

LAMPORT AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in The Old Laundry, Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire
Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 7.00pm

- 1 **ATTENDANCE**, apologies and Declarations of Interest
Cllrs. F. Barclay, C. Dugmore. J. Farr, C. Harris (in the Chair), P. May, D. Sinnott
F. Allbury (Clerk)

Apology for absence: None. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- 2 MINUTES to be approved and signed:
Parish Council Annual General Meeting 13 May 2026
Cllr Dugmore proposed that the Minutes be adopted, seconded Cllr Farr
- 3 **MATTERS** arising from the Minutes
 - 3.1 Footpath between Hanging Houghton and Lamport.
No progress at all has been made with this matter and the Clerk will therefore resubmit a request to WNC.
 - 3.2 Broken stile and post, Manor Road
Although responsibility for the stile is unclear, Lamport Hall have agreed to instigate repairs.
 - 3.3 Council vacancies: Neighbourhood watch/police liaison representative, CAN Champion, Footpath Warden
It was agreed to leave all vacancies outstanding at the present time. The Clerk will arrange a visit by a member of the rural police force for a future meeting.
- 4 **HIGHWAYS**
 - 4.1 LRSA
No further progress report has been received. It was agreed to remove the heading from future agendas until Sarah Lee has an update.
 - 4.2 Speed Cameras, Lamport
Cllr Sinnott said that 6 new batteries were required at a cost of £45 each. The Clerk offered assistance with payment either upon receipt of an invoice, or immediate reimbursement if payment was required upon purchase.
- 5 **PLANNING**
None to report.
- 6 **FINANCE**
 - 6.1 Balances at Bank and Budget/Expenditure for current year
Accounts for the current year having been circulated by email with the agenda, show a balance of £9,840.30 in Current Account, and £2,214.41 in Reserve Account. When payments are made at this meeting the true balance will be £10,821.49
 - 6.2 Items for Payment

F.R. Allbury: salary and expenses	£517.42	S.112
HMRC: Clerk's PAYE	£127.80	S.112
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance: May 2026	£294.00	S.136
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance: June 2026	£294.00	S.136

The Chairman will access the bank account online to verify that payments have been made in accordance with those listed in the minutes. Cllr Dugmore proposed that the payments should be made, seconded by Cllr Barclay

7.1 Village grass cutting

- 7 The Chairman said that an area of grass in Manor Road close to the A508 had not been cut. He would send a photograph to the Clerk for the grasscutters. In future the Clerk would ask the grasscutters to notify Cllr May prior to a cut, so that he could publish it on the community link.

7.2 Lamport Churchyard grass cutting

A discussion took place regarding the options available. At the present time the Parish Council pays Lamport Hall £450 for a season's work on the grass. A new quotation has been received in the sum of £15,000. The village grass cutters had quoted £320 plus VAT per cut advising two cuts per month, as the smaller machinery used would not cut long grass. A rota of parishioners could be devised who would cut the grass every two weeks. Another alternative was to use sheep to graze the churchyard a system which is used in other parishes. However, this would involve an amount of work including an electric fence to keep sheep from straying: ensuring all headstones were secure: public liability insurance and other animal welfare issues. Cllr Barclay said that a local sheep farmer may be prepared to take on this project providing sheep during the summer months and removing them in the winter. It was agreed that ultimately the Parish Council was not responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard but Lamport Hall was, as they use it as part of their tour for visitors to Lamport Hall. The Clerk will prepare an email to send to Mary Parker the Church Warden listing all the above and suggesting that she arranges a meeting with Mark Herrod Lamport Hall to find a way forward.

8 **UNAUTHORISED DEBRIS DISPOSAL Manor Road, Hanging Houghton**

An email had been received from Mark Herrod regarding some parishioners who had disposed of vegetation by leaving it along the hedge and in an adjacent field in Manor Road. to which the Chairman responded. The debris has since been removed. It was agreed that this was not a matter for the Parish Council and await a response to the Chairman 's email from Mark.

9 **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16 September 2026 at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed:

Date:

