

MINUTES OF BANTON & ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7pm in the Reading Room, Banton.

Present were Councillors Mr M Lucas, Ms S Lucas (Chairman) and Mr S Taylor.

Clerk, Mrs J Rice and members of the public, three, including members of the Traffic Calming Group and Rev Alderson.

25/30	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive and note apologies received by the Clerk. Apologies were received from Cllr W Gibson and Ward Cllr K Tighe.	
25/31	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business 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). There were no declarations of interest made.	
25/32	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting. A maximum of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda. A member of the Traffic Calming Working Group passed over a letter received from a resident concerning opposition to the 20mph speed limit. It was agreed the Clerk will reply. The Chairman got agreement to move agenda items 36.2 and 37.1 to this point.	
25/33	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (previously circulated) To agree the minutes of the last meeting on 30/6/25 are a true record. Minutes to be signed by the Chairman. The minutes were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.	
25/34	GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND TRAINING	
	34.1	To receive and discuss finance report until end of July/August 2025, herewith, and resolve any issues. The Clerk explained that the basic budget is 42% spent at 42% through the year, project budget still has grants of £224 CLF, £1k Nature Recovery and £1525 for High Field Road, and the traffic calming invoice will soon be paid from reserves - the bank balance is 10.6k, with precept income of 8k to come, plus new expenditure and earmarked reserves means a residual general reserves of approx. 4k.
	34.2	To agree any new dates and costs for training required for Councillors. There were no requests.
	34.3	To receive any co-option application form(s) and appoint according to co-option policy or agree future recruitment strategies. There were no applications received. It was agreed the Clerk will follow up on a recent interested party and appeal in Parish News again. Action Clerk
	34.4	To receive and note additional premium for new benches, play area and phone box to be resolved. The Clerk had not had the additional premium details as yet.
		To exclude the public for reasons of confidentiality. The public had left by this point.
	34.5	To receive update from staffing committee on Clerk's appraisal and recommendation and resolve. A summary of the Clerk's appraisal that had taken place before this meeting was given, including the agreed objectives, and a recommendation for increment dates was agreed to be confirmed. To invite public back and give summary of action agreed. This was N/A
	34.6	To discuss feedback from Poors Charity Trustee meeting and agree action and a way forward. Cllr S Lucas summarised the recent informal meeting of the Poors Charity and said that a joint meeting with the Parish Council and them had been agreed to discuss the land options and charity management. It was confirmed they were invited and encouraged to the public meeting too. Action Clerk to arrange a date.
	34.7	To note asset checks to be done and offers of help to do these tba It was agreed that these will be arranged asap. Action Clerk and Cllr S Lucas
25/35	REPORT FROM NEW WARD COUNCILLOR To receive report from K Tighe, Ward Councillor, plus resolve response re Ward meetings, email circulated. The Ward Cllr had given apologies and there was no report. The Ward meetings were not discussed. Also, Cllr Boyce is re-instated as Parish Liaison Working Group Chairman and the next meeting is 23/9/25. Resolve attendance. This was noted and at present there is no-one available to attend this.	

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

25/36	PARISH PROJECTS	
	36.1	To receive update from Nature Recovery Group and agree any action and expenditure from budget.
	36.2	<p>To receive any new update report from Village Traffic Calming Group, including 20mph installation started.</p> <p>Members of the group reported one speed roundel had been painted and a resident complaint had been lodged online to Highways. It was reported that some cars had already slowed down as a result however it is currently confusing. They confirmed that data is still not being used by the authorities and that renewal of the licence will be re-considered in November. The visibility of the signs will be looked at too.</p>
	36.3	<p>To receive update on the refurbishment of the Sheepwash and agree further action/expenditure on more clearance as advised by NR group. See update herewith.</p> <p>It was noted that the benches are now installed, bind weed kindly cleared by volunteers and it was agreed that, following advice from the Nature Recovery Group, arrangements will be made to clear the brambles over time and regular maintenance will be considered for inclusion in the grass cutting tender.</p> <p>Action Clerk</p>
	36.4	<p>To receive and note minutes/update from multi-agency group meeting on flooding and resident issue action taken. The minutes from the group were noted and it was agreed to just distribute the latest leaflet on avoiding flooding advice to Ashton residents and post on boards/social media. Action Clerk/Cllrs</p>
	36.5	<p>To receive update on measures to reduce anti-social behaviour at High Field Road and agree a course of action, including signage/gateways, and update on bund idea.</p> <p>It was noted that the trial of a bund is being investigated with Highways as the only feasible and effective method to reduce parking (taking into account all the views of affected parties) and plans have been sent to them for implementing this, plus agreed signage about no parking/waiting. Action Cllrs</p>
	36.6	<p>To receive and note update on BT phone box conversion to library and agree any further action needed. There was no further update on this and assumption is that it is running ok.</p>
	36.7	<p>To note any update from the Verges Group and resultant action.</p> <p>There was no new update from the verges group.</p>
	36.8	<p>To receive and note play area refurbishment project update (started 1/9/25) and resolve any issues, including agreement to basic road sign and new fencing quote tba.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the work had started and a sign was up to tell people, plus neighbours informed. It was agreed to purchase two signs to point to the play area and that fencing quotes are being sought for a future meeting and decision. Action Clerk</p>
25/37	CLOSURE OF GRAVEYARD AND PROVISION OF NEW	
	37.1	<p>To receive feedback on the closure process and agree date for public meeting to discuss options on management by Parish Council and provision of land for a new graveyard and consider management plan pointers and costs.</p> <p>Rev Alderson confirmed he was flushing out lots of queries regarding plots because of awareness of the burial ground closure and not all paperwork has been passed over to him in good order. He confirmed the process had not been started to close it yet and it takes around a year. He further confirmed there is plenty of room for the dedicated ashes area and he would deal with these in the future still. It was noted that the church could decide to keep the maintenance themselves, depending on the future of the Parish Council, otherwise the Parish Council or the Peterborough City Council is required to take it on after it is formally closed.</p> <p>The other issue discussed was the future provision of a local graveyard for residents in the parish and if there are any land options available to them. Some discussions had taken place with the Poors Charity as to whether their land could be used. It was decided that a public meeting will be held on 30/10/25 at 7pm to gauge resident preferences. Action Clerk/Cllrs to publicise</p>
	37.2	<p>To receive feedback on grant for future graveyard costs and any ceiling – PCC says under review.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that no new information has been received and this will be followed up. Action Clerk</p>

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

23/38	REPOR	T FROM REPRESENTATIVES AND ASSET MAINTENANCE	
	38.1	To note grass cutting tender to be agreed and sent to contractors, including Sheepwash and graveyard. The Clerk said that work had started on the tender specification which, it was agreed, to include a once a year cut of High Field Road up to the woods and will be brought to the next meeting. Action Clerk/Nature Recovery Group	
	38.2	To receive and note defib checks carried out. It was noted that Cliff Stanton will do September and Cllr S Lucas October. A video was circulated showing how to do it. Action CS and S Lucas	
	38.3	To receive information regarding any new maintenance issues and agree action/expenditure. There were no new maintenance issues raised.	
	38.4	To note allotment association water bill and leak being investigated. The Clerk explained that the allotment site had a leak over a long time, resulting from a contractor, and compensation will possibly be sought directly. Action Clerk/Allot. Assoc.	
25/39	PLANNING To receive details of applications and note or resolve council response. The following applications were noted as follows;		
	39.1	To note planning enforcement case for reporting of cars parked/stored and sheep grazing on land off B1443. Planning Enforcement case number 25/00051. This was chased up, no update given, see below for same site.	
	39.2	24/01633/FUL proposed new agricultural building at The Green, Helpston Road, Bainton. Re-submission. Response of concern sent by Parish Council. Refused permission.	
	39.3	To receive and note any new applications arriving after agenda issued to see if can be agreed now. 25/00864/HHFUL proposed garage conversion to an annex and rear extension at Gatehouse, Tallington Road, deadline 6/8/25 – considered and no response sent.	
25/40	PARISH/COMMUNITY/PCC LIAISON		
	40.1	To note feedback from Parish Liaison meeting and note any actions. It was noted there had been no new meeting, the next one is 23/9/25 however no Councillors can attend but minutes will be circulated.	
	40.2	To receive other feedback from recently attended meetings not covered on agenda. There was no other, new feedback.	
25/41	COMMUNICATION AND CORRRESPONDENCE		
	41.1	To note, from residents re noise nuisance dog barking – reported to Peterborough City Council. Log sheet filling required. This was noted and the neighbour approached about logging occurrences.	
	41.2	To note, from resident re dyke clearance and flood risk. This was noted and is being followed up with Highways re dyke ownership and responsibility first.	
25/42	PAYMENTS – to authorise payments to be made or made as follows; The following payments were authorised;		
	42.1	Clerk for mileage £39.60 and home office £26 x 2 for July and August	£88.90
	42.2	Clerk ink plan share July and August £3.92 pm	£7.84
	42.3	HMRC PAYE payable by employer/ee August and September	£71.40 and £85
	42.4	Clerk new salary £367.87 less tax, to be paid 30/9/25 plus back pay of national pay rise	£340.22 £57.35
	42.5	Timotay second payment payable for play area, 15k grant received first (VAT to be reclaimed)	£17971.33
	42.6	Leics Gardens for grass cutting as per contract on 21/6/25	£600
	42.7	Wave water bill (reclaimed from Allotment Assoc)	£92.60
	42.8	Vision ICT for hosted email accounts	£120
	42.9	Hedgelaying2Landscaping for new benches from grants	£1080
	42.10	New signs for play area, Sheepwash clearance work	TBC
	42.10	Receipt from Allotment Association for water	£tbc
25/43	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of the public meeting was agreed as 30/10/25 at 7pm and the next Parish Council meeting agreed as 6/11/25 at 7pm, in the Reading Room, Bainton.		

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____