NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes – ordinary monthly meeting of Nassington Parish Council

Wednesday 8th July 2026 at 7.00 pm in Nassington Village Hall

26.2748. Attendance

Present: Cllr Matt Blakeley, Cllr Elliott Clark (chair), Cllr Marcus Hurcombe, Cllr Alain Kingsley, and Cllr Andy Russell. Apologies were received from Cllr Charlotte Lemmon due to personal circumstances. Officer present: The clerk. One member of the public and North Northamptonshire Council Ward Councillor Jon Humberstone were in attendance.

Apologies also received from North Northamptonshire Council Ward Cllr Simon Fairhall.

26.2749. 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.

It was noted that Cllr Marcus Hurcombe would have a pecuniary interest regarding food vendors at the playing field should the matter arise, although it was not on the agenda.

26.2750. It was ***RESOLVED*** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held in June 2026, with the addition of a minute to resolve that the minutes of the prior meeting held in May 2026 were approved.

26.2751. Questions or address from members of the public:

No members of the public spoke, but the chairman invited ward Cllr Jon Humberstone to speak at this point. Cllr Humberstone explained that he closely monitors highways activities and aims to hold the council highway teams and contractors to account. He is available to support the council and residents in local authority matters.

26.2752. Co-option of new members to the parish council.

No candidates have come forward.

26.2753. Planning and licencing applications:

a) 26/01553/HFUL|Erection of an outbuilding|4 Prebendal Close Nassington PE8 6SB**.**
It was ***RESOLVED*** that the council has no objections or further comment to make.

b) **26/01700/FUL**|Proposed partial change of use of a residential dwelling for use as a Beauty studio (Professional services).|1 Fotheringhay Road Nassington PE8 6QU.
It was ***RESOLVED*** that the council has no objections or further comment to make.

c) **26/01786/TCA|**T1 Cherry - Reduce crown by 20% T2 Apple - Remove single lowest limb south west and east and thin crown by 20% T3 Apple - Thin crown by 20%|34 Church Street Nassington PE8 6QG.
It was ***RESOLVED*** that the council has no objections or further comment to make.

26.2754. Planning and Development policies:

a) **Neighbourhood plan (NP):** At the working party meeting, the matter of the SEA/HER had been discussed along with other aspects of the neighbourhood plan, and a consensus reached that guidance from North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) NP team should be sought before agreeing to spend money on consultants. A meeting with the NNC NP team had provided some alternative approaches. The matter would be brought forward to a working group on 29th July and work would continue with NNC over the summer.

b) **NEAT Project / Heat Nassington:** The steering committee is focussing on solar as an alternative source of energy. A formal report will be presented in the autumn.

26.2755. Governance:

a) The council recognises that a more formal approach to communications, strategic planning and engagement is needed. The immediate priority is to establish effective engagement as a way to learn about community expectations from as wide a range of people as possible. The working party meeting on 29th July would focus on this, and arrangements for the upcoming Nassington Garden Show in August would use an online strategy alongside traditional paper input. The 'forms' part of the website backend would be upgraded in the meantime to allow for input there, rather than via Google or Microsoft Forms.

b) A training opportunity for churchyard and cemetery management was noted and one space booked for the clerk was ratified.

c) The clerk will be attending a Finance Regional Training Seminar in the autumn specifically as it includes preparation for changes to the audit system.

26.2756. Community / Projects:

a) **Police Liaison Representative (PLR) conference**: In the role of PLR, Cllr Alain Kingsley had attended the conference on behalf of the parish. The conference is hosted by Danny Moody, Chief Executive of Northants CALC with Ivan Balhatchet, the Chief Constable for Northamptonshire Police and Danielle Stone, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) as the main representatives of the police force. Full coverage of the event will be distributed once it has been published, but in the meantime takeaways from the meeting included promotion of the safety project for women and girls, the Eve project tackling domestic violence, grants available from the PFCC office, and the restorative justice project.

b) **Community hosting project for 11-19 year olds**. The village hall had received an enquiry regarding the possibility of the community hosting well-being drop ins or workshop space covering a range of topics that affect young people in society. The hall's availability had been submitted and the offer made that the parish council would actively support the project. It was ratified that the council would be willing to pay for the hire of the village hall.

c) **Greenway**: Details of the greenway project had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and a brief discussion took place expanding on the scheme. This project has the potential to link Top Lodge near Duddington with Ferry Meadows via a route almost entirely off main roads, especially if the old railway routes could be utilised. This adds value as a possible grant-funded scheme, linking rural tourism and presenting an opportunity to support the micro-economy of tourism in Nassington. The clerk has arranged to meet with Cllr Fairhall and the lead officer from North Northamptonshire Council to look at the feasibility and viability of bringing a route through the parish if possible, and members would join if able.

26.2757. Playing field

a) There was a discussion regarding the preschool's request to modestly expand the outdoor area at the preschool. The council is generally in support of the proposal, as the preschool is a significant asset to the community and a not-for-profit trustee managed organisation. It will be necessary to look into the matter of the drainage that was retrospectively installed in 2016 to make sure that no incursion could impede the efficiency of the existing installation. It will also be necessary to make contact with Fields in Trust to make enquiries as to the possibility of allowing this to proceed.

The clerk will investigate the 2016 drainage installation and contact Fields in Trust before the council confirms whether the preschool expansion can proceed.

b) The **RoSPA report** had been circulated on receipt. It was agreed to contact the supplier of the Farmy seesaw who had carried out a replacement of the whole frame for the seesaw and reset it during this year to ask for their input on the RoSPA findings. It was also agreed to obtain quotes for other repairs works identified.

It was agreed that the clerk will discuss the matter of pesticide treatment on the impact attenuating surfacing with the council's grounds work contractor, to ensure training and application management compliance for treating the weeds identified in the report.

Further discussion identified an issue with the picnic bench by the gym which potentially has bolts missing and presents a finger trap hazard. This will be investigated further.

c) An update with the cricket club was deferred to the autumn council meetings.

d) The **draft licence for use of the playing field by the Nassington and Yarwell Garden Society** for its annual show had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was approved, with the proviso that a clause be included to state dogs must be on leads outside of the dog show area, and that the dog show area must be securely enclosed. The clerk was instructed to ask whether the risk assessment for the show specifically addressed the matter of dogs on leads.

As an aside, it was confirmed that the matter regarding a licence for a potential food vendor to support Friday evening family cricket evenings has gone ahead under officer delegated powers, in discussion with members, following the interceding working party meeting clarifying the council's potential vulnerabilities and responsibilities. If the arrangement is to continue during the next cricket season, it is likely that the council will shore up this arrangement via proper legal advice.

25.2511. Maintenance and Services:

a) It was noted that the clerk had sent a letter of authority to our electricity broker re electricity for AED in phone box contract.

b) Consideration of damage to trees caused by a neighbouring fallen tree at the village green path to the playing field would be carried forward to the autumn or addressed in the upcoming appraisal of trees in the parish.

c) **Allotments matters**:

- A request to keep trees planted on an allotment plot contrary to the allotment licence was discussed at length. The request was declined due to several points, but primarily because of sustainability, setting a precedent, the siting of the trees and possibly incursion onto the haul road and shadowing of neighbouring plots, and the reason for inclusion on the licence following allotment society guidance. The allotment holder may replant the trees into trugs and keep them in situ, otherwise they must be removed.
- The request for replacement of the water source at the western end of the site to be replaced from a tap to a dipping tank was agreed in principle. The matter of a lid and water safety would be addressed before a final solution is agreed at the next meeting.
- It was agreed that allotment rents would be increased on 1st October 2027 to £20 for a half plot and £30 for a full plot.

d) RoSPA Pocket Park inspection report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to fit a buffer to the east gate as recommended and to remove the west gate that presented a finger crushing risk, as there is no fence to the west of the gate, which renders it ineffective as a barrier.

26.2758. Financial matters:

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

Goods/service	**Supplier**	**Nett**	**Gross**
RoSPA inspections	RoSPA playsafety	214.00	256.80
Grounds works	Plough environmental		380.00
Annual web and email package	Toucan	539.80	647.76
Paid by card			
Mobile phone	Lebara	4.08	4.90
Landline contract	Vonage	8.54	10.25
.org email support	Titan		17.88
Anti virus software	McAfee		59.99
SOs/DDs/contractual			
Payroll bureau	DCK Payroll services	15.00	18.00
Salary, pension, NI			1181.12
Streetlighting electricity	SSE	82.52	86.65
Income (June)			

Allotment rents	12.00
Interest	580.95

b) The year ending 31st March 2027 accounts to 30th June 2026 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was ***RESOLVED*** to approve accounts at 30th June 2026 as follows:

ledger balance current account	647.48
Tailored reserve	85,073.11
Nationwide 95 day saver	97,380.04
Lloyds commercial card	0.00
Hinckley & Rugby BS	10,000.00
Unbanked cash	15.00
Total cash:	193,115.63
Per cash book	
Balance b/f	144,760.85
Add receipts for year	67,813.29
less payments for the year	19,448.51
Balance c/f:	193,115.63

26.2759. Official announcements, notices or reports / Correspondence / representations of note:

- The chairman advised that he had received an invitation to meet with the chairman of Heart Safe Communities and would be arranging a suitable appointment over the summer with at least one additional councillor.

26.2760. Newsletter / Social Media / community communications

- Speed watch volunteers.

26.2761. Matters to note – not for decision. Future agenda items / matters to be carried forward –

The clerk will investigate the subject of dropped kerbs at The Drove prior to the September meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 9TH SEPTEMBER 2026		
Approved by Nassington Parish Council:		
Signature of Chairman		**Date:**