

GREAT CRANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on 12 March 2026

PRESENT: Cllr Richard Barnwell Jane Mann Parish Clerk
Cllr Stuart Ablett NNC Cllr Brian Bennyworth
Cllr Amanda Bussey
Cllr Isabelle James
Cllr Michael Procter One member of the public

25.134 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Colin Spickett and Cllr Emily James. Also NNC Councillors Jim Hakewill and Chris Kellett.

25.135 Public session

There were no items raised.

25.136 Declarations of interest and a reminder for Councillors to update NNC register of interests

Cllr Barnwell declared an interest in his roles as Committee member for Kettering Neighbourhood Plan, Chair of Mawsley Parish Council and Chair of the Village Hall Committee, where he represented the Parish Council. All Councillors have completed NNC register of interests.

25.137 Approval of the minutes from the last meeting held on Thursday 12 February 2026

The minutes from the last meeting were approved as accurate.

25.138 To receive an update on the neighbourhood plan and to consider next steps

Umrah Mahadik from NNC joined the meeting remotely to discuss progress and next steps with the neighbourhood plan. She explained that resources for Neighbourhood Planning were currently limited and that there were a number of plans at various stages within the NNC area. She strongly advised that GCPC undertake a health check prior to Regulation 15 submission using NPiers. This was of course a decision that GCPC would need to make and it would involve additional expense but it would allow an opportunity for GCPC to make any changes prior to submission.

Cllr Barnwell raised his concerns about potential changes to the Local Plan and NPPF which may impact the Plan. Umrah explained that a neighbourhood plan was a living document which would require amendments resulting from future changes to the local plan and NPPF. She did however comment that once the Local Plan had been completed that may free up resources at NNC to help with any amendments.

Umrah was thanked for joining the meeting and her help with the neighbourhood plan.

- i. The draft neighbourhood plan including appendices, schedule of representations, basic conditions statement and consultation statement were approved by Councillors, subject to some small changes.
- ii. It was decided subject to costing that GCPC would undertake a health check prior to Regulation 15 submission. **Action point- JM to seek some approximate costings for a Health check from NPiers.**

25.139 Planning:

The clerk provided an update on the status of existing applications.
There were no updates on planning enforcement issues.

25.140 To receive reports from North Northants Councillors:

- i. A report and update were received on NNC matters from NNC Cllr Bennyworth. He also advised that NNC Councillors will carry out a spruce up of the playground in May.
- ii. Cllr Bennyworth provided an update on member's enquiries raised:
 - 8 Loddington Road- Cllr Hakewill was looking at this, a complaint has also been made by Cllr Spickett.
 - Problems with numbering of street lights -NNC will be ensuring that numbering on street lights corresponds with new map to avoid any further confusion.
 - Problems with costings for new bin installation is being followed up.
 - NNC have been chased up to obtain a mowing schedule for the verges.
 - NNC have been chased up to use their powers to pursue access to street lighting as shrubs need cutting back at Cransley Hall and access to shrubs around speed sign on Broughton Hill.

25.141 Finance:

- i. The clerk reported on the current financial situation. Bank statements were available to Councillors to reconcile figures if required but Cllr Bussey regularly reconciled figures with bank statements.

Neighbourhood Plan account	£558.04
Treasurers account	£2,930.97
Contingency account	£10,416.18
Total	£13,905.19

- ii. Previously authorised payments made following the last meeting were reported:
- Clerk's February salary £449.36 and HMRC statutory deductions £134.11
 - Clerk's expenses for February £23.24
 - NCALC training iro Cllrs Michael Procter and Isabelle James £127.20
 - Parish Online subscription of £408.00
 - Uncontested election costs £25.00
 - Memberships to NACRE £42.00
- iii. A schedule of payments due was authorised:
- Clerk's salary and expenses and HMRC statutory deductions for March
- iv. The financial implications of NNC moving responsibility for the playground equipment to GCPC from April 2027 was discussed. The clerk has made contact with Parish Councils in the same position to obtain some costings from other companies, but this had not been forthcoming. After some discussion it was decided that GCPC would take on NNC's service level agreement. This would have an effect on 2027/28 yr budget.

25.142 Governance:

- i. Changes to the asset register for new laptop and speed gun were approved.
- ii. Changes to the risk assessment and policy were approved for one drive and NNC replacing mention of KBC.

25.143 Progress reports from previous meetings:

- i. Update pending on the Asset of Community value application. There has been some more interest. An Easter and May Day event will be arranged by The Three Cranes.
- ii. There was no update on paving issues at 8 Loddington Road. Cllr Spickett has now raised a complaint with NCC. He had advised that at his latest NNC meeting they have assured him that it will be resolved.

25.144 Village matters:

- i. The NNC's proposal to move the vehicle activated sign on Broughton Hill to the village green was not approved. The village green was in the conservation area and the centre of the village. It was felt that the hedgerow around the current location should be cut back. **Action point-BB to follow up with NCC**
- ii. Cllr Isabelle James had nothing further to report.
- iii. The purchase of another bin in Bridle Way had been approved. The clerk was still awaiting costings for installation. **Action point- BB to follow up with NCC**
- iv. Painting of the lampposts had not been completed as painters were still unable to access lights in Cransley Hall. This was now an NNC matter. **Action point: BB**
Cllrs Bussey and Spickett have compiled a list of further work required around the village. Quote from painters will be sought. **Action point-JM/AB**
- v. There had been several volunteers for the Community association and a meeting had been arranged.
- vi. Cllr Barnwell provided an update on CVMH matters. CVMH minutes had been circulated.

25.145 To receive an update from Parish Councillors on their specific roles:

- i. Cllr Bussey provided an update on Highways, parking and lighting issues.
- ii. Cllr Ablett provided an update on the defibrillator.
- iii. Cllr Spickett had previously reported that the speedwatch equipment has been delivered, and a meeting is arranged for next week. No sign of 'crime prevention in a box'.
- iv. Cllr Emily James had nothing further to report.
- v. Cllr Barnwell provided an update on Neighbourhood Watch.
- vi. Cllr Isabelle James provided an update on her role as Climate & Nature Champion.

25.146 To consider Councillor's training needs:

CLlr Emily James would still like to attend the Community engagement course and social media course.
CLlr Barnwell had attended a course on trustee roles.

25.147 To receive reports from Councillors following attendance at NNC meetings:

CLlr Barnwell reported on his attendance at the forward plan and NACRE meetings.

25.148 To receive items for the next Cransley Chronicle edition:

Items: Summary of meeting; Cransley Village Association and Book Club; 300th edition in June look back at first edition and Church 800th anniversary.

25.149 Date of next meeting- 9 April 2026 for both Annual Parish meeting and Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed Date