

Minutes of Meeting of Brampton Ash Parish Council

Monday 1st December 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) Cllr David Howes

In Attendance: Liz Evans (Clerk)

Public Attendee(s): None

Item:		Action by:
36/25-26	Apologies for Absence NNC Cllr Bill McElhinney	
37/25-26	Chair's Announcements None	
38/25-26	Declarations of Interest: <i>To Receive Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests from Councillors on Matters to Be Considered at the Meeting.</i> Members are reminded to check their register of interests throughout their term of office and update it whenever necessary at the following link: https://northantscal.gov.uk/councillor-forms-and-documents No declarations of interest were received	
39/25-26	Minutes of the Meeting held 18th August 2025 (meeting 3): <i>To approve the minutes of the above meeting as an accurate record or to amend factual inaccuracies if they occur.</i> The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as being a true record and signed by the Chair. The clerk will post them on the parish council's website.	Clerk
40/25-26	Matters Arising from the above minutes <i>except where they are agenda items for this meeting.</i> None Matters arising from the minutes of Meeting 2, 28th July 2025 Meeting 2 item 21/25-26: the Chair reported that a leaflet regarding the proposed increased precept had been delivered to all village properties. Parishioners were invited to give their views on the matter. To date, the parish council had not received any comments. All other matters were agenda items for this meeting.	
41/25-26	Policies Review The following policy is due for review: 1/ Brampton Ash Parish Council Equal Opportunities Statement It can be found on the parish council website https://bramptonash.parish-council.com/policies-and-procedures The policy was reviewed without amendment. It was signed by the Chair and will be posted on the parish council's website.	Clerk
42/25-26	Financial Matters: Annual Audit Parish Council Finance a) Councillor check of invoices against payments/reconcile to bank statement b) Current financial position statement no. 3 2025-26 c) Reporting of payments made since the last meeting:	

	Spanglefish website provider £78.00 LGA72 S111 Clerk's salary £194.48 LGA72 S112 HMRC £48.60 Stationery £36.45 LGA72 S111 Reporting of receipts since last meeting: None d) Budget Statement no. 3 2025-26 Items a) b) and c) were checked by Cllr Bevan and signed by him as being a correct record. Item d) was checked by the Chair and signed by him as being a correct record.	
43/25-26	Setting the Budget for 2026-27 See attached document The budget proposal was accepted, with the exception of NACRE membership, making the final total to be budgeted for = £4162. The amended document is attached to these minutes. The budget was unanimously agreed by councillors. Proposer was Cllr Brookes and seconder was Cllr Bevan.	
44/25-26	Setting the Precept for 2026-27 See attached document The precept for 2026-27, based on budgeted expenditure minus the projected carry over from 2025-26, was unanimously agreed by councillors and was set at £3080. Proposer was Cllr Lillie and seconder was Cllr Bevan. The clerk would complete the precept application form and return it to North Northants Council (NNC). The clerk would obtain an explanation of how the NNC tax base numbers are calculated and advise councillors of the outcome.	Clerk Clerk
45/25-26	Defibrillator: Update: Cllr Pentlow Inspected and reported 5th October 2025 and again on 1st December 2025 by Cllr Pentlow. All in order.	
46/25-26	Planning Matters: <i>To Consider Matters Relating to the following Planning Applications:</i> None received	
47/25-26	North Northants Council/Kettering Borough Council Conservation Policy - Brampton Ash: <i>Update: Cllr Lillie</i> North Northamptonshire Draft Corporate Plan 2021-25 Consultation (update if available). It is now expected that the draft plan will be published in December 2026 at the earliest. This will remain an agenda item.	
48/25-26	Town and Parish Forum: Meeting Date 14th October 2025 <i>Extract from Cllr Lillie's report to parish councillors on the above meeting:</i> <i>'Just a quick report back from the Rural forum, and upon returning home was more than very grateful that we don't have large grass area of verges that need cutting or communal assets.</i>	

	<i>Re the grass verges, I think their presentation was out of date because it suggested that ours has been cut 6 times, rather than the 3 we had last year. Nonetheless, our verges will, within the 30 mph speed signs, be cut 3 times. If we wanted it cut more frequently, we would have to contract them to do the job. Further, it appears to me that the council possibly continued to cut a lot of grass on parish or other owned assets last year, but from now on the council will only cut it if contracted to do the job. Some parishes asked for a map of what will be cut by the council!</i> <i>The Devolution movement from Central government appears to have prompted Local Councils, that are all now trying to balance their books, to pass on council-owned assets and associated costs on to the Town and Parish Councils, without a proportionate cut in the Council Tax.</i> <i>The above appears to me to have been very badly handled by the Council because at the previous meeting when it was discussed, they said there would be a period of consultation, but they have not consulted and the presentation suggested that the proposal was going forward to some high-up committee for sign off. Further, when questioned about the detail of the assets involved, they could not or would not answer the questions. My guess is that like it or not, it is going ahead which not unsurprisingly caused complaint by the parish representatives.</i> <i>I did question if Parish Councilors were empowered in law to take on such assets and if they were, were they qualified to make the decision.'</i> Cllr John Lillie, 15th October 2025 (by email)	
49/25-26	Highway Matters: <i>Updates on the following, where applicable:</i> a) Signage: Signage on the Hermitage Road/A427 junction has now been reinstated. b) Potholes: No potholes currently meet the NNC criteria for action. c) Lighting: All in order. d) Litter-pick: The next litter-pick will be arranged for spring-time 2026. e) VAS camera: Cllr Bevan regularly monitors the sign and re-charges the batteries as required. Cllr Pentlow will upload the data from the camera and share it with the parish council. f) Hermitage Road spring-water, monitored by Cllr Lillie: update if available: Due to the dry autumn, there has been no flooding recently. Cllr Lillie will continue to monitor the situation. g) Parking on verge outside the church: ongoing, Parochial Church Council: Signage to restrict parking by heavy goods vehicles is now in place. This item will be removed from future agendas. h) Grass cutting: It was agreed that responsibility for cutting the grass verges should remain with NNC and should not be devolved to the parish council. The clerk would inform NNC of this decision.	NB TP JL Clerk Clerk

	i) Other: grit for grit bin: Cllr Lillie reported that there is plenty of grit for use in the event of bad weather over the coming winter. The parish council's budget for 2026-27 includes an amount to replenish stocks next winter if it is needed.	
50/25-26	Parish Crime Report & Police Matters: 1 crime categorised as anti-social behaviour and 1 crime categorised as violence and sexual offence were recorded in September 2025. The website has not been updated since that time and no recent crime reports have been received. Crime reports for Brampton Ash can be found at this link: https://www.northants.police.uk/area/your-area/northamptonshire/kettering/desborough/about-us/crime-map	
51/25-26	Any Other Business: <i>To report any matters of a minor nature not requiring formal approval.</i> a/ As a statutory consultee, the parish council has been informed of the upgrading of the National Grid between Weston Marsh and East Leicestershire. This work was not deemed to have any impact on Brampton Ash and the parish council did not, therefore, wish to comment. b/ The Community Governance Review 2025/26 document had been received too late for inclusion on the agenda for this meeting. The document had been circulated to the parish councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed that Brampton Ash Parish Council wishes to retain its current status as a parish council. The clerk and the Chair would inform NNC of this decision. c/ The clerk/responsible finance officer to Brampton Ash parish council intends to retire after the completion of the 2025-26 audit in April 2026. The clerk and Chair would devise an advertisement for publication by Northants Association of Local Councils. Additionally, the clerk would approach local parish council clerks who might be interested in taking on the role for 3 hours per week at LCI SCP grade 7 or thereabouts.	Clerk Clerk Chair Clerk Chair Clerk
52/25-26	Date and Venue of Next Meeting: March 2026, 7.30pm at the parish church. Date to be advised.	

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Brampton Ash Parish Council, 1st December 2025, Meeting 4, Item 43/44
Budget and Precept Requirement for 2026-27

Balance at bank as at 1st December 2026 = £2732.33 made up of:

General account	1574.37
Reserve 1/ S317	1057.96
Reserve 2/ elections	100.00

Anticipated expenditure to 31st March 2026 = £1650 (all figures rounded) made up of:

Clerk's wages	500
Insurance of Assets	450
Church external lighting grant	250
Defibrillator maintenance fee	200
As yet unknown: NNC Election Fees*	250 (?)

*NNC have advised that election fees are payable by all parishes whether or not an election was held in the parish. NNC are due to issue invoices for this in autumn 2025.

Anticipated carry over from the 2025-26 budget is likely to be in the region of **£1082**

Items to be budgeted for in 2026-27 (all figures rounded):

Clerk's wages	2222
Clerk's expenses	50
Statutory insurance	450
NCALC Membership, Audit & Data Protection Service	250
Webhosting fee	80
Defibrillator costs	200
Road grit	160
Election reserve fund	100
Church lighting grant	250
Contingency reserve	400
Total	£4162

Agreed Precept for 2026-27 = £3080 (based on budgeted expenditure minus projected carry-over)

Date	On-line Transaction or Debit Card	Cheque no.	Item	Income £	Clerk's salary	Expenditure (non S137)£ inc VAT	(VAT Paid £)	Expenditure £ Section 137 inc VAT	Balance Excluding Reserves	Balance Including Reserves	Reconciled to bank	Reserves 1 Running total LGA72 s137	Reserves 2 running total Election Costs LGA72 s137	Legal Power
Brampton Ash Parish Council: Income & Expenditure 1 Apl 2025 - 31 Mar 2026: Report 1														
01/04/25			Balance brought forward	£1,268.16					£468.19	£1,268.16		£299.97	£500.00	
04/04/25	Y		Wilbarston PC					£15.00		£1,253.16		£284.97		LGA72 s137
09/04/25			HMRC VAT refund	£800.35						£2,053.51		£1,085.32		
09/04/25			HMRC VAT refund	£69.04					£537.23	£2,122.55	09/04/2025			
16/04/25			NNC Precept	£1,750.00					£2,287.23	£3,872.55				
07/05/25			NCALC			£243.20	£29.70		£2,044.03	£3,629.35				LGA 72 s.143(1)(b) Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014
07/05/25			Zurich Insce			£238.13			£1,805.90	£3,391.22				LGA72 s112
Signed:				N Bevan				Member	Date:		12/05/2025			
Brampton Ash Parish Council: Income & Expenditure 1 Apl 2025 - 31 Mar 2026: Report 2														
23/05/25	DC		Glass for phone box				£2.52	£15.12		£3,376.10		£1,070.20		LGA72 s137
23/05/25			t/f from election reserve	£400.00					£2,205.90				£100.00	
10/06/25	DC		VAS fixings HAMS				£2.04	£12.24		£3,363.86	Agreed to bank	£1,057.96		LGA72 s137
28/06/25			Clerk's Salary Q1		£182.77				£2,023.13	£3,181.09				LGA72 s112
28/06/25			HMRC PAYE		£45.60				£1,977.53	£3,135.49				
08/07/25	DC		HMRC PAYE+card fee*		£45.63				£1,931.90	£3,089.86	Agreed to bank			
Signed:				N Bevan				Member	Date:		18/08/2025			
Brampton Ash Parish Council: Income & Expenditure 1 Apl 2025 - 31 Mar 2026: Report 3														
24/09/25			Spanglefish website			£78.00	£13.00			£3,011.86				LGA72 s111
27/09/25			Clerk's salary Q2		£194.48					£2,817.38				LGA72 s112
27/09/25			HMRC PAYE		£48.60				£1,610.82	£2,768.78				
20/11/25			Tesco ink paper			£36.45	£6.07		£1,574.37	£2,732.33	Agreed to bank			LGA72 s111
Signed:				N Bevan				Member	Date:		01/12/2025			
Totals:														
Total VAT to be reclaimed														
Income - Clerk's Salary - non s137 Exp - s137 Exp = Balance inc. reserves = agreed to bank statement														
Balance exc. Reserves + Reserves 1 + Reserves 2 = Balance inc. reserves = agreed to bank statement														
* PAYE tax paid twice in error. Refund request made & acknowledged by HMRC. Reimbursement to be made by 7th May 2026. Query if not received by then.														