



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 6th July 2026, 8pm, Village Hall

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Blackmore (Chairman) Cllr Neville, Cllr Swallow, Cllr Guttridge, Cllr Brookes and Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO)

1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Phythian and Cllr Kisiel

3. Public Time

No members of the public attended.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 18th May 2026.

Having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Matters arising from Previous Minutes (not covered elsewhere on Agenda)

None.

6. Church Yard and Cemetery (Cllr Phythian)

It was **RESOLVED** to increase reserves annually by £1,000 for works relating to the church yard retaining stone walls. The current reserve is £10,000.

It was **AGREED** the PC would fund three small warning signs highlighting the uneven ground and the "drop to the road" as noted as a required action in the latest quinquennial inspection of St Mary's Church.

7. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (Cllr Kisiel and Cllr Blackmore)

All vehicle activated signs are working well – results for the last six months were downloaded and analysed.

Oundle Road 100k vehicles, average incoming speed 27mph, outgoing 30mph with 77% of traffic below 30mph.

Apethorpe Road 61k vehicles, average incoming speed 24mph, outgoing 24mph with 82% of traffic below 30mph.

Nassington Road 24k vehicles, average incoming speed 24mph, outgoing 26mph with 82% of traffic below 30mph.

No response had been received regarding the "Community Speed Watch Initiative" which had been minuted and proposed in the village newsletter. At this time there will be no further action from the PC on this matter.

8. Playing Fields/Playground

(a) There was no playground check this month due to the RoSPA check being carried out. There was nothing of note identified all risks were low. There were the usual notes of trip hazards due to small branches (since removed) and to be aware of strimmer damage to posts – however not supporting posts! We wish to thank and commend the works of Cllrs Blackmore and Cllr Guttridge for all their work on the playground resulting in one of our most positive reports and a safe environment for all who use the facilities.

(b) No remedial works of note.

9. CAN (Climate and Nature Champion)

No update

10. Planning

The following planning applications were discussed.

- (a) 26/00809/LBC – 37 Main Street - Listed Building Consent: To remove and remodel C20 1st floor partition walls to create new ensuite – No Objection
- (b) 26/01309/HFUL- 16a Main Street - Householder Planning Permission: Removal of existing window and formation of a new door opening, including installation of an external – No Objection door and frame to provide direct access to the rear garden.
- (c) 26/01568/HFUL – 28 Orchard Lane - Householder Planning Permission: - Removal of existing bay window and timber porch canopy on the front elevation. Infill of existing kitchen door on the driveway side elevation. New external door access on the driveway side elevation. 2no. new skylights to be installed over the proposed snug. Replacement external windows and doors throughout, with some alterations to window and doors sizes. New flat roof entrance canopy above front door. External wall insulation (EWI) to be installed throughout, EWI on the front gable and proposed entrance canopy to be clad in timber. The rest of the house to be rendered. Existing PV Panels to be replaced with new units. ASHP to be replaced with new and relocated closer to the house alongside the gable – No Objection

11. Accounts

As at 31/06/2026 the bank balance stood at £35,571.00

The following payments were **AGREED** and signed off

Clerk Salary (June)	£587.20
SSE (DD)	£79.00
Robinson's Gardening (1426)	£235.00
Robinson's Gardening (1458)	£235.00
Clear Councils Insurance	£815.44
Fresh Air Fitness	£136.82
RoSPA (Playground check)	£219.60
Microsoft Office Subscription	£84.99

The following remittances were **NOTED**:

12. Local Plan Consultation

The response to the initial consultation for the new NNC Local Plan was discussed and the PC response can be seen in full, with these minutes on the website.

13. Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (29/05/26)

The project partnership between NNC and Connected Kerb to install a network of EV charge points of which four sites were noted in Woodnewton was discussed. No consultation took place between the partnership and the PC at any time. As it is a collaboration between NNC and a private company the sites are highways owned sites. Two sites were identified on Main Street near the church and two on Orchard Lane. Residents were contacted directly for their views, but the consultation period appeared to be short and ended before the next WPC meeting. At the time of the meeting no residents except two councillors had come forward with any questions or acknowledgement of the flyer. The PC, had they been consulted, couldn't see a need for slow EV chargers in a village where the vast majority of properties have off road parking and the sites proposed were considered unsuitable or unsafe from a WPC perspective. It was deemed the only sensible option would be the village hall carpark, but this is not NNC owned property.

14. Village Hall Noticeboard (Cllr Kisiel)

The new noticeboard has been ordered; delivery is expected circa four weeks.

15. Allotments (Cllr Brookes)

There are currently two parties on the allotment waiting list.

The PC wishes to thank Cllr Brookes for tending to the overgrown pathways on the allotments to help out a couple of the allotment holders.

It was also discussed a summer project to remark the allotments to make plot boundaries clearer and ensure paths were easily passable and maintained.

Cllr Brookes provided costings for the ongoing maintenance of the Orchard. These included welded mesh guards, tree stakes, tree water bags and mulch. The costs were calculated to be about £1,200. The PC are committed to this project and are happy to fund however, Cllr Blackmore to liaise with Cllr Fairhall to see if we are likely to be successful if we applied to the Ward Empowerment Fund for a contribution.

16. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

The PC hopes to move forward with the clearance of the bonfire site and are waiting for the assistance of a supportive local farmer so the site can be levelled and cleared of rubbish before the ash remnants are removed.

The new flag and been purchased and installed.

It was noted that the council had cut verges in May and there was some concern this may affect the daffodils next year.

17. Ongoing

A rolling agenda item to **CONSIDER** which topics should be included on future agendas, discussed when relevant. This will be titled "rolling agenda items" to ensure items are remembered, although they may not be addressed at every meeting.

(a) Village Information Boards

(b) Children's tree planting scheme

(c) Neighbourhood Plan\consultation on the local plan from Feb 2026 (expected 2028)

(d) Newsletter articles.

18. Correspondence

(a) EV charging 29/05/2026

(b) Allotment path clearing

(c) Request for an allotment received

(d) Conclusion of audit and acceptance of exemption received from PKF Littlejohn.

19. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

No updates.

20. Woodnewton Newsletter

There is no newsletter in August.

21. Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 7th September 2026.

22. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.10

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 7th September 2026

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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8th July 2026

