

LAMPORT AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in The Old Laundry, Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire
Wednesday 17 September 2025 at 7.00pm

- 1 **ATTENDANCE**, apologies and Declarations of Interest
Cllrs. F. Barclay, C. Dugmore, R. Flavell While, C. Harris (in the Chair) P. May, D. Sinnott

Apologies received from Cllr J. Farr

No Declarations of Interest received.
- 2 **MINUTES to be approved and signed:**
Parish Council Meeting 16 July 2025
Cllr Dugmore proposed that the Minutes be adopted, seconded Cllr Barclay.
- 3 **MATTERS** arising from the Minutes
3.1 Seeding/daffodil bulbs in Manor Road
Cllr Barclay said that the area of ground had been rotovated and the seeds sown. Unfortunately, the village grass cutters had driven their grass cutting equipment over the area, but no damage was done. The Clerk will contact the grass cutters asking that their staff leave the area alone to allow the seed to grow for the time being. Bulbs will be planted at a later date.

3.2 Footpath between Hanging Houghton and Lamport.
Work in progress with Northamptonshire Highways to complete the unfinished footpath.
- 4 **HIGHWAYS**
4.1 Speed Cameras, Lamport High Street
Information received from Elancity advised that the second camera could not be subject to the warranty extension because it had only just been installed. However, they did offer a 10% reduction on a 3 year warranty for the first camera. At the expiry of 3 years we would be offered a further extension but did not confirm the cost. After discussion Councillors agreed not to take up the extended warranty. The second speed camera has now been installed.

Cllr Barclay said that she had witnessed a number of speeding vehicles along the lane at the top of Manor Road causing danger to pedestrians. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Sarah Lee about sourcing advisory 20mph signage.
- 5 **PLANNING**
5.1 2023/0046: Land at Dale Farm, Harborough Road, Maidwell
Construction of dwelling and outbuildings.
Still ongoing: Appeal lodged. The Parish Council will not be making any further comment.
- 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 £5,998.43 in Current Account, and £2,097.94 in Reserve Account. When the payments totalling £1,231.12 are confirmed at this meeting and deducted, the true balance will be £6,325.25. £203.80 held in Current Account is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and defibrillator. The Clerk confirmed that the second half of the precept will be received into the bank account by the end of the month.

6.2 Items for payment: LGA 1972

Countrywide Grass Cutting: June (paid 11.8.2025)	£540.00	S.228
F.R. Allbury: salary and travel	£555.52	S.112
HMRC: clerk's PAYE	£135.60	S.112
Countrywide Grass Cutting: July/August	£540.00	S.228

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

6.3 Clerk's salary increase

NcALC have confirmed that all clerks have received a 3.2% pay increase backdated to 1 April 2025. This equates to a monthly pay increase £9.91 to £319.48. Back pay of £39.64 has been included in the current invoice for August/September.

6.4 Election Expenses

WNC have advised that £90.93 will be invoiced shortly for a non-contested election. The Clerk was given permission to pay this invoice when received rather than wait until November.

6.5 CPRE membership

The Parish Council is not currently a member despite requesting an invoice. The previous subscription expired December 2024. Councillors decided not to renew membership.

6.6 Microsoft Office subscription.

The cost has increased from £59.99 last year to £84.99 this year including VAT. Cllr May said that he uses a family membership with multiple users and he could include the Parish Council subject to them making a contribution to his costs. The Clerk will discuss with the Chairman.

7 CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

The Chairman outlined recent discussion regarding maintaining the churchyard. The Parish Council pay Lamport Hall £450 per year for grass cutting and a maintenance service. However the Church Warden Mary Parker says that this arrangement does not include all the work required to keep the churchyard in good order. Lamport Hall are happy to continue with the work they provide for £450 but volunteers are needed to do the maintenance not covered. It was agreed to discuss this with Mary Parker recommending a joint project with the PCC to reach out to parishioners via the Community Link, newsletter and notice board in the hope of forming a small group to undertake the additional work ie weeding, strimming etc., but not grass cutting. Initial contact will be through the Parish Council Chairman.

8 BBC LOCAL RADIO BROADCAST

Cllr Dugmore was interviewed by Radio Northampton as a resident and Parish Councillor and Councillors thanked her for participating on behalf of the villages.

9 CLIMATE AND NATURE CHAMPION SCHEME (NcALC)

This vacancy was advertised on the community link, but no one has volunteered to date. It was agreed to try the local wildlife trust via the PCC.

10 IT POLICY, WEBSITE DOMAIN AND POTENTIAL COSTS

The Parish Council must replace the existing email address for a gov.uk one by the end of the financial year. The Parish Council is required to keep an IT Policy statement which the Clerk has prepared for signature and thereafter uploading onto the Parish Council website under Policy Document. Cllr Flavell While briefly outlined the process but it is not straightforward. The Clerk was asked to contact other local parish clerks to ask how they approached the transition.

11 **BIODIVERSITY GRANT SCHEME**

The Chairman said there was no scope for a scheme in either village due to lack of available space. The Clerk did forward the correspondence to Mark Herrod.

However, following on from the discussions detailed above under item 7 and the maintenance of the churchyard, it was agreed that Cllrs Dugmore and Barclay would look at the scheme application form with a view to applying for a grant for use in the churchyard, after prior consultation with Mary Parker, Church Warden.

12 **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Parish Council Meeting 19 November 2025 at 7 pm in the Old Laundry, Lamport Hall,

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Signed:

Date: