



CLIPSTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 20 Styles Place, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire, NN6 6LR

Email: clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org

Website: <http://www.clipstonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 1930 hrs in Clipston Village Hall.

Attendees: Chairman I May, Councillors, Warren, Wilford, Fellows, Alderson-Smith, Price and Hackett.

1 Member of public

Clerk: Mrs C E Valentine

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| 604/26 | TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE - None |
| 605/26 | TO FILL BY CO-OPTION VACANCY - One vacant seat and members of public welcome to join. To consider applications for co-option and applicant to complete the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and relevant forms. Pam Booker applied to join the Parish Council and provided a brief introduction. The Parish Councillors voted in favour and the new member was co-opted. Forms to be duly signed. |
| 606/26 | TO CONFIRM ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a disclosable pecuniary interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business. None |
| 607/26 | PUBLIC PARTICIPATION |
| | Members of the public are invited to address the council. Members of the public should address their representations through the Chairman. Maximum permitted time 3 mins per person, with a maximum of 30 mins public participation at the Chairman's discretion. None |
| 608/26 | UPDATE FROM UNITARY WARD COUNCILLOR |
| | To receive updates from the Unitary Councillor for the Ward – Apologies received from Ward Councillor Irving-Swift. |
| 609/26 | APPROVAL OF MINUTES |
| | It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 4 th February 2026 as a correct record. Cllr Price listed several spelling errors for correction in the draft. 597/26 application 2026/0044/FULL comment should read "Object". 598/26 1. To add meeting date 5 th February 2026. |
| 610/26 | SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION - CROSSROADS |
| | Speed Limit Reduction Project – Update on the progress from the Consultant, results of survey and next steps. The consultant had been invited to attend the meeting but was unable to do so due to being delayed in Birmingham traffic. Members reviewed the recent traffic survey report. It was noted that the survey equipment had been positioned facing Naseby rather than at the crossroads, resulting in data being collected from the wrong location. Only 428 vehicles were recorded over the survey week, which was considered unrepresentative of actual traffic levels. Bad weather and local flooding at the junction during the survey period may also have affected the results. It was queried whether a repeat survey could be undertaken; however, the Contractor advised that this request had been rejected by the police. A separate company has indicated that they would be willing to provide a quotation for carrying out a new survey. Concerns were raised regarding the value of the work completed to date for the £1,500 cost. The Council may also have access to its own speed-camera data, which could be used to challenge the findings (see results). Cllr Price has offered to undertake an independent traffic count over a week. It was further noted that the Langdale camera had been positioned incorrectly—just outside Langdale Road and angled into the hedge—meaning it did not capture speeding at the crossroads. Vehicles had already slowed by the time they reached the monitored point, rendering the test invalid. It was RESOLVED for the PC to obtain additional data from the speed cameras. The Consultant will attend the next meeting and the PC will query with the Police if the survey can be revisited with PC input. |



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| 611/26 | GRANT REQUEST |
| | To consider the village hall have request to cover the cost of with the annual insurance. Renewal premium is £906.24. It was RESOLVED to approve the grant of £906.24 for the annual insurance. |
| 612/26 | <p>PLANNING</p> <p>a) To receive any applications for consideration not otherwise on the agenda.</p> <p>i. NEW - Please see table end of agenda for planning register Clipston – no new</p> <p>ii. To discuss trees in conservation areas</p> <p>Cllr Alderson-Smith suggested adding some information on the website as guidance regarding the process to follow when needing to carry out work to trees within the village conservation area and who to contact for permission to carry out works. It was RESOLVED to approve and add to the parish council website.</p> <p>To search, comment and view decisions: https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-planning-application</p> |
| b) | <p>DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION</p> <p>To discuss for response:</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council is consulting on its Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan. The Draft Plan and supporting documents are available for public inspection for eight weeks, until 23:59 on Friday 27 March 2026. Information is available here: https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/local-plan</p> <p>Cllr Price reported WNC have confirmed that there is no rural exception or rural-specific planning application currently affecting Clipston. The important point to note is the wider West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) position on the planning regime.</p> <p>Under national policy (NPPF), the system is designed to support sustainable development. At the top sits national policy, followed by the Local Plan, and then our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), which provides the village-level detail.</p> <p>Both the Local Plan and the NDP rely on WNC being able to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply. This figure is a key driver of how planning decisions are made. Over the past three years, planning approvals have continued to come forward, but the five-year land supply calculation has been found to be flawed, and a Planning Inspector has confirmed that WNC cannot currently demonstrate a five-year supply.</p> <p>As a result, elements of both the Local Plan and our NDP are considered out of date for decision-making purposes. This means that, for the time being, planning decisions must be taken from a more pro-development standpoint, applying the national presumption in favour of sustainable development. WNC have stated that this issue will be addressed through the preparation of the new Local Plan. It was RESOLVED for Councillor Price to draft a formal response.</p> |
| 613/26 | NEW MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AND OUTSTANDING FROM THE MEETING OF THE 4th of February 2026. |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> BT Phone Box – To consider quote to refurbish the telephone and make secure. It was RESOLVED to proceed with the quotation from Mr N Leatherland a local contractor, who has met with the Chairman on site to restore the BT phone box at a cost of £800.00 plus VAT. The restoration will take 7-10 days and the additional lock is approx. £30 – 40 which was also approved. Clipston in Bloom project – Flower completion for the summer – update from the working group PW. <p>The launch date for Clipston in Bloom has been set for 23 March, timed to link with the Clipston Courier. Entries will be open from April to July, with the presentation event on 9 August at the Playing field Pavilion, including stalls and displays.</p> |



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| | <p>The proposal includes installing planters at the village entrances. These were initially costed at £200 each, but a local resident may be able to build them at a lower cost, which will be explored.</p> <p>It was noted that grant funding does not appear suitable for this type of project. AW suggested approaching the AD digester to sponsor the planters. The project budget may need to increase by £800, and if no external funding is secured to cover the cost of the planters but It was RESOLVED the Parish Council will cover the cost. It was also noted that savings have been made on mowing due to the contribution of volunteers to cover the village maintenance budget.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Youth Projects –Annual Parish Meeting Window Proposal APM 1st April or 6th May 30 minutes prior to the Parish Council meeting. (Note Annual Parish Council meeting is also in May). It was RESOLVED to hold the Meeting in May to allow more time to prepare and gather some aerial shots of the village for Parish Council media. 4. Police Liaison Representative – Update from AW. Cllr Wilford advised the Local PSCO is due to retire, await news of replacement. 5. Feedback from the Police mobile office visit in January. The village Police surgery was well received good engagement; they will return when the weather warms up June/July and more advertising required. 6. Glenham AD Plant (Biodigester) – To discuss site visit and feedback. Chairman submitted article in Clipston Courier. The Chairman reported the site visit provided lots of information about the biodigester site operation. There was no manure on this site so the Council are still keen to understand if there will be smell issues, however the site was noted as very clean and they were advised the CO2 produced is bottled for resale. 7. Cob wall adjacent to the village hall carpark. The Clerk has contacted West Northamptonshire Council’s Planning Department to seek guidance regarding the cob wall. The Parish Council is concerned that the structure poses a safety risk to anyone visiting the village hall, and, as part of a Grade II listed property, it is troubling that the wall is being allowed to deteriorate rather than being preserved as an important historic asset. |
| 614/26 | STREET LIGHTING |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) To discuss the proposed street lighting upgrade and consider any associated expenditure. To explore options for converting the remaining units to LED. To receive an update from Cllr Alderson-Smith and note current repair reports. Further visit with contractors to assess requirements and specifications. <p>Cllr Alderson-Smith obtained a further quote, and it was RESOLVED to proceed with MSL Lighting Repairs to replace the remaining sodium lamps with LED units at a cost of £10,800, representing the best value and reducing future running costs.</p> <p>The light colour and brightness will be reviewed, and the units will include overnight dimming. The orange light outside the school will not be replaced. Residents with wall-mounted lights will be notified to arrange their own works.</p> <p>The cast-iron lamp at the Naseby end, which is leaning, will be dealt with separately. One-third of village lights are already LED. Lights can be viewed in Sibbertoft as they have recently upgraded the lights. Cllr Alderson-Smith will provide details to the Clerk so the order can be placed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b) To consider starting to review the current street lighting energy contract. It was RESOLVED to wait until the streetlights have been upgraded, particularly given the current uncertainty around electricity costs arising from the situation in the Middle East. |



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| 615/26 | <p>VILLAGE MAINTENANCE Current FixMyStreet reports Clipston: Additional comments noted: 8906442 & 8858734 potholes noted as repaired. Additional issues – condition of road surface Longhold Road – action Damaged verges around the village, visual impact and effect on mowing season/cost. Note – report fixmystreet. It was RESOLVED to ask if the bridge could be included in the bidding for highways repairs in the new financial year. Any Fixmystreet issues can be reported directly via: https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk/</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Date</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Ref</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Issue</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Feb 26</td> <td>8935142</td> <td>Blocked drain Naseby Road</td> <td>16.02.26 investigating</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb 26</td> <td>8906442</td> <td>Potholes Naseby Road</td> <td>Priority 3, 28 Day repair as of 17.02.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb 26</td> <td>8858734</td> <td>3ft long pothole Church Lane</td> <td>Completion on or before 10.03.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan 26</td> <td>8809340</td> <td>Damaged verge trucks/vehicles Church Lane</td> <td>Closed and reopened 27.02.26 – awaiting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan 26</td> <td>8746243</td> <td>Very large pothole Church Lane</td> <td>Priority 4 repair is 59 days as of 29.01.26 SAME 8858734</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov 24</td> <td>6795821</td> <td>Collapsed bridge wall (Footpath CH23)</td> <td>Still awaiting repair (24-month closure issued)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | Date | Ref | Issue | Status | Feb 26 | 8935142 | Blocked drain Naseby Road | 16.02.26 investigating | Feb 26 | 8906442 | Potholes Naseby Road | Priority 3, 28 Day repair as of 17.02.26 | Feb 26 | 8858734 | 3ft long pothole Church Lane | Completion on or before 10.03.26 | Jan 26 | 8809340 | Damaged verge trucks/vehicles Church Lane | Closed and reopened 27.02.26 – awaiting | Jan 26 | 8746243 | Very large pothole Church Lane | Priority 4 repair is 59 days as of 29.01.26 SAME 8858734 | Nov 24 | 6795821 | Collapsed bridge wall (Footpath CH23) | Still awaiting repair (24-month closure issued) |
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| 616/26 | <p>FINANCE – It was RESOLVED to approve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unity Trust Bank Balance on 29.01.26 £ 31,979.53 2. Vat 126 return completed 3. Mowing grant request submitted 4. Budget vs spend review pending year end. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b) | It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments for March 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c) | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">£</th> <th style="width: 20%;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PC Expenditure March 2026</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk salary February 2026</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td>LGA 1972, s112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC PAYE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td>LGA 1972, s112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yu Energy Street Lighting DD</td> <td style="text-align: right;">640.62</td> <td>Highways Act 1980 s301</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brixworth Parish Council -59/60 Bus Subsidy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787.37</td> <td>Transport Act 1985 s.106A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protheroes fuel F1025115</td> <td style="text-align: right;">62.87</td> <td>Open Spaces Act 1906</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | £ | | PC Expenditure March 2026 | | | Clerk salary February 2026 | - | LGA 1972, s112 | HMRC PAYE | - | LGA 1972, s112 | Yu Energy Street Lighting DD | 640.62 | Highways Act 1980 s301 | Brixworth Parish Council -59/60 Bus Subsidy | 787.37 | Transport Act 1985 s.106A | Protheroes fuel F1025115 | 62.87 | Open Spaces Act 1906 | | | | | | | |
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| 617/26 | <p>POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND AUDIT</p> <p>To approve the effectiveness of the Internal Audit. Cllr Wilford would like finances and minutes sooner to review. The new effectiveness of audit sheet should assist with auditing checks. To approve the updated Asset Register (addition of telephone box) -approved. Web site updates – ongoing Website provider is making the website compliant. Assertion 10 – actions To review/approve the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website accessibility statement • General Privacy Notice | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Protection Policy • Subject Access Request (SAR) procedure • Data Breach Policy • Records Retention Policy • IT Policy <p>The policies were circulated and have been approved in principle for the website, but will require further review by AP/IM.</p> |
| 618/26 | <p>CORRESPONDENCE -Noted</p> <p>Open consultations can be found via link: https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/ West Northants Consultation Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter – Newsletter – February 2026 - Northamptonshire Police & Fire Commissioner • Shared Lives carers West Northamptonshire Council • WNC is consulting on its final draft (https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/consultations/local-nature-recovery-strategy-consultation) before sending it off to Natural England for comment and then adoption by the WNC Cabinet in summer 2026. The consultation deadline is 25 March 2026 and all parish and town councils in West Northamptonshire are encouraged to respond. • NCALC working on the next Strategic Plan helping shape the future of the association with engagement sessions on 23rd March 2026. Clerk has information. • The latest Town and Parish Briefing https://sway.cloud.microsoft/1MAi5LVElwPNExHI?ref=Link |
| 619/26 | <p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Discussion only – no decisions can be made under this item)</p> <p>Next Ordinary Meeting: Wednesday 1st April 2026</p> |

West Northamptonshire Council Planning Register – Clipston as of 6th March 2026

| Reference No.▶ | Location▶ | Proposal / Description▶ | Valid Date▲ | Decision Issue Date▶ | Decision▶ |
|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 2026/0044/FULL | 4 Gold Street Clipston LE16 9RR | Conversion of external store to habitable accommodation, construction of glazed link and works to garden wall | 18/12/2025 | | Pending |
| 2026/0032/FULL | Hopthorns 28 Harborough Road Clipston LE16 9RT | External walls to be re clad with timber cladding, with a portion of the existing brickwork at the base retained. | 17/12/2025 | | Pending |
| 2025/4874/FULL | Avenue House 25 Kelmarsh Road Clipston LE16 9RX | Change of use from paddock land to garden land within the residential curtilage (retrospective) | 11/11/2025 | 24/02/2026 | Approval |