

The Parish Council of Little Harrowden

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Ordinary Council Meeting – Minutes 11.03.2026

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

<p>25.190</p>	<p>Public Participation Open Forum</p> <p>5 members of the public present to observe or discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village hall. • CAN Champion / Nature Recovery. See agenda item 25.205 ii. • EV charging point Main Street: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loss of parking for residents in already overcrowded parking. ○ One of the four spaces is over a fire hydrant. ○ Would leave resident parking for only one vehicle. ○ Pinch point in village. ○ Danger to pedestrians especially children to/from school. ○ No consultation, simply postcard through letterbox to limited, localised number of residents. ○ Consultation limits objections to insufficient number of characters. ○ No consideration of noise to neighbours ○ No consideration of increased volume of traffic in a congested residential area. • LHPC response: see agenda item 25.205 vii. 	
<p>25.191</p>	<p>North Northamptonshire Councillor Updates</p> <p>In attendance: Cllr V Jessop. Apologies received: Cllr S Brown.</p> <p>Update received - summary points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste collection for energy conversion and weekly collection. • Transport grant scheme submission noted. Top priority schemes will be identified by June 2026. • Community Hubs: NNC service provision for residents to get face to face support on NNC services and provisions. Nearest local hub: Victoria Centre. • Children’s services: Corporate Parenting Strategy and Children’s Trust 25/26 Business Plans approved. • Adult Services requires improvement. • NNC hosting a free event for landlords at the Corby Cube, relating to Renter’s Rights Act and unplanned evictions 23.03.26. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-northamptonshire-councils-landlord-forum-tickets-1981127088452?msocid=1858e5358cfe6bd81174f08888fe60b5 • Social Housing Regulator- graded the housing stock provision as C2. • New pothole direct notification – for urgent/dangerous potholes call 0300 1263000. • New housing stock target now reduced to 4.64 years land supply and therefore does not meet the 5 years target. Interim housing statement being produced with target of this calendar year to address this shortfall. <p>Full report available at https://littleharrowdenparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/NNC-Ward-Councillor-Report.pdf</p>	
<p>25.192</p>	<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>	

25.193	To receive requests for dispensation None received.																																																																		
25.194	To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence Apologies received: Resolved – Approved Cllr MacKay. Cllr Reynolds absent. In attendance: Cllrs Davies, Cotter, Blood and Grout. Clerk: S Tilaks.																																																																		
25.195	To sign the minutes of the council meeting Resolved - Approved the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 18th February 2026 as accurate.																																																																		
25.196	Chair’s Report Update received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What a Big Do! - Volunteering day (including removal/disposal of ivy on roadside trees). Resolved – Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To market the event under the Big Do on alternative date of 30th May 2026. Further information https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-do ○ Clerk to provide risk assessment, on the day sign-up sheet and poster to advertise by 22.04.26 and circulate via Facebook, PC website. Additional promotion at the Parish Forum ○ Cllrs Blood & Davies/Grout to post on noticeboards and circulate flyers at Village Hall. ○ Village Hall offered as a co-ordination area and to provide teas and coffee. ○ Request residents to bring cakes and cookies (with ingredient lists) for those who aren’t physically able to clear or litter pick. • Potholes in the area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report potholes direct via: https://highways.northnorthants.gov.uk ○ Make a claim (on reported potholes only) for damage incurred at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths/make-highways-claim ▪ Note that NNC's responsibility does not extend to Moonshine Gap, this is WNC. 	Clerk Cllrs Blood, Grout, Davies																																																																	
25.197	Finances i) February 2026 income Noted – Approved: <table border="1" data-bbox="224 1035 1344 1150"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>By</th> <th>Payer</th> <th>Reason</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17.02.26</td> <td>Credit</td> <td>NNC Finance</td> <td>Community grant for VAS</td> <td>£4,124.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Total income up to 01.02.26 – 28.02.26</td> <td>£4,124.58</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> ii) February 2026 expenditure Resolved - Approved: <table border="1" data-bbox="224 1203 1344 1577"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>By</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Reason</th> <th>Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>03.02.26</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>Mowerman</td> <td>Grass cutting</td> <td>£420.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09.02.26</td> <td>DD</td> <td>YU Energy</td> <td>Jan streetlights</td> <td>£244.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09.02.26</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Wages Jan</td> <td>£585.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16.02.26</td> <td>CC</td> <td>Lloyds</td> <td>fee</td> <td>£3.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>CC</td> <td>Microsoft</td> <td>Feb26 subs</td> <td>£12.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>CC</td> <td>Northants Police</td> <td>CSW kit</td> <td>£150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24.02.26</td> <td>DD</td> <td>Total Energies</td> <td>Christmas lights</td> <td>£83.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28.02.26</td> <td>DD</td> <td>Unity</td> <td>Monthly charge</td> <td>£6.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Total expenditure 01.02.26 – 28.02.26</td> <td>£1,504.98</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> iii) Resolved - Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Credit card expenditure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Microsoft Office 365 monthly subscription £12.10 ▪ Community Speed Watch kit £150.00 ▪ Monthly Fee £3.00 ○ Total Energies updated bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total credit amount from December £232.72 ▪ Monthly Standing Charge approximately £106.00 ▪ Outstanding credit @ 01.02.26 £126.38 iv) Noted – Resolved Sky mobile phone monthly charge Direct Debit not credit card. Resolved – Approved:	Date	By	Payer	Reason	Amount	17.02.26	Credit	NNC Finance	Community grant for VAS	£4,124.58	Total income up to 01.02.26 – 28.02.26				£4,124.58	Date	By	Payee	Reason	Cost	03.02.26	BACS	Mowerman	Grass cutting	£420.64	09.02.26	DD	YU Energy	Jan streetlights	£244.50	09.02.26	BACS	Clerk	Wages Jan	£585.50	16.02.26	CC	Lloyds	fee	£3.00		CC	Microsoft	Feb26 subs	£12.10		CC	Northants Police	CSW kit	£150.00	24.02.26	DD	Total Energies	Christmas lights	£83.24	28.02.26	DD	Unity	Monthly charge	£6.00	Total expenditure 01.02.26 – 28.02.26				£1,504.98	RFO
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New BACS payments due:

- o Additional shelving unit phone box £60.00
- o Damp countering flooring and fixings phone box £57.03
- o Clerk travel expenses £9.45

New CC payments due:

- o Oil Tank Supermarket – Village Hall 50L salt bin and salt bag £72
- o Business survey A3 leaflet – Cheapest Print Online £100
- o Microsoft monthly subscription £12.10

v) **Resolved – Approved February 2026 Bank Reconciliations**

Feb 2026 Bank Reconciliation			
Opening balance at	01.02.26		£13,572.63
Total income		01.02.26 - 28.02.26	£4,124.58
Total expenditure		01.02.26 – 28.02.26	£1,504.98
Total balance at	28.02.26		£16,192.23
Opening balance at	01.04.25		£41,981.42
Total income		01.04.25 - 28.02.26	£38,879.99
Total expenditure to		01.04.25 - 28.02.26	£64,669.18
Closing balance at	28.02.26		£16,192.23
Checked against statement at		28.02.26	£16,192.23

25.198	<p>Policies</p> <p>None.</p>	
25.199	<p>Planning</p> <p>Planning applications and/or updates: https://publicaccess.northnorthants.gov.uk/online-applications/</p> <p>i. None received.</p> <p>ii. No updates.</p> <p>iii. Resolved – Approved: notify NNC Planning Enforcement of increasingly heavy industrial traffic to Home Farm confirming change of use and include written evidence of change of use to kitchen manufacture.</p>	Clerk
25.200	<p>Belgrove Park</p> <p>i. Monthly risk assessments received. Monitor remaining fencing.</p> <p>ii. Resolved – Approved actions arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fence rails – repair complete. b) Grass growing in the cracks between the tarmac at the half-way line on the play court. Asphalt repair kit cost to be researched by Cllr Davies c) Securing bolt added to front entrance gate latch; additional to be sourced by Cllrs Davies and Cotter. d) No safety issues noted from lack of bolt. <p>iii. Pathway remediation: Deferred</p> <p>iv. Widening of the footpath at gateway: Deferred</p> <p>v. Suitability of extending climbing wall with an assault course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discussed - Deferred. Concerns raised over accessibility for tractors due to proximity to power lines and requires Cllr Reynolds feedback. Cllr Davies to provide site measurements to contractor. b) National Lottery small grants scheme for climbing wall – outstanding; Deferred 	Cllr Davies Cllrs Cotter & Davies
25.201	<p>Village Hall</p> <p>To receive an update on Village Hall meetings and activities including:</p> <p>i. Village Hall report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Flat repairs deferred until June (tenant request). b) The electrician will be working in the Village Hall week commencing 30th March; regular bookings 	

	<p>cancelled for the duration including closure of café for one week.</p> <p>c) The cafe is still busy. d) The warm space grant finishes at the end of March so the current menu will change. e) It was agreed at the last VH meeting: Helen to provide a report for the PC after each meeting. Resolved – Approved to allow Mrs Smith to present on a monthly basis.</p> <p>f) Policies – Updated and posted throughout the building.</p> <p>ii. HM Land Registry update received:</p> <p>a) LHPC digital registration with HM Land Registry remains in progress with address updated. b) LHVHC / LHPC meeting - Clerk to extend dates to meet and discussion points.</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 ownership including the long-term safeguarding of the Village Hall b) Resolved – Approved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Confirm mechanisms for securing the hall as a community asset for the benefit of residents in perpetuity. 2) ACRE complaint Resolved – Denied. <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 an economy lockable internal noticeboard for Parish Council notices @ £118.80 (Boards Direct) 1200mm x 900mm (10xA4 sheets).</p> <p>iv. 50L Salt bin and salt purchased and delivered to village hall @ £60+VAT.</p> <p>v. Police, Fire Safety visits and talks, First Aid training: deferred to April.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>ClIr Davies</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
25.202	<p>Police Matters</p> <p>i. Update received:</p> <p>a) PLR and Neighbourhood Watch activities shared via LHPC Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/706732201857111 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter with discounts, home safety equipment and home/fire safety links. • Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Road Safety Community Fund publicity featuring Little Harrowden: https://northantspfcc.org.uk/commissioner-funds-over-30-local-safety-initiatives-to-make-northamptonshires-roads-safer/ • Discounted Smart Water home security pack as part of the campaign ‘Stand up to crime’. • New avenues for help for domestic and relationship abuse provided. • Next live question time date: ask questions on policing to Chief Constable Ivan Balhatchet and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone (Facebook and YouTube) 6:30pm to 8pm on Tuesday, March 31. • PFCC budget/precept. <p>b) Immediate Justice programme: no update on work but publicity on the achievements of the programme shared on Council website and Facebook page.</p> <p>ii. February crime reports: outstanding.</p>	
25.203	<p>Highways, Speeding and VAS</p> <p>i. New sign in place and working. Speeding data:</p> <p>Hardwick Rd Inbound –26/02/2026 through 11/03/2026</p> <p>Speed Limit: 30 MPH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 85th Percentile Speed: 38.1 MPH 2) 50th Percentile Speed: 30.1 MPH 3) Max Speed = 75.0 MPH on 01/03/2026 23:45:00 4) Total Vehicles =25,825 counts, 4-450 vehicles/hour with majority speeding. 5) Average Speed: 30.1 MPH 	

	<p>Hilltop Rd Outbound - 26/02/2026 through 11/03/2026</p> <p>Speed Limit: 40 MPH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 85th Percentile Speed: 45.6 MPH 2) 50th Percentile Speed: 38.3 MPH 3) Max Speed = 80.0 MPH on 05/03/2026 22:10:00 4) Total Vehicles = 16,849 counts 5) Average Speed: 34.6 MPH <p>Orlingbury Rd Inbound - 26.02.2026 through 11.03.26</p> <p>Speed Limit: 30 MPH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) New sign having a positive impact on the incoming traffic. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Average speeds down to 25mph from 29mph (Dec25). b. 85th percentile speed down to 30mph from 35mph. 2) New sign measures outbound traffic, without visual cues, and reaches the village limits. 3) Outbound traffic is much faster than inbound: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Average speed is 30mph b. 85th percentile is 34mph. c. Vmax is higher at 77mph vs 62mph inbound. b) Confirmation received - Police speeding data box collected bi-directional speeds. ii. Northants Police speed camera enforcement team declining to share speeding report data and convictions: no update. Cllr Blood to chase. iii. No Parking – Turning Circle signage: received; installation outstanding. iv. Community Speed Watch (CSW): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) CSW equipment purchased / received. b) Campaign starts on Monday 16.03.26. c) Primary focus will be Hilltop and Orlingbury Road for first sessions. d) Sessions will be limited until adequate volunteers recruited. e) School road safety and speeding presentation by NNC Highways: Headmistress has this in hand. f) Resolved – Approved CSW recruitment posters: Clerk to circulate to school parents and village residents via LH Primary school, Facebook all village groups and LHPC website. Cllrs Blood and Davies to post on noticeboards. Poster to be included on Village Hall noticeboard. g) School partnership: in progress. 	<p>Cllr Blood Cllrs Davies</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs Davies & Blood</p>
<p>25.204</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plan (NP)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Update received: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Big Business Survey printed / delivered. Responses already being received. b) Teams meeting with NNC NP Officer successful: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) LHPC must formally notify NNC of intention to submit NP. ii) Will be able to help review plan and policies without cost. iii) LHPC to discuss using consultant to review NP policies as these are the legal documents within the plan. iv) Consultant recommended to check policies for accuracy and legal robustness: Troy Hayes approx. £350.00. v) Follow up with NP Officer booked 13.03.26. c) Resolved – Approved to invite the following groups to have stands at the public information evening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LH Primary School • CSW • CAN Champion / Environmental improvements • Volunteer Day • St Mary’s 	<p>Cllr Reynolds</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lamb • LH WMC • Village Hall • Nene River Trust <p>Next NP meeting 08.04.26. Village Public Information Evening: 7pm, Wednesday 6th May 2026</p>	
25.205	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>Update received on the following:</p> <p>i. Community and PFCC Grants: NNC received, PFCC outstanding. Clerk to chase.</p> <p>ii. CAN (Climate and Nature) Champion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update received on Parish Nature Recovery report. Download here: https://littlearrowdenparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CAN-Champion-Nature-Recovery-Plan-Report.pdf • The aims of the project would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helping the recovery of 1 in 6 species at risk of extinction ○ Lowering flood risk ○ Improving residents' health and wellbeing ○ Providing a legacy for future generations ○ Monitoring species ○ Improving wildflower verges and ○ Tree planting. • Lots of support available in addition to funding from the Nene River Trust (deadline 30.03.26). • Resolved – Approved to support this: Cllr Reynolds to be PC representative. CAN Champion to recruit resident volunteers at NP information evening. <p>iii. NNC Local Transport Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted and support provided by Cllr Vicki Jessop. • Initial feedback report received from NNC (download here: https://littlearrowdenparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Transport-Grant-Scheme-initial-feedback-report.pdf) <p>iv. Chat GPT subscription: enterprise edition requires minimum 2 employees @ £30/seat. Resolved – Approved to subscribe to ChatGPT Plus @ £20pcm with privacy settings switched on.</p> <p>v. Clerk hours: Resolved – Approved 27 overtime hours to meet additional meeting demands primarily NP and VH. Final week of annual leave agreed March 2026.</p> <p>vi. Phone box library improvements installed to store more books and damp-proof the flooring: Resolved – Approved see item 25.197 iv (BACS).</p> <p>Electric Vehicle Charging (EVC) points: Main Street Little Harrowden. Posters delivered. Resolved – Approved Cllr Davies to respond with the following, citing issues with pedestrian safety, fire hydrant and loss of resident parking. Correspondence to confirm unsuitability of proposed location and list alternative suitable sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having an EV charging point asset for the village • Should not be outside any resident's property • Large layby outside the play area and park is central • Should not be outside residents' houses, notably in locations where this would remove resident parking bays for those without off street parking • Alternative site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parking bay in front of Belgrove Park ○ Working Men's Club car park (would require negotiation with organisation). <p>Submit to NNC officer, copying in Cllr Jessop.</p> <p>vii. Forest School request – lower meadow – deferred / outstanding.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Reynolds CAN</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Davies</p> <p>Cllr Davies</p> <p>Clerk</p>

25.206	<p>Correspondence and Village Updates</p> <p>Update on correspondence received:</p> <p>i) Fix my Street - hedgerow to Gt Harrowden village exit; no update; submitted complaint via Fix My Street.</p> <p>ii) LHPC website contact forms – weblink/email for direct Village Hall booking queries - outstanding.</p> <p>iii) Free St John’s Ambulance defib training – Resolved – Approved. Clerk to agree available dates for resolution April 2026.</p>	Clerk Clerk
25.207	<p>Defibrillator</p> <p>Status assessment complete and uploaded to The Circuit – outstanding.</p> <p>Noted: Primedic Heartsave AED purchased at the discounted CR Plus and awaiting imminent installation as previous defib had no usable pads (discontinued and out of date). Cllr Davies to install in existing storage unit and Cllr MacKay to update The Circuit with new equipment.</p>	Cllrs Davies/ Mackay
25.208	<p>Items for information or next Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Appraisal – Completed 10.03.26. Update received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall positive ○ Actions to implement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Councillors to provide reports a week before the meeting ▪ Short term excel support to speed up manual input tasks ▪ Medium term to investigate Scribe accounting ▪ Propose an increase in wages by 2 points for resolution in April 2026. • Resident on Main Street queried the correspondence received on EV charging proposed location. Clerk confirmed it was an agenda item for resolution to respond with alternative locations. • Resident on Main Street queried overgrown hedge correspondence received from NNC. Clerk confirmed that the LHPC report was for a hedge on Wellingborough Road. Resident noted that the PC was doing a great job of updating the village with information and felt encouraged to attend more meetings and parish council events. • Food waste recycling – launch summer 2026. Clerk shared information shared on social media and LHPC website. Discussed inviting relevant NNC officers to parish forum to answer resident’s questions. <p>Please submit April agenda item requests by no later than 9am, Wednesday 25.03.26.</p>	
25.209	<p>Date of Next Meetings:</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>NP Public Information Evening: 6th May 2026, 7pm 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>	
Meeting Closed: 21.16		

Signed _____ Chairman

Date _____