

GREAT CRANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2026

PRESENT: Cllr Richard Barnwell
Cllr Stuart Ablett
Cllr Amanda Bussey
Cllr Isabelle James
Cllr Michael Procter
Jane Mann Parish Clerk

1. Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman opened the Annual Parish meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Emily James and Colin Spickett. Also, from NNC Councillor Brian Bennyworth, Joanna Mowatt and Revd Nicki Hobbs.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 April 2025

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his annual report.

5. St. Andrew's Church Report

The clerk read out a report from St Andrew's Church.

Revd Huw Yardley continues to work alongside Nicki as he serves his curacy within the Parish, and we celebrated his ordination as Priest in July.

We continue to hold a Communion service at St Andrew's on the third Sunday of every month, with services taking place in at our sister churches in Broughton and Mawsley the other weeks. There are additional services throughout the year marking important dates in the Christian calendar, such as Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

The church continues to be a community focus for life events such as christenings, weddings and funerals, and we have two weddings due to take place within the next few months.

Andy's Cafe has continued to offer refreshments and company at Cransley Village Hall each month, with stalls and activities some months.

The bell ringers have continued to publicise our activities in the village, with the bells being rung before the monthly communion services. Weekly practice takes place on Tuesday evenings and new ringers are always welcome.

The Parochial Church Council have continued to meet regularly throughout the last year, discussing and developing the church's mission, ministry, fabric and business. Unfortunately, the PCC continues to operate without Churchwardens (since 2021), which makes managing a Grade 1 listed building a challenge. We were pleased to welcome Sharon Howells as Treasurer in 2025, following a period of that post also being vacant.

2026 marks the 800th year of Cransley St Andrew, and a weekend of celebrations is being planned for 23rd-24th May. This will feature history displays, refreshments, floral arrangements and a Songs of Praise service at 3pm on the Sunday. We hope that this will be a celebration enjoyed by the whole Parish.

My thanks to the PCC, volunteers and all who have supported the work of St Andrew's, Cransley over the past year.

6. Neighbourhood Plan Report

Joanna Mowat had provided a report on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Since Regulation 14 Consultation and during the handover period, work has been carried out by Sally Stroman, Planning Consultant, Parish Councillors, the Clerk and with NHP Chair to review all comments received at the Regulation 14 consultation stage. This was a considerable amount of work for all involved and an enormous thank you to everyone for their help, cooperation and hard work. Community feedback has been carefully considered and may lead to some proposed changes where required to the Neighbourhood Plan. These have been presented to the Parish Council for approval before progressing to Regulation 15.

There have been no Government changes to the role of neighbourhood plans or the relevant planning regulations. While this suggests their continued importance within the planning system, further reforms may follow. With regard to that the Plan includes arrangements for ongoing monitoring and review. The Parish Council will oversee its delivery, with an annual report presented at the Annual Parish Council Meeting and regular updates published on the Parish Council website. Any future review of the Plan is expected to involve a Steering Group with wider community representation.

The next stage has already begun with engaging NNC for Regulation 15 where they will review the Plan, make any further comments for consideration by the Parish Council.

7.Reports from North Northants Councillors

No reports had been provided.

8. Report from Footpath Warden

Cllr James had reported that there were currently no footpath issues.

9. Report from Highway Warden

Cllr Bussey provided a report on Highway issues highlighting the new NNC website reporting tool.

10. Report from Police Liaison Representative

Cllr Spickett had provided a report on Police Liaison activities.

There have been fewer online Police Commissioner's meetings this year, and they have primarily ended up focusing on road safety. I joined the most recent one at the end of March, which was a question-and-answer session, and the key points raised are available on the Northamptonshire police website.

We have a new local Police officer, Izzy Nottage, who has forwarded her contact details to me, and once she has settled into her new role, I will invite her to attend one of our pc meetings.

I have finally heard from the crime prevention in a box team and am expecting delivery during April.

The Speedwatch initiative started on the 1st of April and 15 speeding motorists were reported. Thank you to all the volunteers, and our next session will be on 23rd at 7.30am. which is expected to be a busy time of the day, so please join the volunteers if you're available.

11. Village Hall Report

Cllr Barnwell advised that all minutes from the Village Hall Committee had been circulated.

12. Report from Climate & Nature Champion

Councillor James explained that this was a developing role, which she was keen to take forward.

13.Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

This had now been resumed by Cllr Barnwell. Volunteers were needed to assist with the scheme.

14. Public session

There were no members of the public present.

14. Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Signed Date.....