

# Minutes of Special Meeting of Brampton Ash Parish Council

## Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 7.30pm, At St Mary's Church, Brampton Ash

This meeting was open to members of the public,  
subject to prescribed regulations where applicable.

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Cllr S Power (Chair), Cllr N Bevan, Cllr W Brooks, Cllr J Lillie, Cllr T Pentlow

**North Northants Council (NNC)** None

**In Attendance:** Liz Evans (Clerk)

**Public Attendee(s):** None

Item	Action by:
18/25-26	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>None</p>
19/25-26	<p><b>Chair's Announcements</b></p> <p>None</p>
20/25-26	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> <i>To Receive Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests from Councillors on Matters to Be Considered at the Meeting.</i></p> <p><b>All Members (including returning members) must complete their register of interest. This can be done prior to the meeting. Please follow this link to the North Northamptonshire Council electronic form:</b> <a href="https://northantscal.gov.uk/councillor-forms-and-documents">https://northantscal.gov.uk/councillor-forms-and-documents</a></p> <p>Members are reminded to check their register of interests throughout their term of office and update it whenever necessary.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were received.</p>
21/25-26	<p><b>The Future of the Parish Council and Financial Implications</b></p> <p>Refer to minutes 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025, item 16 and the clerk's briefing note appended to the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>The issues regarding the financial future of the parish council were considered in depth and with reference to the above documents.</p> <p>Brampton Ash parish council has striven to keep the local precept as low as possible over the past decade or more.</p> <p>Unfortunately, ever-increasing costs now mean that, if the parish council is to continue in its current form and meet its commitments to the villagers of Brampton Ash, there will need to be a significant increase in the local precept for the year 2026-27. This is in common with many local parish councils both nationally and locally: for example, nearby Dingley is proposing to increase its precept from £6,067.00 in 2025 to £8,867.00 in 2026 and the precept for East Farndon has risen in recent years to approximately £100+ per band D household.</p> <p>Councillors considered the following options:</p> <p><u>1/ Become 'unparished'.</u></p> <p>This would mean that Brampton Ash would have no parish council and, therefore, no local representation at North Northants Council (NNC) level. This option was considered to be unacceptable.</p> <p><u>2/ Become part of Dingley parish council, subject to Dingley's agreement.</u></p> <p>The two parishes have, in the distant past, operated jointly for a few years, until Brampton Ash parishioners elected to have their own, separate, parish council. Not</p>

	<p>only are the two parishes very different in their nature but it was also felt that, with Brampton Ash being a very significantly smaller village than Dingley and, therefore, having far fewer electors, it would risk be under-represented in a joint parish council.</p> <p><u>3/ Become a parish meeting instead of a parish council.</u></p> <p>Although there would be some cost savings in doing this, it could only succeed with the voluntary, and sustained, participation of villagers. With a few exceptions most villagers have, for many years, tended to leave parish councillors to deal with parish matters. Members of the public have attended only one meeting in the past decade. Given Brampton Ash's tiny population, it seems improbable that a Parish Meeting arrangement would work.</p> <p><u>4/ Remain as a parish council and increase the precept as necessary.</u></p> <p>Having considered all of the above options, parish councillors concluded that this was the most realistic one. As in previous years, the parish council would continue to spend prudently and would strive to keep the precept as low as reasonably possible. The parish council holds a budget meeting in December of each year to assess its income and spending needs for the coming financial year. The meeting in December 2025 will decide on the amount of precept that will be needed to finance the parish council for the year from April 2026 to March 2027.</p> <p>The Chair will issue a leaflet for delivery to all households in Brampton Ash to explain the current financial situation and the reasons for the need to increase the precept in the next financial year. Parishioners will be invited to respond with their views via the parish council website</p>	SP
22/25-26	<p><b>Website Accessibility Statement</b></p> <p>All government and local authority bodies are now legally required to provide a website accessibility statement. The Brampton Ash Website Accessibility Statement sets out what steps the parish council will reasonably make to ensure that parishioners with a disability can access and use the parish council website. The Statement invokes the Disproportionate Burden clause, Section 6, Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (2) Accessibility Regulations.</p> <p>Adoption of the Brampton Ash Website Accessibility Statement, including the Disproportionate Burden clause, was proposed by Cllr Nick Bevan, seconded by Cllr John Lillie and unanimously approved by parish councillors. The clerk will post it on the parish council website.</p>	Clerk
23/25-26	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b> <i>To report any urgent matters of a minor nature not requiring formal approval. Non-urgent matters should be deferred to the next meeting.</i></p> <p>Cllr Nick Bevan reported that NNC contractors were currently cutting back trees at the A427/Hermitage Road entrance to the village for safety reasons and they intended to remove the wooden fence that currently surrounds the trees. Cllr Tom Pentlow would contact the NNC representative and request that the fence is left in place as it gives some protection to his land. Responsibility for the maintenance of the fence would need to be agreed.</p>	TP NB
24/25-26	<p><b>Date and Venue of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Next Ordinary Meeting to be held 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025.</p>	

Meeting closed at: 8.40pm

Signed: Liz Evans, Clerk to Brampton Ash Parish Council

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