

# RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

### Present:

**Councillors:** Peter Hooton (Chair), Mike Brightman (Vice Chair), Joy Brightman, Sandy Cruickshank, Yvonne Turner, Peter Palmer, Bill Parker, Suzi Smith, and Mike Silverstone.

**In attendance:** Megan Ellis (Clerk/RFO), NNC Councillor Jim Hakewill & and one member of the public.

42/25	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies received from Councillor Abraham.
43/25	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.
44/25	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2025</b> The minutes of the meeting dated 16.07.2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
45/25	<b>Co-option</b> Councillor Mike Silverstone was co-opted onto Rushton Parish Council to fill the Pipewell vacancy. Cllr M Brightman proposed, Cllr J Brightman seconded, and all other Councillors unanimously agreed. Cllr Silverstone signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form in the meeting. Clerk to send over the 'Declaration of Interests' form, set up a new gov.uk e-mail and arrange training if required. <b>Action: Clerk</b>
46/25	<b>Local Issues Updates</b> <b>a) Police:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There has been one crime reported within the Parish since Mays' meeting which was marked as violence with injury, however, this was a domestic issue in house.</li></ul> <b>a) Mick George Landfill/Environment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greg from the EA recently visited the Mick George Landfill site completely unannounced and was happy with the running of the site and had nothing to report to RPC.</li><li>• Stephen confirmed there have been no current issues at the</li></ul>

	<p>Mick George Landfill site. He has agreed to arrange a litter pick along Oakley Road as recently a lot of rubbish has been spotted in the grass verges.</p> <p><b>a) Speed Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One speed camera has been moved to the end of Station Road – set at 20mph.</li> <li>• Higher volumes of traffic and speeding have been noticed recently in the village; this could be because of the A6003 road works.</li> <li>• Cllr M Brightman believes that a signed petition on behalf of the whole village would be the best approach if/when contacting highways. This would highlight all the traffic and speeding issues within the village.</li> </ul>
47/25	<p><b>Public Open Forum</b></p> <p>One member of the public was in attendance to express his continued concerns about school parking. A vehicle recently blocked his driveway when his wife needed to leave the house, and the driver was verbally abusive when asked to move. The Headteacher has held a meeting with the driver to highlight respectful parking and behaviour. The Clerk to write a letter to Rushton Primary School to remind the Headteacher that staff should be parking in the Cricket club carpark instead of on Station Road. This should then free up parking spaces for school collections and pick-ups. <b>Action: Clerk.</b> The Clerk to contact the Parish PCSOs to request another sporadic school parking check. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
48/25	<p><b>NNC Councillor Updates</b> Jim Hakewill - Independent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing Agenda action for Cllr Hakewill (11/25) Nigel Tyes' flooding. <b>Action: Cllr Hakewill</b></li> <li>• Ongoing Agenda action for Cllr Hakewill (11/25) Rural forum enquiry. <b>Action: Cllr Hakewill</b></li> <li>• There will be a 5% Council tax increase next year.</li> <li>• NNC planning department is struggling due to being understaffed. No new applications are being added onto the new planning system.</li> <li>• A form has now been submitted for the Thornhill Arms to be classed as 'An Asset of Community Value.' Clerk to e-mail Kevin and Jackie to request that an update is added into the Triangle. <b>Action: Clerk</b></li> </ul>
49/25	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The accounts for the Parish Council and Community Minibus YTD will be circulated to Cllrs before the next meeting <b>ACTION: Clerk</b></li> <li>b. Payments listed in the payment schedule were reviewed in the meeting and approved. Permission for additional expenditure before Septembers' meeting (reflected by pre-agreed cost schedule) was approved.</li> <li>c. The closing August bank balances agreed in the meeting</li> </ol>

	<p>and reviewed before the meeting:  RPC account - £27,322.28  Minibus account - £7,165.22  Minibus Savings account - £47,709.88</p> <p>d. It was unanimously approved in the meeting for the Clerk to receive a pay rise backdated from 01.08.2025. The Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair set-up a separate meeting prior to the ordinary meeting to discuss and agree. The new hourly rate for the Clerk is £15.84 - using NCALC pay scale LC2.</p> <p>e. Final Audit paperwork was not received before the meeting so this will be discussed in in Novembers' meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council will charge £1 for paper copies listed on the 'Notice of Conclusion' report.</p>
50/25	<p><b>Community Minibus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No issues/damage or faults.</li> <li>• Discussions are ongoing for purchasing fold out steps with handrails to help less agile passengers.</li> <li>• MOT due 30<sup>th</sup> October.</li> <li>• Minibus service booked for 22/09/2025.</li> <li>• Five drivers are going to re-sit their MIDAS training in October. Estimated cost is £960 - Cost approved in meeting.</li> <li>• Passenger numbers are building up from Rothwell for the Friday shopping trips. If this service is successful, Rothwell Town Council will be asked to source volunteer drivers.</li> </ul>
51/25	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Cruickshank has contacted YourLocale to see where RPC are with the Neighbourhood Plan and to see what the next steps are.</li> <li>• Cllr Cruickshank sent a letter to the Chief of the Planning department at NNC &amp; met with their consultant that has been employed to help with neighbourhood plans.</li> <li>• Cllr Cruickshank will look at our current plan and reconfigure where needed. Cllr Cruickshank to review when possible.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Cllr Cruickshank</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Cruickshank suggested for a Neighbourhood Plan subcommittee meeting to be held.</li> <li>• Contingency of £1,000 from RPC bank agreed in case needed and if a public consultation is required.</li> </ul>
52/25	<p><b>Recreation Ground</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have received a letter from NNC that states from April 2026, RPC are going to be charged for the maintenance and inspections of the recreation ground. The quoted cost per year for weekly inspections is £2,700. Extra money would need to be kept aside for potential equipment maintenance. RPC will attempt to negotiate with NNC and see what</li> </ul>

	<p>funding is available. Clerk to circulate letter/contract from NNC to Councillors. <b>Action: Clerk.</b> Clerk to post a message in the Clerk Facebook forum to see which contractors other North Northants villages are using. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly inspections continue to take place.</li> <li>• NNC Parks have repaired the pedestrian gate from Desborough Road.</li> <li>• The grass matting around several landing areas needs replacing and two of the benches need new slats. A detailed costed report will be presented to the PC in January 2026.</li> <li>• RPC have received a quotation for the pruning of some of the large trees within the recreation ground. It is proposed to make an application to NCF to fund this work.</li> <li>• RPC have been able to replace the vehicle gate into the recreation ground by using the underspend from the Public Footpath project. This additional work was approved by NCF.</li> </ul>
53/25	<p><b>The following documents were reviewed and approved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject Access Request Procedure</li> <li>• Data Protection Policy</li> <li>• General Privacy Notice</li> </ul> <p>Clerk to update the website. <b>Action: Clerk</b></p>
54/25	<p><b>Festive Celebrations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Father Christmas will be visiting Rushton village over two Sundays in December in the Village Hall. He will meet the children for a small fee; there will be mince pies and a small present for each.</li> <li>• Rushton Parish Council have agreed to support this by funding up to £200 for the event.</li> </ul>
55/25	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>The following updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NK/2023/0736</b> Lyndon Thomas Birchfield Springs. No decision as of 14/9/25.</li> <li>• <b>NK/2025/0079</b> R. Daniel Entrance lodge Pipewell Hall. APPROVED.</li> <li>• <b>NK/2025/0088</b> Bentley Glendon House. No decision as of 14/9/25.</li> <li>• <b>NK/2025/0107/0108</b> Rushton Hall. No decision as Historic Houses have objected.</li> <li>• <b>NK/2025/0226</b> T Dale 13 High St. APPROVED.</li> <li>• <b>NK/2025/0255</b> I M Kelly erection of warehouse. Decision due 11/9/25.</li> <li>• <b>NK/2025/0261</b> Prologis Electric charging points. Substation and landscaping decision due 9/10/25.</li> <li>• The Clerk to contact David Lock Associates to request more information regarding their proposal. <b>Action: Clerk</b></li> <li>• Cllr Silverstone to speak with Anthony Shemilt regarding a potential planning concern. <b>Action: Cllr Silverstone</b></li> </ul>

56/25	<p><b>Funded Projects</b></p> <p><u>Improvements to Public Footpath Styles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This project is now complete and there has been an underspend of £2,000. NCF have given approval for the underspend to be used on a new gate for the recreation ground.</li> <li>• The end of grant report will be submitted by 30/09/2025.</li> </ul> <p><u>Bus Shelter Refurbishment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The installation of the solar lighting is due to be conducted WC 15th September. The purchase of the bench is still awaiting receipt of the new RPC multi pay cards.</li> <li>• The end of grant report will be submitted by the 30/10/25.</li> </ul> <p><u>Radar Speed Signs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This project is now complete. Cllr M Brightman sent out an e-mail to each Councillor in August to request feedback. The relocated speed signs have been set to 20mph.</li> <li>• The end of grant report will be submitted by the 30/10/25.</li> <li>• Application to be submitted for the overhanging trees and conifers to be pruned/crowned in the recreation ground. The grant application will be for around £3,000. Councillors in agreement for this grant to be requested once the other grants above are closed off.</li> <li>• Cllr Cruickshank suggested putting up an additional speed camera as the parish have a spare speed pole. There is still some grant money to spend in 24/25. Cllr M Brightman to calculate the costings for this. <b>Action: Cllr M Brightman</b></li> </ul>
57/25	<p><b>Further matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Smith to arrange a village litter pick before our next Parish meeting. <b>Action: Cllr Smith</b></li> </ul>
58/25	<p>The meeting closed at 9.23pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00pm on <b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> in the Village Hall.</p>

#### ACTION SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 2025

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>
11/25	Cllr Hakewill to apply pressure to NNC to find a solution for Nigel since the flooding.	Cllr Hakewill
11/25	Cllr Hakewill to question whether future Rural forums can take place for smaller parishes.	Cllr Hakewill
45/25	Clerk to send over the 'Declaration of Interests' form, set up a new gov.uk e-mail and arrange training if required for Cllr Silverstone.	Clerk
47/25	The Clerk to write a letter to Rushton Primary School	Clerk

	to remind the Headteacher that staff should be parking in the Cricket club carpark instead of on Station Road.	
47/25	The Clerk to contact the Parish PCSOs to request another sporadic school parking check & to request their attendance at the next Parish Council meeting.	Clerk
48/25	Clerk to e-mail Kevin and Jackie to request that an update is added into the Triangle for the Thornhill Arms.	Clerk
49/25	The accounts for the Parish Council and the Community Minibus YTD to be circulated to Cllrs before the next meeting alongside the closing bank balances.	Clerk
51/25	Cllr Cruickshank to review/reconfigure RPC Neighbourhood plan when possible.	Cllr Cruickshank
52/25	Clerk to circulate recreation ground letter/contract from NNC to Councillors.	Clerk
52/25	Clerk to post a message in the Clerk Facebook forum to see which contractors other North Parish Councils are using for their recreation grounds.	Clerk
53/25	Clerk to update the website with the new reviewed policies.	Clerk
55/25	The Clerk to contact David Lock Associates to request more information regarding their proposal.	Clerk
55/25	Cllr Silverstone to speak with Anthony Shemilt regarding a potential planning concern.	Cllr Silverstone
56/25	Cllr M Brightman to calculate the costings for putting up an additional speed camera in the Parish.	Cllr M Brightman
57/25	Cllr Smith to arrange a village litter pick before our next Parish meeting.	Cllr Smith