



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 5th October 2026, 8pm, Village Hall

(DRAFT) MINUTES

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

1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for absence

None

3. Public Time

One resident attended the meeting to thank the Parish Council for listening and acting on what was heard at the previous meeting with regards to the proposed Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.

Cllr Fairhall was also present to discuss the LEVI project and to offer any assistance with ongoing NNC consultations such as the Local Plan and the Governance Review. He updated that the next stage of the Local Plan had been pushed back and further consultation was likely to be around February next year.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th September 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)

An updated notice about the Woodnewton Churchyard Management and Rewilding Project was presented by Cllr Phythian. It was **AGREED** by all and would be placed in the Churchyard notice board.

The Parish Council wish to thank Crowson's regarding the remedial grave works in the cemetery which were conducted without charge.

7. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (Cllr Kiesel)

All vehicle activated signs are working well. Cllr Blackmore gave a quarterly update of the highlights. 92,282 vehicles entered the village across the three roads.

Oundle Road – 48,273 vehicles entered the village with an average incoming speed of 26.64mph

Apethorpe Road – 30,736 vehicles entered the village with an average incoming speed of 23.85mph

Oundle Road – 13,273 vehicles entered the village with an average incoming speed of 24.24mph

8. Playing Fields/Playground

(a) Cllr Phythian carried out the playground check report. A few jobs were noted for the clean-up day mainly raking up and sweeping. A loose bracket on the near side goal post and a wobbly stepping post on the adventure trail.

(b) A brief discussion took place about remedial works. Cllr Guttridge is going to reseal one of the bearings on the air walker and Cllr Blackmore is going to look at a loose

fixing on the nearside goal post and reweld if possible. Depending on the turn out for the clean up day, it was suggested some of the worst affected matting tiles could be lifted, cleaned and replaced as a short-term measure to reduce trip hazards, prior to a more through undertaking and temporary closure of the equipment in the springtime.

9. CAN (Climate and Nature Champion)

No update

10. Planning

No planning applications were received.

11. Accounts

As at 31/09/2026 the bank balance stood at £28,402.00

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

Clerk Salary (Sept)	£587.20
SSE DD (Aug usage)	£83.14
Robinsons Gardening (1509)	£235.00
Robinsons Gardening (1531)	£235.00
Allotment pegs	£153.00
Allotment pegs	£59.97
Allotment padlock	£24.36
Playground repairs	£19.48
ICO membership (DD)	£47.00

To **Note** the following remittances:

Allotment rents	£550.00
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12. Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

It was noted that the clerk had received from the EV charging programme formal notification that there would be no installations planned at this time in Woodnewton. It cited the limited number of premises in the village without access to off street parking as being the main reason. The letter went on to say the council will review the position towards the end of the LEVI programme with Connected Kerb in the next two to three years and if any considerations have changed in that period, they will revisit a site section process and consult on any proposals considered.

Cllr Fairhall recommended that the October meeting minutes be sent to the EV Charging Programme and that the Parish Council remain prepared should the proposal be revisited. He suggested that consideration be given to the number of properties in the village without off-street parking, together with potential issues arising from conservation area requirements and the need for proper due diligence.

13. NNC Community Governance Review

The Parish Council noted that the Community Governance Review had been considered at Stage 1, at which time Woodnewton Parish Council supported the retention of the existing governance arrangements and therefore considered that no further submission was necessary.

It was subsequently noted that the Stage 1 position had been recorded as "no change because no submission was received", rather than reflecting that Woodnewton Parish Council had actively considered the matter and confirmed that the existing arrangements remained appropriate.

Following communications received in relation to Stage 2, the Parish Council therefore considered it appropriate to respond and formally re-confirm its position that no changes to the existing governance arrangements for Woodnewton Parish are proposed.

As the Stage 2 response deadline fell between Parish Council meetings, the response was discussed and agreed by email. The Parish Council **RATIFIED** the response at this meeting, and this was **AGREED** by all present as an appropriate confirmation of the Parish Council's position.

14. Village WhatsApp Group

The Parish Council further discussed the use of WhatsApp as a supplementary means of disseminating information to residents. It was agreed that any communication should be simple, factual and objective, primarily signposting residents to further information, including published agendas, meeting information and subsequent minutes.

It was noted that WhatsApp would not replace any statutory requirements relating to the publication of agendas, notices of meetings, minutes or other information required by legislation. Its use would be subject to the adoption of a simple and appropriate policy governing the content, administration and use of the platform.

15. Village Hall Noticeboard (Cllr Kisiel)

Team to be engaged at the Village Clean Up day.

16. Allotments (Cllr Brookes)

Following concerns raised by a plot holder about potential allotment creep and the erosion of footpaths, all allotment plots have now been measured. It was noted that the measurements are not an exact science, the Woodnewton allotments were not all created equal. As a general guide, and although not specified within the tenancy agreements or allotment policies, plots are approximately 25m x 10m. Plot holders are able to view available plots prior to renting and have the choice whether they wish to take it on. The allotments work as a community, with plot holders historically working together and supporting one another where assistance is required, including the clearance and reinstatement of footpaths. For this reason and the historic goodwill, it was suggested nothing further needed to be done at present.

Previously obtained costings for works to the Coronation Fruit Orchard, estimated at approximately £1,200, were not discussed further.

It was **RATIFIED** by all; the allotment rents remain at £22 per plot for the coming year.

It was **APPROVED** by all that new tenancies be granted for plots 19&23 which have become vacant, these will be filled by residents on the waiting list.

It was **APPROVED** by all the change in head responsibility and a new tenancy to be issued for plot 18.

17. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

A job list for the clean-up day to be held October 17th, 10am at the Village Hall was compiled and most Parish Councillors will be available helping. We have received several offers for cake baking and the serving of refreshments for which I am sure everyone will be grateful for.

It was also agreed that the coppicing and waste generated from the village clean-up would be used to build a dead hedge behind the Coronation Fruit Orchard which would help protect it from deer, avoid the cost of hiring a woodchipper, and provide an environmentally friendly use for the waste, offering ecological benefits and an alternative to the now-defunct village bonfire.

18. 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.
- (e) Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – monitor any further consultations

19. Correspondence

- (a) EV charging plans and sites in Woodnewton have been halted for the foreseeable.
- (b) NNC Community Governance Review
- (c) The Giant Tree Circle plant or nominate a tree – nominate the Orchard
- (d) Strategic Parish & Town Forum meeting 20th October should anyone wish to attend, no agenda received.

20. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Guttridge attended the Augean ENRMF & Thornhaugh Landfill Liaison Meeting on 2/10/2026. It was well attended with representatives from most of the local PCs, the Environment Agency and Peterborough Planning Dept.

The Highlights: no environmental incidents in 2026 no complaints from the local community, they've also had two Environmental Agency visits resulting in no compliance scores which means Band A (excellent compliance, fully met all permit conditions). They also released a summary of their ESG performance report which highlights a number of areas where they contribute to the local community in one way or another.

Cllr Kisiel had received a questionnaire from the Police Liaison Team and was keen for feedback as we have limited interaction with the police to determine perception and confidence. Councillors to feed back.

21. Woodnewton Newsletter

It was agreed the next Newsletter feature would be a big thank you to all helpers, attendees and cake bakers who supported the village clean-up day.

23. Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 2nd November 2026.

24. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.49

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 2nd November 2026

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

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8th October 2026