

GREAT CRANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on 10 September 2026

PRESENT: Cllr Richard Barnwell Jane Mann Parish Clerk
Cllr Stuart Ablett
Cllr Amanda Bussey
Cllr Isabelle James NNC Cllr Jim Hakewill
Cllr Colin Spickett One member of the public

Cllr Barnwell began the meeting with a small moment of silence in remembrance of the late Queen, who had died four years ago on the date of our Parish Council meeting.

26.52 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Emily James and Michael Procter.

26.53 Public session

There were no questions raised.

26.54 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.

26.55 Approval of the minutes from the last meeting held on Thursday 9 July 2026

The minutes from the last meeting were approved as accurate.

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

It was reported that NNC had provided their initial findings but the clerk was still awaiting full findings before taking any action. Disappointment was raised and it was agreed that if final findings were not received within the next week that work would start on the initial findings. The clerk would share the findings with Joanna Mowat.

26.57 Planning:

- i. There were no new planning applications since the last meeting.
- ii. There were no further updates on existing applications or other planning enforcement issues.

26.58 To receive reports from North Northants Councillors:

- i. NNC Cllr Jim Hakewill provided an update on NNC matters. He provided some background information on the new food waste initiative and the new planning legislation. He added that he had been in discussion with his other ward councillors regarding dividing up the Parish Council meetings.
- ii. Cllr Bennyworth had not provided an update on member's enquiries raised.
- iii. The Community Governance review consultation was discussed. It was agreed to respond on the basis that no change was required to the parish area or Councillor numbers.

26.59 Finance:

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

Neighbourhood Plan account	£559.43
Treasurers account	£8,342.29
Contingency account	£12,258.45
Total	£21,160.17

- ii. Previously authorised payments made following the last meeting were reported:
 - Clerk's July salary £449.36 and HMRC statutory deductions £134.11
 - Clerk's expenses for July £23.24
 - ICO £47.00
 - Clerk's August salary £449.56 and HMRC statutory deductions £133.91

- Clerk's expenses for August £23.24
- iii. A schedule of payments due was authorised:
 - Clerk's salary and expenses and HMRC statutory deductions for September
- iv. It was noted that the 2026 Local Government Pay settlement had been agreed, increasing the clerk's salary by 3.3% backdated to April.
- v. The clerk reported that she was calculating a VAT reclaim from 2023.
- vi. In preparation for the 2027-28 budget playground costs would have to be ascertained. **Action point JM**

26.60 Governance:

- i. An update was received on the annual audit. The certificate of exemption had been sent to the external auditor and the arrangements for the exercise of public rights had been published both on the website and the notice board. No requests to view records had been received so the audit was deemed complete.
- ii. It was agreed to re-appoint IAS auditor. Their competence and independence had been considered in accordance with AGAR Assertion 6.

26.61 Progress reports from previous meetings:

- i. It was disappointed to note that the village mowing schedule had not been resolved as NNC had not contacted Cllr Barnwell to arrange a visit as promised. **Action point JM to follow up**
- ii. We are still awaiting installation costs for the new bin. **Action point SA to follow up**

26.62 Village matters:

- i. It was confirmed responsibility for the playground equipment fell to the Parish Council with effect from April 2027. It was felt necessary to obtain a third-party report on the state of the equipment before taking over responsibility. **Action point JM**
- ii. Resident's concerns regarding anti-social behaviour (motorcycle and racing cars) in the village were discussed. Residents should be advised to report anti-social behaviour online. **Action point JM**

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

- i. There had been no update on Highways, parking and lighting issues from Cllr Procter. It was reported that two lights were still on during the day. Some potholes had been repaired.
- ii. Cllr Ablett had advised that there was no further update on the defibrillator.
- iii. Cllr Spickett provided an update on speed watch equipment. In the latest speed watch session 14 cars were found speeding through the village. He mentioned the Police Commissioner's online meeting.
- iv. Cllr Emily James had advised the clerk that there was nothing further to report.
- v. Cllr Barnwell provided an update on Neighbourhood Watch. He had now met with the new member.
- vi. Cllr Isabelle James provided an update on her role as Climate & Nature Champion. She had some ideas about planting some wildflowers at the village hall, which she would fundraise for. It was agreed that going forward responsibility for the wildflower area would fall to the CAN Champion.

26.64 To consider Councillor's training needs:

Cllr Isabelle James would like to undertake the project training.

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

Nothing to report.

26.66 To receive items for the next Cransley Chronicle edition:

Items: Summary of meeting; the Cransley association, Tresham Fellowship and speedwatch update, anti-social behaviour reporting and Police Commissioner's online meeting link.

26.67 Date of next meeting- 8 October

Apologies were received from Cllr Ablett.

Village Hall update to be included following a successful village show.

The meeting closed at 8.23 pm.

Signed Date