

The Parish Council of Little Harrowden

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Ordinary Council Meeting – Minutes 18.02.2026

Attendees are reminded that, in accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, this meeting may be recorded.

25.170	<p>Public Participation Open Forum</p> <p>6 members of the public present to observe or discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village hall. • School. 	
25.171	<p>North Northamptonshire Councillor Updates</p> <p>In attendance: Cllr V Jessop. Apologies received: Cllr S Brown. Update received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Bone (Higham Ferrers) resigned from Conservatives and joined Reform. • NNC 2026/27 budget decision meeting 19.02.26 to decide 4.99% council tax increase to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cover deficit of £432.469m. ○ Further investment of c. £47.3m to cover cost increases in services, notably Adult Social Care (£17.7m) and Children’s Services (£12.2m). ○ Cost pressures to be offset by savings, efficiencies and income generation of £20.1m ○ Band D equivalent Council Tax average weekly increase of £1.75. • Conservatives to request 3.99% increase. • Food waste collection for energy conversion will be rolled out in the summer of 2026. • New potholes reporting system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go to https://highways.northnorthants.gov.uk/ ○ Out of hours telephone number 0300 1263000 to report extremely serious potholes. • NNC Local Plan moved to December 2027 to early 2028 but to avoid speculative development there will be an interim plan in place. <p>Full report available at https://littleharrowdenparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings/ordinary-council-meeting-february-2026/</p>	
25.172	<p>To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or non-statutory disclosable interests from Councillors for items on the agenda</p> <p>None received.</p>	
25.173	<p>To receive requests for dispensation</p> <p>None received.</p>	
25.174	<p>To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence</p> <p>Apologies received: None. In attendance: Cllrs Davies, Cotter, Reynolds, Blood, MacKay and Grout. Clerk: S Tilaks.</p>	
25.175	<p>To sign the minutes of the council meeting</p> <p>Resolved - Approved the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 14th January 2026 as accurate.</p>	

25.176 Chair's Report

Update received:

- NCALC – NNC Local Planning Authority (LPA) Satisfaction Survey:
 - 50% of parish and town councils are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their LPA
 - 33% satisfied or very satisfied
 - 40% felt the LPA gave very little/no weight to the comments they submitted on planning application.
 - NNC fared worse than WNC: 60% respondents said the planning service had worsened in the past twelve months.
 - 40% (NNC) found it easy or very easy to find, track, and comment on applications.
 - NCAC continuing to analyse data for presentation to LPAs for comment.
 - Full report to be published 27 March 2026.
- **Resolved – Approved:**
 - Village volunteering day: removal/disposal of ivy on roadside trees and rubbish clearing as part of Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) campaign.
 - Clerk to provide risk assessment and volunteer sign-up sheet.
 - Cllrs Davies and Cotter to arrange, request equipment from NNC and request information pack from KBT.
 - Date agreed late April.
- Planning S106 / NNC endorsement or support for footpath to Great Harrowden:
 - Rt Hon Stuart Andrews notified that George Candler emailed confirming there was nothing further to discuss as detailed response was given.
 - **Resolved – Approved:** escalate the failure to respond with senior management, NNC Chief Executive Adele Wylie.
- Gt Harrowden Parish Meeting (GHPM) partnership.
 - Boundary merge for Community Governance Review (CGR) declined.
 - Declined to have a meeting in the short term but agreed to revisit after the Summer.
 - Cllr Davies to arrange the meeting then.

Clerk
Cllrs Cotter
& Davies

Cllr Davies

Cllr Davies

25.177 Financesi. **Noted - Resolved January 2026 income** accurate.

Date	By	Payer	Reason	Amount
22.01.26	Credit	GPC	Epson 50% subs	£5.50
29.01.26	Credit	St Mary's Church	5% land rent	£127.60
Total income up to 01.01.26 - 31.01.26				£133.10

ii. **Resolved - Approved January 2026 expenditure** accurate:

Date	By	Payee	Reason	Cost
05.01.26	DD	Mowerman	Grass cutting	£420.64
06.01.26	DD	Total Energies	Festive lights energy	£69.01
08.01.26	DD	YU Energy	Streetlights Dec25	£252.77
16.01.26	CC	1pmobile	Top up mobile	£15.44
16.01.26	CC	Microsoft	Office 365 subscription	£12.10
16.01.26	CC	Lloyds Bank	Credit Card monthly charge	£3.00
22.01.26	BACS	HMRC	NPAYE Q2 & Q3	£585.16
23.01.26	DD	Total Energies	Festive lights energy	£80.47
23.01.26	BACS	Clerk	Travel expenses	£18.45
23.01.26	BACS	SSP direct	School finger post sign	£121.20
30.01.26	DD	Epson	Feb printer subs	£10.99
31.01.26	DD	Unity	Jan fee	£6.00

Total expenditure 01.01.26 - 31.01.26**£1,595.23**iii. **Resolved – Approved** accurate:• **Credit card expenditure:**

- i) Quarterly debit: 1p mobile £15.44.

RFO
RFO

- ii) Microsoft Office 365 monthly subscription £12.10
- iii) Monthly Fee £3
- **Total Energies overcharge**
 - i) Estimated reading.
 - ii) Accurate reading supplied.
 - iii) Updated February bill outstanding.
- iv. **Resolved - Approved**
 - New BACS payments due:**
 - i) Clerk travel expenses £9.45
 - ii) VAS unit – 2 x £4,151.03 (exceeds money received due to price increase of unit NNC grant, matches outstanding PFCC grant); Resolved – Approved LHPC to fund small NNC Community Fund grant shortfall.
 - iii) Norton Antivirus renewal £39.99. Renews on 23/04/2026, to be charged 19/03/2026
 - New Credit Card payments due:**
 - i) Microsoft monthly subscription £12.10
 - ii) Northants Police Community Speedwatch Kit £150
 - iii) Mobile phone bill £5
- v. **Resolved – Approved January 2026 Bank Reconciliations** accurate:

Jan 2026 Bank Reconciliation		
Opening balance at	01.01.26	£15,034.76
Total income	01.01.26 - 31.01.26	£133.10
Total expenditure	01.01.26 - 31.01.26	£1,595.23
Total balance at	31.01.26	£13,572.63
Opening balance at	01.04.25	£41,981.42
Total income	01.04.25 - 31.01.26	£34,755.41
Total expenditure to	01.04.25 - 31.01.26	£63,164.20
Closing balance at	31.01.26	£13,572.63
Checked against statement at	31.01.26	£13,572.63

- vi. **Resolved – Approved to accept increases in Unity bank charges:**
 - i) Monthly Account fee increase (from £6.00 to £7.00 per month)
 - ii) Cash deposits (per £100 for each payment calculated monthly and charged quarterly) from 50/60p to 70p (Post Office and NatWest)
 - iii) Cheque deposits (from 30p to 40p each)
 - iv) Bacs from 14p to 15p per transaction
 - v) Bulk Faster Payments from 30p to 25p per transaction
 - vi) International payments reduction from £24.00 to £20.00
 - vii) CHAPS reduction from £28.00 to £25.00

25.178	Policies None.	
25.179	Planning Planning applications and/or updates: https://publicaccess.northnorthants.gov.uk/online-applications/ i. None received. ii. No updates.	
25.180	Belgrove Park i. Monthly risk assessments received. ii. Resolved – Approved actions arising: a) Additional screws in 4 fence rails – complete.	

	<p>b) 1 fence rail is showing signs of rot. Status - monitoring. Cllrs Cotter and Davies to assess.</p> <p>c) Entrance bolts noted on social media may be missing. Cllr Davies to investigate.</p> <p>iii. Pathway remediation:</p> <p>a) Cllr Reynolds assessed. Loose shingle is minimal.</p> <p>b) Cllrs Davies, Cotter and Reynolds to rake loose shingle and move to Wellingborough Road exit/entrance to counteract muddy path.</p> <p>iv. Resolved – Approved application to National Lottery small grants scheme to:</p> <p>a) Extend climbing wall with an assault course once Clerk confirmed that application can be made to large grant and small grant in same year.</p> <p>b) Resolved – Denied to research adult gym/calisthenics equipment.</p>	<p>Cllrs Cotter & Davies</p>
<p>25.181</p>	<p>Village Hall</p> <p>To receive an update on Village Hall meetings and activities including:</p> <p>i. Village Hall report:</p> <p>a) Warm Spaces and Café is still well attended. Thursday lunches remain free as a result of the warm spaces grant. Dog treats and water stations always supplied.</p> <p>b) Regular groups and new and individual group requests increasing including wedding reception.</p> <p>c) Flat and Village Hall repairs are ongoing.</p> <p>d) The tenants will have access to the committee room for the duration of the repairs; this room will not be available for hire for this period.</p> <p>e) Electrical work ongoing, aim for completion end February 2026.</p> <p>f) Policies are being updated to be in line with statutory regulations.</p> <p>ii. HM Land Registry update received:</p> <p>a) LHPC digital registration with HM Land Registry in progress.</p> <p>b) Extraordinary meeting of Little Harrowden Village Hall Committee (LHVHC) held resolving to issue of the registration of the Village Hall after correspondence with ACRE.</p> <p>c) LHVHC requested rewording the conveyance/deeds of ownership to add full name of charity to the deeds.</p> <p>Resolved - Approved that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) on the grounds that the confidential nature of the negotiations to be transacted would be prejudicial to public interest:</p> <p>a) The council discussed Village Hall deeds and ownership including the long-term safeguarding of the Village Hall</p> <p>b) Resolved – Approved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Arrange a meeting with LHVHC to discuss partnership working. 2) Seek legal advice to confirm mechanisms for securing the hall as a community asset for the benefit of residents in perpetuity. 3) Cllr Davies to submit formal complaint to ACRE. <p>In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the confidential session was concluded, and the public and press were invited to return.</p> <p>iii. Resolved – Approved purchase of internal noticeboard for Parish Council notices. Clerk to add to March agenda with prices of lockable unit.</p> <p>iv. Resolved – Approved – purchase of 50L salt bin and salt for car park and entranceway @ £60+VAT/delivery/salt.</p> <p>v. Resolved – Approved to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police, Fire Safety, First Aid training visits and talks. • Quarterly Saturday morning or weekday evening sessions for the benefit of the parish residents to be run by LHPC. • Clerk to ascertain content and availability police and fire talks. • Cllr MacKay to arrange First Aid training course. • Cllr Blood to request if VH would share costs of First Aid course. 	<p>Cllr Davies</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Davies</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr MacKay</p> <p>Cllr Blood</p>

25.182	<p>Police Matters</p> <p>i. Update received:</p> <p>a) PLR and Neighbourhood Watch activities shared via LHPC Facebook page:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police updates and PFCC newsletter and information shared via LHPC Facebook page. • Neighbourhood Watch quarterly newsletter shared via LHPC Facebook page. • Urgent updates shared on both village community and LHPC pages. • Special offers of discounts and home safety equipment and reports shared. <p>b) Immediate Justice programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing. • Cllr Reynolds removed cuttings. Resolved – Approved to request that team to cut vegetation smaller for disposal. • Belgrove park footpath deemed unsuitable for the team. <p>ii. January crime reports: Noted incorrect month on agenda; no crimes reported.</p>	Clerk
25.183	<p>Highways, Speeding and VAS</p> <p>i. New sign in place and working. Speeding data:</p> <p>Orlingbury Rd Outbound – 07 to 23/01/2026</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 85th Percentile Speed: 35.0 MPH 2) 50th Percentile Speed: 29.7 MPH 3) Average Speed: 28.4 MPH 4) Max Speed = 70.0 MPH on 10/01/2026 00:05:00 5) Total Vehicles =31,502 counts 6) No significant changes in volume or speeding trends. 7) Approximately 50% of vehicles are speeding, with averages speeds of circa 35mph <p>Hilltop Rd Inbound – 07 to 03/02/2026</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 85th Percentile Speed: 43.2 MPH 2) 50th Percentile Speed: 36.1 MPH 3) Average Speed: 31.3 MPH 4) Max Speed = 80.0 MPH on 12/01/2026 09:45:00 5) Total Vehicles =34,475 counts 6) Peak volumes 150-200 vehicles per hour between 7-9 am 7) Approximately 35% of vehicles are speeding with average speeds of circa 45mph <p>Orlingbury Rd Inbound</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 85th percentile at 29mph, 5mph lower than previous data 2) 86% of vehicles at 30mph or lower, 4.5% above 35 mph 3) Peak vehicle volume a.m. circa 220-240/hour, significantly lower than previous signs data <p>b) Cllr Blood to request clarification on the police report, including whether the vehicles monitored are bi-directional. Cllr Cotter to confirm what details require clarification.</p> <p>ii. Update received:</p> <p>a. Speed limit reduction for Orlingbury Road – Resolved –Deferred to collect 18 months adequate data received</p> <p>b. Northants Police speed camera enforcement team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Police response to decision to decline the sharing of speeding data and convictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outstanding ii. Police 24hour speed data collection box received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period in situ 07.02.26 – 14.02.26 • Location: lamppost opposite Willows (What3Words///: REGRETTED.STORMY.TRUMP) • Number of vehicles recorded: 20,186 (67%) • Vehicles exceeding 30mph: 13,521 (34%) • Vehicles exceeding 35mph: 6,825 • 85% of vehicles did not exceed: 41mph • Average vehicle speed 35mph 	Cllrs Blood & Cotter Cllr Blood

	<p>c. No Parking/turning circle:</p> <p>i. Posted on LHPC and Community Facebook pages. Responses vary from supportive to alternative suggestions. Resolved – Approved school to use moveable child size no parking – school signs on footpaths near school entrance.</p> <p>ii. School correspondence. No turning poster shared with parents.</p> <p>iii. Community Speed Watch (CSW):</p> <p>a) Equipment purchased, receipt of equipment outstanding.</p> <p>b) Resolved – Approved date for initial CSW late May, early June; Clerk to allocate stand for promoting CSW and volunteer recruitment at Neighbourhood Survey publicity evening 06.05.26.</p> <p>c) Resolved – Approved Cllr Blood to:</p> <p>1) Arrange a visit from speed team to present to school road safety and speeding.</p> <p>2) Clerk to create recruitment poster asking for parents to participate in CSW partnership.</p> <p>3) Ascertain if school children can participate in CSW event in any way.</p>	<p>Cllr Blood Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Blood Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Blood</p>
<p>25.184</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>i. Big Neighbourhood Survey analysis report deferred.</p> <p>a) Resolved - Approved NP steering group meeting date 25.02.26.</p> <p>b) 33.5% response rate noted as excellent.</p> <p>c) Purpose confirm questions, aims and objectives of local business stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>d) Cllr Reynolds to confirm farm businesses.</p> <p>e) Date for submission of findings no later than 31.03.26.</p> <p>f) Teams meeting with NNC NP Officer tbc.</p>	<p>Cllr Reynolds</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>25.185</p>	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>To receive an update on the following and resolve actions where required:</p> <p>i. Community Grant: awarded in full £4,124.58 – monies received.</p> <p>ii. PFCC Grant: awarded in full £4151.00 – receipt outstanding. Resolved – Approved to supply the following statement and a photo of the VAS and councillors responsible for data collection/analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With traffic through Little Harrowden increasing as a result of surrounding developments and drivers using the village as a through-route, we are extremely grateful to have secured this vital funding. The new mobile speed sign will give us a vital tool to protect our residents, schoolchildren and vulnerable road users, helping to keep our community safer now and into the future. <p>iii. CAN Champion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NNC Nature Recovery Plan shared. • Parish Nature Recovery Plan workshop – attending. • Summary reports to be provided at LHPC's March OCM. <p>iv. NNC Local Transport Scheme: Resolved – Approved: to submit 3 schemes in order of priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zebra Crossing, Footpath to Great Harrowden, Controlled Crossing Hilltop/Furnace Lane junction. 2. Footpath to Great Harrowden and Controlled Crossing. 3. Zebra Crossing Main Street. <p>v. Clerk mobile contract: Resolved – Approved move to Sky mobile @£5pcm.</p> <p>vi. Chat GPT – Resolved – Approved to subscribe to business enterprise @ £30pcm OR £25pcm single annual payment with 50% shared with Grendon Parish Council.</p> <p>vii. Phone box library Resolved – Approved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase additional shelves and fit. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>2. Purchase and install floor improvements to reduce damp ingress on inventory.</p> <p>3. Cllr Davies to present costs in March Ordinary meeting.</p> <p>viii. Resolved – Approved Annual Council Meeting 13.05.26</p> <p>ix. Resolved – Approved Annual Parish Forum 22.04.26, April meeting 15.04.26</p> <p>x. Resolved – Deferred; request Freedom Forest School provide further information on classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessments. • Insurance including public and employer liability. • Clarity on the business, activities and costs to users. • Usage plan. • Staffing, including qualifications. 	<p>Cllr Davies</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
25.186	<p>Correspondence and Village Updates</p> <p>To receive an update on correspondence:</p> <p>i) Fix my Street - hedgerow to Gt Harrowden village exit; in progress, owner of hedge contacted to cut back.</p> <p>ii) LHPC website contact forms – Resolved – Approved to add to the LHPC Contact Us page a weblink/email contact details to book direct for Village Hall booking queries.</p> <p>iii) Village first aid course request received – see agenda item 25.181.v.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
25.187	<p>Defibrillator</p> <p>Status assessment complete and uploaded to The Circuit.</p> <p>Resolve – Approved Emergency Succession Plan to replace current discontinued defibrillator with no available replacement pads for the Primedic Heartsave AED at the discounted CR Plus user price £710 + VAT</p> <p>i) 5-year battery & pad life</p> <p>ii) One universal pad set for both adults & children</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
25.188	<p>Items for information or next Agenda</p> <p>To comply with Local Government legislation agenda items must be requested 2 weeks prior to the corresponding Council meeting.</p> <p>Consultation on Gating Public Spaces – Hillside, Little Harrowden open. Closes 23.59 01.03.2026. https://northnorthants.citizenspace.com/pspo/gating-pspo-hillside/</p> <p>Please submit March agenda item requests by no later than 5pm, Wednesday 25.02.26.</p>	
25.189	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting: 11th March 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Primary School</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting April: 15th April 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Village Hall</p> <p>Annual Parish Forum: 22nd April 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Village Hall</p> <p>Annual Council Meeting: 13th May 2026 at Little Harrowden Primary School</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting June: 10th June 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Village Hall</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting July: 8th July 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Village Hall</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting Sept: 9th September 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Village Hall</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting Oct: 14th October 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Village Hall</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting Nov: 11th November 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Village Hall</p> <p>Ordinary Council Meeting Dec: 9th December 2026, 7.30pm at Little Harrowden Village Hall</p>	
<p>Meeting closed: 21.44pm</p> <p>Standing orders suspended to allow emergency resolution to resolve public health issue (defibrillator).</p>		

Signed _____ Chairman

Date _____