

LAMPOR AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in The Old Laundry, Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire
Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies received from Cllr P. May

No Declarations of Interest received.
- 2 **MINUTES to be approved and signed:**
Parish Council Meeting 17 September 2025
Cllr Dugmore proposed that the Minutes be adopted, seconded Cllr Barclay.
- 3 **MATTERS** arising from the Minutes
 - 3.1 Daffodil bulbs in Manor Road
Cllr Barclay recommended that it would be better to wait until the spring to see what bulbs were already in the ground and new bulbs could be planted in the gaps.
 - 3.2 Footpath between Hanging Houghton and Lamport.
Northamptonshire Highways advise that work has been completed for the moment, but the footpath will be monitored from time to time. The Clerk will ask WNC Cllr Irving Swift if she could expedite this matter, as residents still consider the footpath unfinished and dangerous.
- 4 **HIGHWAYS**
 - 4.1 LRSA
Sarah Lee reported that this was still work in progress.
 - 4.2 Speeding vehicles at the top of Manor Road
The Clerk said that she had been advised that 20 mph boards are only for use within an area with a speed limit of 30 mph. The posted speed limit along this road is 60 mph.
- 5 **PLANNING**
 - 5.1 2023/0046: Land at Dale Farm, Harborough Road, Maidwell
Construction of dwelling and outbuildings.
Paperwork regarding the Appeal was circulated with no comments received.
 - 5.2 2025/4233/FULL: Blueberry Farm, Harborough Road, Maidwell.
Demolition of existing house and garages and replacement with new house and garages and ancillary work.
Paperwork having been circulated by email, no comment had been received, and the Clerk would respond to Planning accordingly.
- 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 £9,679.68 in Current Account, and £2,099.87 in Reserve Account. When the payments totalling £2,150.97 are made, the true balance will be £9,628.58. £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 and the village grass cutting grant had been received.

It was agreed that the Clerk should apply for a bank debit card for use with the Parish Council bank account.

6.2 Items for payment: LGA 1972

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| F.R. Allbury: salary, travel and Microsoft Licence | £608.67 | S.112 |
| HMRC: clerk's PAYE | £127.80 | S.112 |
| Countrywide Grass Cutting: September | £810.00 | S.228 |
| Lamport Hall: churchyard grass cutting | £540.00 | S.228 |
| WNC: electoral expenses | £64.50 | S.137 |

The Clerk said that the cost of electoral expenses was less than anticipated due to complaints that the proposed costs were going to be considerably higher than at first advised. However, Parish Council electoral expenses would certainly increase to a higher level in four years' time at the next election.

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

6.3 Microsoft Office subscription.

The Clerk took advice from the Internal Auditor who said that as it was a business licence then it must come from Parish Council funds and not linked to a family licence owned by a Councillor.

6.4 Grass cutting contract 2026

CW Grounds Maintenance have advised that the cost per cut would increase from £225 to £245 which would result in an additional £200 based on 10 cuts. Councillors unanimously agreed to continue with the contract at the agreed increased costs.

6.5 Draft Budget 2026/27

A draft Budget was circulated with the agenda which detailed known and projected costs. The Clerk said that whilst some of the increases were firm figures, others were estimated. As in past years the grass cutting grant is not guaranteed, and all costs inevitably increase year on year and it was important to incorporate appropriate costings into the budget. Cllr Dugmore proposed adoption of the budget, seconded Cllr Barclay.

6.6 Precept Application 2026/27

The level of precept application for the next financial year was debated bearing in mind the budget as agreed. In order to ensure that sufficient funds were held in bank accounts and to maintain a healthy buffer to cover any unexpected expenditure it was unanimously agreed to increase the precept request from £9,000 to £9,500. Proposed Cllr Sinnott, seconded Cllr Farr.

7 **UNAUTHORISED GATHERING IN BARN, MANOR ROAD**

Cllr Barclay reported that a Halloween rave took place in the barns. Police had been in attendance and thanks are due to Cllr Barclay together with Tony Boullemier, Bruce Ward and some revellers who cleared away the small amount of rubbish.

8 **CLIMATE AND NATURE CHAMPION SCHEME**

As this vacancy has not been filled, by default the Clerk is now the link for this project. It was agreed to raise this again at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2026.

9 **WEBSITE and DOMAIN/ASSERTION 10**

Having taken advice from an IT company, for a small Parish Council to be Assertion 10 compliant it can continue to use the existing email and website address, but the Clerk does need a .gov.uk address. Cllr Flavell While has made an application for the new email address which is free of charge. The Clerk has prepared an Accessibility Statement relating to the website which is a legal requirement, and this will be uploaded onto the website and be added to existing Policy document.

When the new email address is approved the Clerk will take the laptop to Cllr Flavell While for installation. Future emails to the current address will automatically be shown on the new one.

10 **BIODIVERSITY GRANT SCHEME**

The Chairman was delighted to report that Cllr Barclay's application for funds to enhance an area of Lamport churchyard was successful and the Parish Council has been awarded £2,500 for this project. An email from Cllr Irving Swift offering congratulations was read out. Cllr Barclay said that the work was fully supported by the PCC. Cllr Barclay circulated a detailed schedule of proposed work on the churchyard. Councillors were extremely impressed with the proposal and thanked Cllr Barclay for her imagination and hard work. It was agreed that together with Cllr Dugmore a working party of volunteers would be assembled to put the project into action. Cllr Dugmore will also ask Mark Herrod at Lamport Hall for any assistance he might be able to give. The work must be completed and the funds spent by 31 March 2026.

11 **MEETING DATES 2026**

Circulated with the agenda: all agreed. The Clerk will confirm to Lamport Hall.

12 **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Parish Council Meeting 21 January 2026 at 7 pm in the Old Laundry, Lamport Hall,

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

Signed:

Date:

