

LODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2026

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, Cllr Lorraine Wensor.
Jane Mann (Clerk) 4 members of the public

	Decisions	Action																																	
25/57	Apologies for absence: Apologies were accepted from NNC Cllrs Brian Benneyworth and Jim Hakewill.																																		
25/58	Declaration of Interests: Cllr Durn declared a non-pecuniary interest in his Playing Field Manager, Village Hall and Poor land roles. He also declared an interest in planning application 25/01499/TCA.																																		
25/59	Public Session: Cllr Durn announced that the public session would be in accordance with standing order 3(f), a member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the chair of the meeting. The tree warden raised serious concerns regarding the lack of planning enforcement, in particular tree work being carried out in the conservation area without planning permission. As tree warden he had reported unauthorised work to NNC but is still awaiting a response 17 months later. He also was asked for advice as NNC had incorrectly informed a resident that there were no tree protection orders in Loddington.																																		
25/60	North Northants Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To receive reports from North Northants Councillors. ii. Cllr Lawman reported on the implications of the Community Governance Review, and it was agreed that Loddington Parish should remain unchanged. The review had been extended to 12 March so Cllr Lawman would prepare a response for the Parish Council to consider. 	LL																																	
25/61	Minutes: It was resolved to approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 6 November 2025.																																		
25/62	Accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The financial situation at 10 January 2026 was reported, with a balance of £8,926.05 in the precept account and £8,778.86 in the recreation account. ii. The Parish Council received confirmation from Cllr Wensor 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;"> <tbody> <tr><td style="width: 20%;">10 November</td><td style="width: 60%;">Valda Energy</td><td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">50.45</td></tr> <tr><td>20 November</td><td>Clerk's salary</td><td style="text-align: right;">544.06</td></tr> <tr><td>20 November</td><td>HMRC</td><td style="text-align: right;">175.69</td></tr> <tr><td>20 November</td><td>Clerk's expenses</td><td style="text-align: right;">20.58</td></tr> <tr><td>10 December</td><td>Valda Energy</td><td style="text-align: right;">45.66</td></tr> <tr><td>16 December</td><td>Boiler service</td><td style="text-align: right;">240.00</td></tr> <tr><td>29 December</td><td>Clerk's salary</td><td style="text-align: right;">544.26</td></tr> <tr><td>29 December</td><td>HMRC</td><td style="text-align: right;">175.49</td></tr> <tr><td>29 December</td><td>Clerk's expenses</td><td style="text-align: right;">20.58</td></tr> <tr><td>9 January</td><td>Valda Energy</td><td style="text-align: right;">68.54</td></tr> <tr><td>10 January</td><td>WCF Chandlers</td><td style="text-align: right;">398.46</td></tr> </tbody> </table> iv. Outstanding payments: Defibrillator pads ordered £89.94. 	10 November	Valda Energy	50.45	20 November	Clerk's salary	544.06	20 November	HMRC	175.69	20 November	Clerk's expenses	20.58	10 December	Valda Energy	45.66	16 December	Boiler service	240.00	29 December	Clerk's salary	544.26	29 December	HMRC	175.49	29 December	Clerk's expenses	20.58	9 January	Valda Energy	68.54	10 January	WCF Chandlers	398.46	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. The financial position was reviewed against the nine-month budget position. vi. Specified reserves were approved for the Fighting Fund £12,241 and it was agreed that remaining funds at end of year would form a general reserve. vii. The draft budget was reviewed and amendments for refurbishment of assets, audit expenses and bank charges were agreed. An annual budget of £21,500 was approved for 2026/27 year. viii. A precept of £16.060 was agreed and approved for 2026/27 year. 	
25/63	<p>Progress reports from previous meetings:</p> <p>An update was received on NNC's proposal to reduce the frequency of verge mowing. Specification and maps have been received from Kier. Contact has been made with two potential contractors to seek quotations, to see how they compare with the £577 offered by NNC/Kier for 3 cuts if the PC takes on responsibility for verge mowing. It was suggested we ask Kier how much they will charge for 3 additional cuts and challenge them if it exceeds £577.</p>	MR/JM
25/64	<p>Councillor roles and responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr Wensor had attended her first meeting as Climate & Nature Champion. She mentioned that the Woodland Trust were offering free tree packages, and it was agreed to pursue this initiative. ii. Cllr Simson had been in contact with the school, but nothing has been arranged at present. iii. Cllr Kate Reneerkens provided an update on Highways issues. Cllrs Kate and Mark Reneerkens had met with Ben Wright from Kier on 14 January 2026. Numerous issues were brought to his attention, with some still remaining outstanding from his last visit in October 2025. Harrington Road – Ben Wright confirmed that a full surface dressing is scheduled in for 2026. Many other potholes and defects were identified in and around the area. Matters arising from councillors: Road to Orton - Kier will attend to the failing edges of the road but as this is a minor quiet lane, no major works are planned. Agreed that problems occur with articulated lorries using this route when the A14 becomes congested. Messenger article -Anyone witnessing an oversized vehicle entering the village from this road, please photograph, document with date and time and send to Cllr Kate Reneerkens, who will forward this onto Ben Wright to action. Concerns over diversion signage referring to Thorpe Malsor drainage work being left out on site. Works here are planned to continue through to March 2026 so signs will remain in place. Cllr Kate Reneerkens will attend the Highways Briefing Session at Corby Cube on 19 January. iv. Cllr Kate Reneerkens reported that there were no further updates on Safeguarding issues. v. Cllr Mark Reneerkens provided an update on his Police Liaison role. An abandoned vehicle belonging to one of the occupants of the unauthorised traveller site was eventually removed by the Police on 11 January, despite their initial reluctance to do so. Further discussions have been held with the Police regarding the travellers' fraudulent use of addresses in Cransley Road for registering vehicles with the DVLA, resulting in debt collecting letters, etc. 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. She will speak to Graeme Kane regarding the handling of planning applications for tree work in the conservation area. 	<p>LW</p> <p>JM</p> <p>LL</p>
25/65	<p>Village matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. An update was received on the unauthorised traveller's site. Hopefully a decision will be made by NNC at the end of January, ii. The clerk had been advised that Tony, our Fireworks supplier for many years had sadly passed away before Christmas. The clerk was asked to contact other suppliers for quotes. iii. Loddington Parish Council will apply for a free tree package from Woodland Trust. 	<p>JM</p> <p>LW</p>
25/66	<p>Planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr Ablett provided an update on existing applications. ii. There had been a new planning application for an air source heat pump in the conservation area. A concern was raised regarding the noise level. This should be checked with Environmental Health. iii. A discussion arose regarding NNC's handling of a tree application at Loddington Hall, which was in the conservation area. Notification was received and the application was approved two days later. 	JM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. The Loddington School complaint had been escalated to the Ombudsman unsuccessfully. A Parish Council does not have the right to complain to the Ombudsman; this should be made by an individual. v. There were no updates on other planning enforcement issues. It was agreed that Cllr Lawman report this direct to George Candler. Cllr Ablett would provide her with a list of outstanding issues. 	AA/LL
25/67	<p>Playing Field Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr Durn provided an update on maintenance, improvements and usage of the playing field and pavilion. He Had chased the footballers for payment for their games played. He had contacted the cricketers for a further contribution to the excess water bill, but the answer was no. He needs to tidy up the area behind the cricket nets. Waiting for details and timing related to the £15,000 grant received for improving the pavilion. Works required for next financial year. Garage door repair, service the shutters and replace the perimeter fencing. Work related to the Village. Refurbish the telephone box, remove the excess leaves and soil from the Jitty, cut back the bushes and trees on Main Steet and start improving the bus shelter on Harrington Road. Clerk to contact NNC Councillors for financial assistance with this. ii. The Parish Council discussed further NNC correspondence regarding taking on the maintenance of the playground. This would not affect this year's budget, but a decision would need to be made at the next meeting. iii. Sadly, further vandalism has taken place in the playing field and playground. Extension of security system may have to be explored. Further discussion required at next meeting. iv. The water supply at the playing field was discussed. A quotation of £175 was received to supply and install a sub-meter on the external water supply to enable accurate monitoring of water used on the cricket pitch. It was agreed to proceed with the installation. Further discussion will need to take place with the Cricket Club. 	<p>AD</p> <p>JM</p> <p>JM</p> <p>JM</p> <p>MR</p> <p>AD</p>
25/68	<p>Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There were no further training requirements. ii. Cllr Lawman provided an update following her attendance at the NCALC Big 50 online event. She reported that Graham Lawman had joined the committee. 	
25/69	<p>Date of next meeting: 5th March 2026. The meeting ended at 8.50pm.</p>	

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