

Approved Minutes of the Aldwinckle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026 at the Village Hall immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Present:

Paul Williams Chairman
Barry Watts
Jon Allen
Nick Lambert
Robin Holden
Tim Hankins

Richard Reed – Clerk

NNC Cllr. David Brackenbury

There were no residents present

26/060 Public Open Time

In the absence of any members of the public, Cllr. Brackenbury discussed NNC activities. Subject to a meeting on 12th May, it is likely that the Ward Empowerment Fund will be withdrawn. Potholes continue to be an issue but Cllr. Williams spoke of the good relationship the Parish Council has with Kier. The warehouse developments at Thrapston and Titchmarsh and the work of STAUNCH were discussed. The breach of planning conditions at 2 Lowick Lane was raised and the Clerk is to forward details of the PC's complaint. A new Local Plan for NNC is in preparation and all are invited to comment in due course.

26/061 Apologies

Cllr. Ms Ward

26/062 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interest: Cllr. Hankins said he would not comment on the application for a Premised Licence at the Village Store owing to interests in the property.

To declare any other interests: None

To consider any requests for dispensations: None

26/063 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 24.03.25

It was proposed by Cllr. Lambert and seconded by Cllr. Watts that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd March 2026, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously.

26/064 Matters arising.

The Clerk said that the Internal Auditor had recommended that if there were any errors in the draft minutes when circulated initially they be drawn to the attention of the Clerk so that amendments could be made before they were signed at the next meeting. Action: All

26/065 Village Hall

Cllr. Lambert discussed his report which had previously been circulated. The PCC had responded to the proposed Premises Licence for the Village Hall and had no objections.

26/066 Risk Assessments

Cllr. Ms Ward had informed the Clerk that she would be issuing her report shortly. Meanwhile, she noted that one of the wooden train slats will need replacement, following Cllr. Lamberts fixing of pigeon spikes on the baby swing, spikes on the other swings would be useful, the grass needs regular cutting now and the hole where the see saw was needs levelling.as it is a trip hazard.

26/067 Play Area

Covered in 26/066 above.

26/068 Highways

Cllr. Williams discussed his report circulated previously.

26/069 Maintenance issues

Cllr. Lambert said that Rachel Sparrow has raised a concern about the condition of the fencing next to the allotment. She was prepared to carry out fencing repairs if materials are supplied. **Action: Cllr. Hankins to discuss with Rachel Sparrow.**

26/070 Street Lighting

Cllr. Watts said he was unaware of any street light outages.

26/071 Trinity School Liaison

Additional agenda item omitted originally

Chairman

Date

Cllr. Allen said he had a meeting on 6th June with the Head, Tim Shipley who has now been appointed. Consideration is being given to arranging a second school bus to try and ease traffic and parking issues. Cllr Hankins suggested getting parents to treat Main Street as one-way rather than causing congestion trying to turn round. It is understood that there is capacity for a further fifty pupils at the school.

26/072 Correspondence

As list previously circulated to councillors. The Clerk said that he would be making a re-declaration of the workplace pensions, a requirement of the Pensions Regulator.

26/073 Annual Review

Financial Regulations – updated and adopted earlier this year.

Risk Assessment – previously circulated and agreed by councillors.

Standing Orders – existing Standing Orders meet the council's requirements.

Internal audit arrangements – Councillors were of the opinion that the information provided by the Clerk enabled them to satisfactorily oversee the processes.

Insurance – due for renewal in October. Currently on 3-year Long Term Agreement.

26/074 To approve the Internal Auditor's Report

The Clerk presented the Internal Auditor's report which was approved by all and the contents noted. Changes to procedures to reflect these comments would be made in the following period.

26/075 To approve the Governance Statement of the Annual Audit Return

It was proposed that the statement be approved.

26/076 To approve the Accounting Statement of the Annual Audit Return

It was proposed that the statement be approved.

26/077 To approve the Certificate of Exemption

It was proposed that the Exemption Certificate be approved.

Items 26/075, 26/076 and 26/077: Proposed by Cllr. Hankins and seconded by Cllr. Allen.

26/078 Planning

a) There were no applications for consideration.

b) No applications had been considered since the last meeting.

c) An application for a Premised Licence at Aldwinckle General Store had been received today. It was for retail sales only so in effect an off-licence and there were no objections. The clerk will send confirmation of this to NNC. **Action: Clerk**

26/079 Finance

(i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts for 2025/26 and 2026/7. The £12,000 precept had been received since the last meeting and the balance as of 11.05.25 was £27,144.35. The bank reconciliation statement for 2025/26 was also presented.

(ii) Councillors considered the budget monitoring report for 2025/26

(iii) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr. Hankins.

Retrospective

01.04.26 YU Energy (Street light energy monthly charges) £77.38 D/D

02.04.26 E.ON (Street light quarterly maintenance charges) £88.20 OLT

15.04.26 Valda Energy (Street light energy monthly charges – new contract) £129.87 D/D

Northants CALC (Annual membership and internal audit fee) £582.88 OLT

Parish Online (Annual website management and maintenance) £408.00 OLT

(iv) There was no further financial business.

26/080 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

The Clerk is to resend NCalc's training e-mail for Data Protection and would look out the GDPR files. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Lambert said that Rachel Sparrow had expressed an interest in becoming the Climate and Nature Champion.

The grass cutting responsibilities for Baulks Lane were discussed. NNC carries out this work.

A new vicar has been appointed for the parish.

26/081 Date of Next Meeting

22nd June 2026 to be held in the Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm.