting, of the meeting held in March 2026. The chairman signed the minutes.

26.2702. Questions or address from members of the public:

There were none, although there was a general discussion around county highways.

26.2703. Co-option of new members to the parish council.

No candidates have come forward.

26.2704. Planning and licencing applications:

- a) 26/00088/LBC | Change of use of public house to single dwelling house The Black Horse 2 Fotheringhay Road Nassington PE8 6QU. *and*
- b) 26/00087/FUL | Change of use of public house to single dwelling house (Class C3); | The Black Horse 2 Fotheringhay Road Nassington PE8 6QU.

These applications had been discussed at the previous meeting, with the council deciding to object, and re-scheduled for further consideration. It was agreed to request that the local MP objects to the lack of due process and to the applications as submitted. It was also agreed to publicise the applications on social media to encourage community involvement, drawing attention to the absence of any viability or feasibility assessment, the apparent lack of marketing to test the market, and the council's view that the costs of bringing the building up to standard may not be as high as previously rumoured.

c) NE/22/00266/FUL | Change of use of land to the west of Jacks Green at Rockingham Forest Park to provide a range of tourist accommodation (64 caravan lodges) along with the construction of a facilities building, with supporting infrastructure, including hard standing bases with drainage and service provision and landscape planting | Rockingham Forest Park Wansford Road Kings Cliffe Peterborough PE8 6FR. No actions were agreed to follow up on the parish council's submission, as agreed at the last meeting, but NNC Cllr Simon Fairhall will follow this matter up with the planning officers.

d) Opportunity to discuss engagement with speculative developers: It was agreed that there could be little further action at this time as any promoted sites are purely speculative at this point, but the matter would be kept under review, especially with the NDP in mind.

26.2705. Planning and Development policies:

a) **Neighbourhood plan:** The endeavours to obtain quotes for the SEA and HRA deemed necessary by NNC as part of the Nassington Neighbourhood Plan Project are in progress. A feasibility study for the community hub part of the project is also in progress.

b) **Heat Nassington.** Cllrs Charlotte Lemmon and Matt Blakeley are appointed to the NEAT committee. As with the previous part of the project, the intention is that all spending would be covered by grant receipts, which the council would be the legal party to.

26.2706. Governance:

a) It was **RESOLVED** to sign up to Northants Police & Fire Crime Commissioner's Northamptonshire Women's Charter and share with stakeholders once complete, with the expectation of them signing up to the strategy

b) There are now four signatories to the Unity Trust Bank account, with the last person to complete their submission as soon as possible.

c) The date of the Oundle ward T&P councils and meetings cluster meeting was noted as 27th April.

AR had to leave the meeting at this point 8.30pm

d) **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was agreed to aim to host what would in effect be the APM on Monday 18th May in the Queens Head at 7.00pm. A budget of £50 from the chairman's allowance budget was agreed for refreshments. Cllr Blakeley would make enquiries and confirm with the clerk, for inclusion of the event as a 'heads up' in the newsletter. Community stakeholders would be invited and publicity shared on social media.

e) The **internal audit** had been carried out the preceding Friday via Zoom, the clerk/RFO in attendance, with the Northants CALC internal auditor. The matters raised in previous financial year's (24/25) audit had been addressed to the satisfaction of both the council and the internal auditor (IA) (this related to protection of council's funds in excess of £85,000 which had been addressed in the interim on two fronts whereby the council had considered the risks, formulated and agreed an investment policy, and opened a new account, transferring funds to it. At the same time that the government had raised the 'protected threshold' to £120,000).

f) There had been no matters raised by the internal auditor relating to the 2025/26 AGAR or accounts at the audit.

g) The IA's submission of page 3/internal audit of the AGAR had been circulated in advance of the meeting and confirmed that the council complies with the requirements of the internal audit, (other than cash payments, limited assurance for councils with turnover less than £25,000 and councils acting as a trustee, which were each annotated 'not covered' or 'not applicable').

h) Section 1 of the **Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR)** had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Each of the questions on the form was considered in turn. It was **RESOLVED** that the council:

- prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
- has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
- during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
- considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
- arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
- responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
- disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
- has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so
- Question 9 regarding being a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts is not applicable.

i) The dates for the exercise of public rights (to inspect accounts and associated papers) were confirmed as 3rd June – 14th July 2024.

26.2707. Community / Projects:

a) **Interpretation Board Update:** A paper summarising the project to date had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The enthusiasm for the project from the wider community was noted with sincere gratitude. However, given that some members had not been involved in earlier discussions, it was agreed to slow the pace of the project to allow further reflection. It was further agreed that future work should focus on exploring options to include interactive and future-proofed interpretation, including the potential use of digital and emerging technologies. It was agreed that this should be progressed by trialling one or two boards initially, with any decision to widen the brief subject to further consideration by the council.

b) **History Group:** The council reiterated its support for the work of the Nassington History Group. It was agreed that, for routine operational activity such as organising talks, charging entry fees and meeting associated costs, the History Group should operate as an informal autonomous committee with its own bank account, managing income and expenditure independently. It was agreed that the council would continue to support the group by covering village hall hire where appropriate, providing grant funding as required, and engaging where matters involve VAT, larger sums, or activity being delivered on behalf of the council.

It was noted that this arrangement would avoid the parish council being drawn into the administration or accounting of operational activity, including cash receipts, or contravening financial regulations by paying for invoices covering goods and/or services that the council has not sanctioned. It would prevent any ultra vires activity that falls outside the council's governance, approvals, and financial controls.

c) The tree project would be updated later in the year.

26.2708. Playing field

a) Repairs to the Farmy rocker had been carried out the week before. The supplier had sent an email with a series of invoices outstanding, the main one of which was the previous Farmy repair which the council had not paid. The clerk will clarify the situation with the accounts and bring back to the next meeting.

b) The monthly inspection was carried over to the next meeting. Cllr Kinglsey undertook to check.

c) Cricket club: The NPC chairman is in contact with the cricket club chairman.

25.2511. Maintenance and Services:

a) Allotments:

- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the arrangements for skip hire, which the clerk had arranged under delegated powers in consultation with all members.
- The service agreement for the pest contractor twelve-month contract had been circulated in advance of the meeting and approved for signature.
- The contractor's reports were made available and taken as read.
- There is an allotment holders' meeting on 22nd April to which all members are welcome.

26.2709. Financial matters:

a) The year end accounts to 31st March 2026 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to approve accounts at 31st March 2026 as follows:

ledger balance current account	1,424.99
Tailored reserve	36,685.61
Nationwide 95 day saver	96,607.25
Uncleared cash receipts	50.00
Hinckley & Rugby BS	10,000.00
Total cash:	<u>144,767.85</u>
Per cash book	
Balance b/f	133,743.53
Add receipts for year	117,735.25
less payments for the year	106,710.93
Balance c/f:	<u>144,767.85</u>

b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve section 2 of the AGAR circulation in advance of the meeting as follows:

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £
1 Balances brought forward	141,210.77	133,743.53
2 (+) Annual Precept	50,750.00	66,628.00
3 (+) Total other receipts	42,394.94	51,107.25
4 (-) Staff Costs	13,686.39	13,970.73
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
6 (-) Total other payments	86,925.79	92,740.20
7 (=) Balances carried forward	133,743.53	144,767.85
8 Total cash and investments	133,743.53	144,767.85
9 Total fixed assets and long term assets	240,807.00	269,656.45
10 Total borrowings	0	0

c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve invoices / accounts for payment or paid under delegated authority, and note income as listed below

Goods/service	Supplier	Nett	Gross	Power
Grant to N&Y JBC			1,600.00	LGA S216 ⁱ
Grounds works	Plough environmental	490.00		PHA Act S164 ⁱⁱ & LGA S215 ⁱ
Judicial review contribution	Richard Buxton solicitors	991.00	1,189.20	LGA S111 ⁱ
Pest control management	MozzyMak pest control services	480.00	576.00	SHAA ⁱⁱⁱ S26
ICO DP fee	ICO	47.00		
Membership/audit fee	Northants CALC	944.95	1,039.08	LGA S111 ⁱ
Memorial bench	Earth Anchors	539.00	646.80	LGA S144 ⁱ
Allotment wall inspection	Cranford Ironstone quarry	50.00	60.00	SHAA ⁱⁱⁱ S26
SEA-HER screening	PlanIT-X	1,495.00	1,794.00	T&PA '90 S61F
HG Leaflets	Peterborough Print		68.00	LGA S144 ⁱ
Paid by card				
Skip Hire	Mick George	412.50	495.00	SHAA ⁱⁱⁱ S26
Knitting needles	Amazon	31.65	37.96	LGA S144 ⁱ
Crochet hooks	Amazon	3.95	4.74	LGA S144 ⁱ
Paint and paint dabbers	Amazon	27.64	33.17	LGA S144 ⁱ
Yarn	Amazon	8.70	10.45	LGA S144 ⁱ
Yarn	Love Crafts	39.00	46.80	LGA S144 ⁱ
Allotment notice board	Amazon	19.82	23.79	SHAA ⁱⁱⁱ S26
SOs/DDs/contractual				
Streetlighting electricity	SSE	120.81	126.85	PCAiv 1957 s3/ HAv 1980 s301
Payroll bureau	DCK Payroll services	15.00	18.00	LGA S111 ⁱ
Income (March)				
Allotment rents		172.50		
Interest		485.66		
Family donation for bench		525.00		

26.2710. Official announcements, notices or reports / Correspondence / representations of note:

- a) Active travel briefing paper was taken as read:
- b) Attention was drawn to the article 'The future of AI' paper as already distributed via NCALC mini update 2/4/26, and may be included as a topic for a future meeting as part of a strategic review project.
- c) NALC Engaging Parliament Toolkit
- d) Local plan update, as previously circulated by email: Taken as read in anticipation of Sept/October 26 consultation; proactively engage in light of potential SEA delay to Nassington NP.

26.2711. Newsletter / Social Media / community communications

Information about the parish meeting; an update about the audit and an update on the tree project, to explain that the intention is to engage with management of public trees and a scheme to plant trees in the public realm, encouraging people to get directly involved.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 13TH MAY 2026

Approved by Nassington Parish Council:

Signature of Chairman		Date:
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ⁱ [Local Government Act 1972](#)

ⁱⁱ [Public Health Act 1875, s.164](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [SHAA – Small Holding and Allotments Act 1908](#)

^{iv} [PAct -Parish Councils Act 1957](#)

^v [HA- Highways Act 1980](#)