NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes – ordinary monthly meeting of Nassington Parish Council

Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7.00 pm in Nassington Village Hall

26.2762. Attendance

Present: Cllr Matt Blakeley, Cllr Elliott Clark (Chair), Cllr Marcus Hurcombe and Cllr Alain Kingsley. There were no apologies for absence, although Cllr Blakeley had previously advised that his arrival would be delayed. The Chair advised that Andy Russell had resigned from the council because of personal commitments. The council noted Andy's extremely valuable contribution as a councillor and acknowledged that his input would be greatly missed. Officer present: the Clerk. Three members of the public and North Northamptonshire Council ward councillor Simon Fairhall were also in attendance.

26.2763. 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 associated with the church. The council has recognises that associations with and membership of other organisations might on occasion be pecuniary or registrable 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.

26.2764. It was ***RESOLVED*** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held in July 2026.

26.2765. Questions or address from members of the public / ward councillors:

Cllr Simon Fairhall had submitted a written report in advance of the meeting, which was taken as read. One member of the public spoke about planning application NE/22/00266/FUL, concerning the expansion of lodges and facilities at Rockingham Forest Park, and wider planning matters relating to adjoining business premises under the same management. Correspondence on these matters had been circulated to councillors during the weeks preceding the meeting. The meeting acknowledged that the parish council is not the determining authority and is limited to making evidence-based representations to the planning authority. Ward councillor Fairhall undertook to follow up representations he had already submitted to planning enforcement about the wider issues. He also noted that determination of the application might still be referred to committee, despite recent legislative changes.

A local landowner spoke about the challenges affecting land close to the River Nene and the current process of seeking designation of the land under the wetland scheme. One challenge is that the Environment Agency (EA) has apparently deemed the bridge providing access to the land unsuitable for traffic over 2.5 tonnes, preventing farm machinery from using it. This is compounded by flooding caused by infrastructure and current river management. The metal farm gate was also discussed because it is difficult for casual walkers to open and close. A further challenge for the farmer is the volume of parked vehicles, particularly on Station Road, and the resulting difficulty of moving farm vehicles through the parish.

The council has no jurisdiction over these matters but will contact the highways authority and the Environment Agency regarding the bridge and gate, as the Nene Way public right of way crosses them. Possible responses to the traffic and parking issues included notices asking people to park considerately during harvest time and engagement with the highways authority about solid white lines to deter parking and create passing places.

26.2766. Co-option of new members to the parish council.

Whilst there was a potential and willing candidate present as an observer, the council noted the need to follow its stated co-option policy and maintain best practice. The council encouraged the person to apply. The clerk will send a link to the appropriate webpage.

26.2767. Planning and licencing applications:

a) 26/02439/HFUL | Proposed demolition of the existing boat house, erection of a new boat house, garden shed and the conversion of the existing garage 46 Station Road Nassington PE8 6QB**.** It was ***RESOLVED*** that the council had no objections or further comment to make.

b) 26/02440/LBC | Proposed demolition of the existing boat house, erection of a new boat house, garden shed and the conversion of the existing garage | 46 Station Road Nassington PE8 6QB. It was ***RESOLVED*** that the council had no objections or further comment to make.

c) 26/02247/TPO | T1 - Horse chestnut - re pollard 46 Church Street Nassington PE8 6GG It was ***RESOLVED*** that the council had no objections or further comment to make.

d) 26/02343/TCA | 5 Box yew trees covered in ivy Lilac and prunus heavily clad in ivory and a large over size Variegated holly Removal of the tree trunks/branches. It was ***RESOLVED*** that, exceptionally and with the stated intent that this action does not set a precedent, the council would submit that it supports this application.

e) 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**.** Ward Cllr Simon Fairhall undertook to discuss the matters at hand with neighbouring parish councils, with the possibility of a joint traffic survey being put forward. He will also try to ascertain whether the matter will be put before the planning committee.

f) Potential planning enforcement breaches at Kings Cliffe Industrial Estate and its locale. Ward Cllr Simon Fairhall will continue his endeavours with the planning enforcement team to investigate breaches with regard to potential waste and mineral breaches and change of use to house cars.

26.2768. Planning and Development policies:

a) **Neighbourhood plan (NP):** It was ***RESOLVED*** to appoint Troy Planning and Design who will prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) at a cost of £8,250 in accordance with their email received 14th August 2026. It was further ***RESOLVED*** that financial regulation (FR) 5.12i would apply in this instance, as only one supplier had responded to the council's enquiry for SEA preparation and costings (the council had requested the same from another company who had been involved in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan to date).

b) **NEAT Project / Heat Nassington:** An update will follow at a future meeting.

26.2769. Governance:

a) The external auditor's Annual Governance and Accountability Return AGAR report and certificate for 2025/26 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The council noted that no issues or communications had been required by the external auditor during the process and no matters were raised in the report and certificate. The RFO was thanked for overseeing and submitting an expeditious AGAR process. The AGAR notice of conclusion is online and will remain on the website in perpetuity and is on the noticeboard until 15th October.

b) It was ***RESOLVED*** to apply the NJC Local Government Services pay settlement of 3.3% to the clerk's remuneration, as at 1st April 2026, backdated as necessary.

c) It was ***RESOLVED*** that the council would respond to stage 2 of the current Community Governance Review, confirming that it did not wish to propose any changes to the structure of the parish or the council.

d) **ITC update**: The clerk reported on a recent website compromise whereby the site had been hacked and some 'tags' left on the home page. The website had been corrected and the compromised areas cleaned. An additional firewall and more robust anti-virus measures had been implemented, which report known security matters in real time. It was ***RESOLVED*** to approve expenditure of a further $149 should it become necessary to maintain the website module. The procurement of a forms module for the website was noted.

e) **STAUNCH update**. It was ***RESOLVED*** to donate £250 to appeal the Appeal Judge's recent decision against STAUNCH. The ruling was in favour of a development of warehouses and logistics on Functionally Linked Land to a Special Protection Area of international importance, in turn leading to increase in HGV

movements and traffic on roads already groaning and operating far beyond capacity, and the potential to impact Nassington on occasions when the A1 and/or A605 experience extended road closures due to accidents.

f) Details of the current North Northamptonshire Council Licensing Consultation had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted. There were no matters on which the council wished to comment.

g) The council acknowledged that, by signing the Civility and Respect Pledge, it had undertaken to maintain a training programme for members and to ensure that every councillor had signed the code of conduct, which itself places an obligation on councillors to attend training. The Clerk will distribute full information about the Northants County Association of Local Councils' councillor training programme.

26.2770. Community / Projects:

a) **Village Hall grant funding**: The grant matters scheduled for discussion were superseded by a representation made to some members shortly before the meeting started, whereby the chairman of the village hall advised that a recent survey had revealed some structural shortcomings with the hall which would take precedence over aesthetic matters for the time being.

b) **Christmas decorations in the village**. The siting of a Christmas tree or artificial tree installation at the village green and possibly the churchyard was discussed. As time may be too short this year, the option of professionally installed lights wrapped on the cherry tree on the green and possibly the magnolia in the churchyard was also discussed. It was ***RESOLVED*** to allocate a budget of £3,000 to the project. It was further ***RESOLVED*** that decisions regarding the details can be made by a working party arrangement under the council's scheme of delegation.

c) **PLR/Community Safety**: The council is keen to explore ways of supporting crime-prevention initiatives, especially the promotion of SmartWater, measures to combat domestic abuse, and the safety of women and girls. Ashleigh, a Stronger Communities Officer, will attend a future council meeting to help the council explore these matters.

d) **Parish Tree Project**. The council was pleased to note the level of engagement with the project at its stand and the annual garden show. Quotes are awaited from the contractors approached for supply, planting and protection of small standard trees in verges; removal of 3 mature poplars on western boundary of playing field and clear area for new planting; supply, plant and stake 5 new small standards, mix of native species with potential to become large trees; clearance of old fencing and prepare for planting new trees in the south east corner of the playing field; Supply, plant and stake 3 new small standards to reach large mature size; restore section of hedge along the southern boundary of the playing field, by removing old fencing and coppicing old hedge plants. (Leaving crab apples and other species not suited to coppicing); Prepare ground for planting new hedge plants alongside coppiced hedge, providing suitable organic material for soil improvement. This would include guards in keeping with the environment as deer protection and protection of new hedge growth, by either using brash from coppiced material, or new fencing.

North Northamptonshire Council highways department are aware of the intention to plant trees in the highway and working with Charlotte Lemmon, the project lead councillor who has prepared the specification for contractors.

e) **Remembering Remembrance community project**: It was ***RESOLVED*** to procure a 'Woman [sic] in War' statue and a pack of large event poppies that could be affixed to street furniture. This was agreed on the understanding that no ladders would be used; those affixing the poppies would take account of traffic safety when choosing locations; the poppies would be in place only for the official Royal British Legion remembrance period; and all fixings would be removed from the street furniture.

f) **Greenway**: The clerk and Charlotte Lemmon had met with the NNC project officer, Lucy Hawes, and ward councillor Simon Fairhall. The ultimate aim of the project locally would be access along the old railway line from Kings Cliffe to Ferry Meadows, through Nassington. The wider regional project aims to connect Northampton with Peterborough, and branches to Market Harborough linking many communities along the routes.

g) The council is not opposed in principle of development of a wetland area to the east of Wilgar Bridge but is unable to support any proposals until the feasibility and implications of the development are clear,

particularly in relation to the right of way and long distance Nene Way route. The bridge itself was discussed. It was agreed to engage with the environment agency to establish the ownership and responsibilities and the highways authority regarding gates that offer better accessibility.

26.2771. Playing field

a) Preschool outside area expansion: Before the council commits to paying Fields in Trust/Playing Fields Association to investigate whether it would be prepared to agree to the expansion, the council would like to discuss alternative solutions to the proposed extension to the outdoor play provision, as the proposed area to the west has the challenge of a slope and a drain cover. The clerk will arrange to meet preschool representatives on site.

b) The clerk undertook to chase up HAGS as per the discussions in the summer stemming from the RoSPA report and the necessary repairs.

c) An update with the cricket club was deferred to the November council meeting.

d) A request has been received that the council considers provision of netball practice facilities. It was agreed that the council will look at possibilities for installation at the muga end on the southern boundary, as well as looking at replacing or updating the existing muga end.

e) A request has been received that the council considers a skate ramp or similar facilities. It was agreed that council would investigate hiring facilities for October half term or the Easter break in 2027.

25.2511. Maintenance and Services:

a) It was noted that updated information had been received from North Northamptonshire Council Highways team regarding the highway verge maintenance requirements, which the parish council undertakes, via a third-party contractor. It was agreed that as the requirements of the highways authority had changed, along with those of the parish council, a new tender/quotation document for highways and parish council land requirements should be prepared. This will be distributed to all councillors for comment and agreement at the next meeting.

b) The highways HORT system had reported that it did not deem repairs to the village gateway necessary. The council is content to leave this matter in abeyance.

26.2772. 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**
Pest control at allotment	MozzyMak	240.00	288.00
External audit	PKF Littlejohn	420.00	504.00
Current			
Form module for website	WP Forms USD49.50		38.13
A3 paper	Amazon	10.49	10.25
A4 paper	Amazon	7.07	8.48
Sticky notes	Amazon	3.16	3.79
Landline	Vonage	8.54	10.25
Mobile data	Lebara	4.08	4.90
Paid by card August			
Mobile phone	Lebara	4.08	4.90
Landline contract	Vonage	8.54	10.25
Land registry fee	Land Registry		14.00
Paid by card July			
Bird boxes	NHBS	306.58	367.90
Remembrance sundries	Amazon	14.35	17.22
Cable ties remem comm project	Amazon	16.66	19.99
Yarn for community project	LoveCraft	39.00	46.80
Oasis for remem comm project	Amazon	11.32	13.58
Spray paint remem comm project	Amazon	11.54	13.85

Netting for remem comm project	Amazon	33.00	39.60
Water at allotments	Anglian Water		27.36
Felt for remem comm project	Amazon	41.58	49.90
Website addon	Calameo		114.60
Mobile data sim	Lebara	4.08	4.90
Landline charge for June	Vonage	8.54	10.25
Printer ink	Amazon	49.54	59.45
Pegs & glue gun for ctty project	Amazon	14.98	17.97
SOs/DDs/contractual:			
Payroll bureau	DCK Payroll services	15.00	18.00
Salary, pension, NI			1187.30
Streetlighting electricity	SSE	99.38	104.35
SOs/DDs/contractual August			
Payroll bureau	DCK Payroll services	15.00	18.00
Salary, pension, NI			1187.30
Streetlighting electricity	SSE	87.78	92.17
Income (Aug & July)			
VAT refund	HMRC		12,508.27
NNC s136 verge cutting	NNC		453.25
Interest	Nationwide (Aug&July)		520.11

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

ledger balance current account	5,840.89
Tailored reserve	88,573.11
Nationwide 95 day saver	97,644.70
Lloyds commercial card	0.00
Hinckley & Rugby BS	10,000.00
Unbanked cash	15.00
Total cash:	202,073.70
	Per cash book
Balance b/f	144,760.85
Add receipts for year	81,029.47
less payments for the year	23,716.62
Balance c/f:	202,073.70

26.2773. Official announcements, notices or reports / Correspondence / representations of note:

- An email from Project 508 was noted.

26.2774. Newsletter / Social Media / community communications

- Thanks to Andy Russell for his service. Plus council vacancies.
- Congratulations to the cricket club on its promotion.
- Closure of audit.
- Thank the garden show committee and everyone who visited the PC stand; Tree project.

26.2775. Matters to note – not for decision. Future agenda items / matters to be carried forward: There were none.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 14TH OCTOBER 2026		
Approved by Nassington Parish Council:		
Signature of Chairman		**Date:**