

LODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

79 Harrington Road, Loddington, NN14 1JZ

T: 01536 710525

Email: clerk@loddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: <https://loddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025

Sports Pavilion Harrington Road Loddington NN14 1JZ

Present: Cllr Alan Durn (Chair), Cllr Alice Ablett, Cllr Lora Lawman,
Cllr Kate Reneerkens, Cllr Mark Reneerkens, Cllr Joby Simson

Jane Mann (Clerk) NNC Cllrs Jim Hakewill and Chris Kellett. 7 members of the public

	Decisions	Action																														
25/44	Apologies for absence: Apologies were accepted from Cllr Lorraine Wensor.																															
25/45	Declaration of Interests: Cllr Durn declared a non-pecuniary interest in his Playing Field Manager, Village Hall and Poor land roles.																															
25/46	Public Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Church Warden expressed disappointment at the way she felt she had been spoken to at the last meeting on the subject of Loddfest. A resident asked if Cllr Durn would apologise. Cllr Durn declined, advising that a line had now been drawn under the Loddfest debate. Cllr Durn was then asked if he would resign from the Parish Council over this matter. He declined and Cllr Mark Reneerkens added that there was no need for an apology or resignation. Cllr Lawman suggested that if there was a grievance it should be raised to the NNC Monitoring Officer, who would impartially investigate the matter. ii. An increase in dog mess around the village was reported, outside homes and near the school. Cllr Lawman would raise the matter with the dog warden, and the Messenger would be updated. iii. The Tree warden raised his concerns regarding NNC Enforcement not following up on reports that tree work had been carried out without permission in a conservation area. This would be followed up by NNC Councillors. 	<p>LL/JM</p> <p>JH/CK</p>																														
25/47	Minutes: It was resolved to approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 21 August 2025. The Church warden felt that the minutes were not accurate as they mentioned that 'Councillors were disappointed that this was the third occasion that the Loddfest Committee had failed to fulfil their commitment/agreement.' The clerk responded that the minutes had to reflect what was actually said at the meeting. She then added that she had checked historic records and the statement made had been factually correct.																															
25/48	Accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The financial situation at 31 October 2025 was reported, with a balance of £9,843.35 in the precept account and £5,249.86 in the recreation account. ii. The Parish Council received confirmation that internal controls had been followed. iii. Payments made prior to the meeting in accordance with financial regulations which have been previously authorised and paid by BACS were reported: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">29 August 2025</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Tony's Fireworks</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">1300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 September</td> <td>Valda Energy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">146.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18 September</td> <td>Clerk's expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18 September</td> <td>Bookers</td> <td style="text-align: right;">45.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 September</td> <td>Clerk's salary September</td> <td style="text-align: right;">544.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 September</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">175.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 October</td> <td>Lawncare</td> <td style="text-align: right;">500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 October</td> <td>Valda Energy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">118.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 October</td> <td>HFE Signs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21 October</td> <td>Clerk's salary October</td> <td style="text-align: right;">544.26</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	29 August 2025	Tony's Fireworks	1300.00	8 September	Valda Energy	146.28	18 September	Clerk's expenses	20.58	18 September	Bookers	45.32	20 September	Clerk's salary September	544.26	20 September	HMRC	175.49	2 October	Lawncare	500.00	10 October	Valda Energy	118.21	10 October	HFE Signs	60.00	21 October	Clerk's salary October	544.26	
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	<p>iv. Outstanding payments: Alan Durn-firework expenses £216.21 and CPRE membership were approved.</p> <p>v. Information Commissioner's subscription £47.00 approved.</p> <p>vi. Payments were reviewed against the six-month and seven-month budget position.</p> <p>vii. The clerk reported a VAT repayment claim of £1,591.92, which was received that day.</p> <p>viii. The draft budget was reviewed. Since preparation £300 has been received for school hire and £400 from the cricket club relating to the latest water bill received. It was suggested that the external water supply should be metered separately to avoid this situation. This could be discussed at the next meeting. Other points discussed were the additional costs for verge mowing and playground maintenance, which NNC were attempting to pass over, with no budget. NCALC were following up on the playground issue, but it was agreed to resist taking ownership of these areas. NNC Councillors commented that there was currently a £15 million overspend at NNC.</p>	AD/JM												
25/49	<p>Governance: The clerk advised that the annual audit had been concluded.</p>													
25/50	<p>Progress reports from previous meetings: Cllr Durn provided feedback on his discussion with Planning Enforcement advising that they were in the process of preparing a schedule of personnel roles and responsibilities.</p>													
25/51	<p>Councillor roles and responsibilities</p> <p>i. The clerk advised that Cllr Wensor had attended her first meeting as Climate & Nature Champion.</p> <p>ii. The Fireworks evening had been a successful joint working initiative with the school. Thank you to all our volunteers in the village. Cllr Simson had met with the Head Teacher who was keen for pupils to be involved with village initiatives, such as poster design and litter picks.</p> <p>iii. Cllr Kate Reneerkens provided an update on Highways issues. Cllrs Kate and Mark Reneerkens had met with Ben Wright from Kier on 24 October to discuss outstanding issues, which he has promised to chase up, including numerous defects at the following locations: Richardsons Lane (granite setts), Loddington to Thorpe Malsor, Harrington Road (Long Lane), Foxhall, Loddington to Rothwell. The new street name plate at the bottom of Richardsons Lane says "Richardson", therefore the sign will need to be replaced in due course. Reflectors have been fitted to the posts at the pinch point near the bus shelter in Harrington Road after we raised concern about their lack of conspicuity at night. Various potholes have been reported on Fix My Street.</p> <p>iv. Cllr Kate Reneerkens reported that there were no further updates on Safeguarding issues.</p> <p>v. Cllr Mark Reneerkens provided an update on his Police Liaison role. There had been a break-in and theft of equipment at Sterling Court on 19 October, although there has not been any feedback on Northamptonshire Talking. Cllr Mark Reneerkens has been in discussions with the Neighbourhood Policing Team regarding travellers' fraudulent use of addresses in Cransley Road for deliveries of mail and fast food. Police have spoken to the occupants of the unauthorised traveller site.</p> <p>vi. Cllr Lawman provided an update on NNC Liaison. She is in regular contact with George Candler and was now on several NNC distribution lists and she continued to share information with councillors.</p>													
25/52	<p>Village matters:</p> <p>i. An update was received on the unauthorised traveller's site. NNC have conducted individual assessments on site, which has highlighted several issues. A legal viewpoint is expected soon.</p> <p>ii. An update was received on the manure issues. Lack of response from Environmental Health prompted escalating the matter to formal complaint at Stage 1 and Stage 2, both of which were upheld. Manure has since been spread and ploughed into the fields.</p> <p>iii. The Fireworks event was very successful, with cash takings of £2,244, along with further takings by card, to be calculated.</p>													

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Warm space initiatives were discussed. It was acknowledged that currently each month there was a coffee morning, a village breakfast and a drinks evening, all organised by the church. Possibly this could be a joint venture with the school and village hall. v. The Parish Council considered a request from a Pizza business to park their mobile van outside the playing field. It was thought that this would be good for the village. Clerk to arrange. vi. Verge mowing was discussed. NNC propose to reduce frequency from 6 to 3 cuts a year, with mowing to be carried out by Kier instead of NNC Grounds Maintenance. Alternatively, the PC can pay for additional cuts or take on responsibility for mowing and receive £577 towards the cost. It was suggested that we respond: 1) expressing disappointment at the reduction in service, 2) requesting detailed maps of areas to be cut, 3) requesting confirmation of cost of additional 3 cuts. 	<p style="text-align: right;">JM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JM</p>
25/53	<p>Planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr Ablett provided an update on existing applications. ii. There were two new planning applications for Langham House 25/01319 and Brandon House 25/01176. Cllr Simson declared an interest in the application for Langham House. No concerns were raised regarding either of these applications. iii. The Loddington School complaint has now been escalated to the Ombudsman. iv. There were no updates on other planning enforcement issues. 	
25/54	<p>Playing Field Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Playing Field Manager reported that the whole ground had been reseeded and marked out for the new football season. The fixtures list would be displayed on the noticeboard. Two teams are hiring the grounds, Fundamentals on Saturday and Mawsley Football club on Sundays. The cricket club have acquired funding for maintenance of the ground and have completed the cricket square. Further funding has been obtained for replacement windows and doors. ii. NNC correspondence regarding taking on the maintenance of the playground was discussed. We were assured by the Leader of NNC at the recent NCALC conference that Parish Councils would not be compelled to take on responsibility for services or assets if they did not want to. We have referred the matter to NCALC who have promised to support us. It was suggested that we challenge NNC as they own the equipment, which was installed in 2006; and object to their proposal to offload services to Parish Councils for which we would have to increase our precept. iii. Recent vandalism in the playing field and playground was discussed Cllr Simson has discussed these issues with the school. Cllr Mark Reneerkens has spoken to the Neighbourhood Police Sergeant about this and also concerns about children playing in Main Street and cycling dangerously around the village He has confirmed that officers will liaise with the school to raise children's awareness of anti-social behaviour and road safety. 	<p style="text-align: right;">JM</p>
25/55	<p>Training:</p> <p>There were no further training requirements. Cllr Lawman volunteered to attend NCALC Big 50 online event.</p>	
25/56	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>15th January 2026. The meeting ended at 9pm.</p>	

Signed Chairman: **Date**.....