

## Minutes of Dingley Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in the Village Hall, Dingley at 7.00 pm.

<b>Members of the Parish Council Present</b>	Cllr S Dudson (Acting Chair) Cllr L Jones Cllr E Lomer-Wood Cllr R Read
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	Mrs Justina Medwell (Clerk) NNC Cllr D Howes 9 Members of the public

		<b>Action</b>
1554	<b>To receive and approve apologies</b> There were none.	
1555	<b>Member's declaration of interest in items on the agenda and any changes to the Members Register of Interests:</b> There were no declarations of interest in items on this agenda. There were no changes to the Register of Member's Interests.	
1556	<b>To approve and sign the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting:</b> The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025 were <b>agreed</b> as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Lomer-Wood      Seconded Cllr Jones	
1557	<b>To approve co-option of new Councillor:</b> The Council <b>agreed</b> to co-opt Mr Roger Read to fill the vacancy arising from the Parish Council elections in May 2025. Proposed Cllr Dudson      Seconded Cllr Lomer-Wood      All in favour.  Cllr Read was welcomed on to the Council and duly completed and signed the Members Register of Interest and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.  One casual vacancy still remains following the death of Cllr Bill Jones.	
1558	<b>Matters Arising from the last Parish Council meeting:</b> There were no matters arising.	
	<b>Open Forum and Representations from members of the public – Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council:</b>  The Council was asked to reconsider its response to the 8 Church Lane planning application following concerns that the heritage statement, produced subsequently by the applicant, was factually not correct. These had been shared with the Council prior to the meeting. The Council was asked to consider these and respond accordingly on behalf of neighbouring residents.  Concerns were also expressed that the Parish Council was expected to submit its response before any consultation letters were issued to neighbouring properties. As a result, neighbouring residents were unaware of the application at the time the Parish Council made its consideration, and the Council did not have the benefit of representations or concerns that would ordinarily inform its discussion. These included the detrimental impact to the street scene with its Grade 1 and 2 listed buildings, access problems and potential damage to a private road of historical value.	

		<b>Action</b>
1559	<p>The Council was briefed on the history of the Land south of Home Close and asked to support the Maddox outline application for three new homes.</p> <p><b>(Meeting closed to the public)</b></p>	
1560	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p><b>I. 25/00861/OUT Land South of Home Close Outline application for 3 Self Build Dwellings</b> The Council supported this application.</p> <p><b>II. 25/00912/HFUL 8 Church Lane, Dingley Rear and Upper Floor Extension</b> The Council <b>agreed</b> to retract its initial response to the above application from 'No Objection' subject to certain conditions to one with a recommendation of <b>refusal</b>. This decision is based on information and issues which have come to light, including matters raised by neighbouring properties once they became aware of the proposal. The Council considered it important that its views accurately reflect a fully informed position and that local residents are given a fair and timely opportunity to engage with the planning process.</p> <p>The Council's full response can be viewed on the planning portal at <a href="https://publicaccess.northnorthants.gov.uk/online-applications">https://publicaccess.northnorthants.gov.uk/online-applications</a></p> <p>The Council <b>agreed</b> at this point to circulate to residents any planning application as soon as it is received.</p>	
1561	<p><b>(i) Safety Review of Parish Assets:</b></p> <p>It was noted that the new defibrillator pads had been received and fitted to the equipment. All other assets were in order.</p>	
	<p><b>(ii) Local Government Update:</b></p> <p>NNC Cllr D Howes reported that the NNC budgets have been finalised and that the consultation period is now open. He stated that, contrary to prior intentions, NNC has implemented a 4.99% increase in council tax due to escalating costs associated with adult social care and children's services.</p>	
	<p><b>(iii) To consider the implications of the Community Governance Review and agree on the council's approach to engagement:</b></p> <p>The Council discussed the upcoming Community Governance review, which will allow parishes to assess boundaries, council size and structure, community representation, and parish names to ensure they reflect local identities.</p> <p>While the Council does not expect any beneficial changes for the community, it will proceed with the required consultation process as part of the review.</p>	
1562	<p><b>Parish Highways and Rights of Way:</b></p> <p><b>Highways Update</b> Cllr Lomer-Wood advised that she had reported the potholes on Braybrook Road to NNC via FixMyStreet and had been given a repair date. As the work had not been completed by the specified date, she will follow this up.</p> <p>NNC Cllr Howes recommended using the "fixmystreet" app, which can be downloaded to a mobile device to facilitate more efficient reporting procedures.</p>	<b>ELW</b>



		<b>Action</b>
	The Council noted the theft of a trailer and other items on Sutton Lane. The Clerk referred to the "Crime Prevention in a Box" scheme - an initiative put together by the Office of The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, designed to strengthen local engagement and promote consistent crime prevention messaging at the village level. The resource provides standardised crime prevention materials and practical information on community safety to encourage proactive security habits. The Clerk will arrange to take delivery of this box.	
<b>1565</b>	<b>Correspondence:</b> There was no further correspondence to discuss.	
<b>1566</b>	<b>New items for inclusion on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting:</b> Risk Assessment Friends of Dingley Park	
<b>1553</b>	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026  The Meeting Closed at 8.46 pm.	

Signed .....

(Chair)

Dated .....

**Annexe:****Budget**

	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>
<b>Projected Expenses</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Clerk's Salary	3,823.00	4,123.00	4,456.00	4,590.00	4,820.00
Insurance	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	241.00
Village Hall Hire	150.00	175.00	175.00	100.00	100.00
Website	100.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
NALC Subscription	190.00	190.00	190.00	195.00	200.00
Village Maintenance	300.00	300.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Training	88.00	0.00	44.00	44.00	44.00
Office Expenses	120.00	120.00	144.00	144.00	144.00
Admin costs	50.00	50.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
ICO - Data Protection	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Audit Fee	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	90.00
Election Expenses	124.00	0.00	0.00	80.00	0.00
Clerk Pension	115.00	125.00	138.00	140.00	145.00
PWLB Loan	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,757.00	0.00
Bank Charges	100.00	75.00	75.00	72.00	72.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>5,455.00</u></b>	<b><u>5,553.00</u></b>	<b><u>6,067.00</u></b>	<b><u>8,867.00</u></b>	<b><u>6,346.00</u></b>
<b>Proposed Precept</b>	<b>5,455.00</b>	<b>5,553.00</b>	<b>6,067.00</b>	<b>8,867.00</b>	<b>6,346.00</b>