

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Mike Brightman (Vice Chair), Joy Brightman, Sandy Cruickshank, Kevin Abraham, Suzi Smith, Peter Palmer, Bill Parker, and Mike Silverstone.

In attendance: Megan Ellis (Clerk/RFO) & NNC Councillor Jim Hakewill

01/26	Apologies Apologies received from RPC Councillors Peter Hooton and Yvonne Turner, and NNC Councillor Brian Benneyworth.
02/26	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.
03/26	Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2025 The minutes of the meeting dated 19.11.2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
04/26	Local Issues Updates a) Police: <ul style="list-style-type: none">There has been one crime reported within the Parish since November's meeting which was marked as a burglary. b) Mick George Landfill/Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cllr J Brightman has been in contact with Stephen and there is nothing new to report for Mick George. The site is running well, and no new waste is being accepted. The site is doing its best to keep the roads clean.Greg from the Environmental Agency is also happy with the running of the site. He hopes to inspect the site again in the next few weeks. Speed Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Please see Agenda item 10/26.
05/26	Public Open Forum None.
06/26	NNC Councillor Updates

	<p><u>Jim Hakewill:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Embankment (A508) on the A14 between junctions 2 and 3, coming from Birmingham going East is going to be closed from 8pm until 6am the following morning. The work on this carriageway is starting on the 26th of January and will be finishing at the end of April. There is a 20-mile diversion in place through the local villages as there is no other route. • 4.99% increase on 26/27 Council tax. • Cllr Hakewill is awaiting a response from NNC regarding the parked vehicles on the green space outside of the Desborough Road bungalows. • Cllr Brightman's report can be used by Cllr Hakewill for the Harworth warehousing dispute in Rothwell. • Cllr Hakewill is happy to help with our Community Speed Watch scheme if we need numbers. • The contact number needed for a Highways emergency is 01604 651074. • Action item 11/25 – No further updates. NT has moved back into his family home but is living upstairs. WNC have put in flood defences for the property. + • Action item 11/25 – No further updates on the Rural forums. Current issues will need to be raised in Town & Parish meetings.
07/26	<p>Finance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The accounts for the Parish Council and Community Minibus YTD will be circulated to Cllrs before the next meeting ACTION: Clerk. b. Payments listed in the payment schedule were reviewed in the meeting and approved. Permission for additional expenditure before January's meeting (reflected by pre-agreed cost schedule) was approved. c. The closing December bank balances agreed in the meeting and reviewed before the meeting: RPC account - £21,746.49 Minibus account - £6,586.13 Minibus Savings account – £48,235.58
08/26	<p>Community Minibus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minibus is running well. • The minibus is gaining good customer numbers from Rothwell Town Council. • Cllr M Brightman to meet with Rothwell Town Council to discuss the agreement further.
09/26	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Locale have sent over the Word documents to Cllr Cruickshank. • Cllr Cruickshank needs time to review the documents as there is a lot of paperwork involved.
10/26	<p>Northamptonshire Police Community Speed Watch Programme</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement for the scheme has been sent out. RPC need 6-10 volunteers for it to go ahead. • Everyone who takes part in the scheme will need to receive training. • RPC need to purchase the speed watch camera for £150. This cost was agreed in the meeting. Action: Clerk. • Cllr Parker has volunteered to be the Local co-ordinator for the scheme. • Clerk to put together a WhatsApp group with the volunteers. Action: Clerk.
11/26	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly inspections continue to take place. • A grant application has been made to the Northants Community Foundation (Windfarm Fund) for the pruning of trees within the recreation ground. The application will be presented to the Grant panel meeting on the 23rd of January. • Clerk unable to find any older correspondence/agreement for the recreation ground. • NNC have extended their maintenance responsibilities for the recreation ground. RPC now have until the 01/04/2027. • NNC require a response before 01/04/2026.
12/26	<p>Urban Highway Grass Cutting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Brightman has received grass cutting quotes from contractors for Rushton and Pipewell. • The quotes for Rushton: £400 per cut and Pipewell £320 per cut. • The Parish Council agree that NNC should continue with the grass cutting 3 times each year. • Cllr Cruickshank is happy for the grass verge in front of his house to be removed from NNCs' grass cutting schedule if there will be a cost saving. • The maps for Storefield have been requested from NNC.
13/26	<p>Community Governance Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors unanimously agreed that Rushton Parish Council should continue to operate without any changes. The Parish Council are happy with the Parish boundaries, Council size and structure and name and status of the Parish. The Parish Council also believes that all residents within the Parish have appropriate and fair representation. Clerk and Cllr M Brightman to write a response to the NNC elections team. <p>Action: Clerk & Cllr M Brightman.</p>
14/26	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following updates were provided before the meeting in Councillor Turners' absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NK/2023/0736 Lyndon Thomas Birchfield Springs. No decision as at 19/1/26 and all documentation removed from website. • NK/2025/007/0108 Rushton Hall. No decision as at 19/1/26. • NK/2025/0255 I M Kelly. No decision as at 19/1/26. • NK/2025/026 Prologis. No decision as at 19/1/26. • 25/00950/LDP L Harris, Rushton. Withdrawn 13/1/26 and will submit a

	<p>householder planning permission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NK/2025/0137 T White Bunkers Hill Farm. Conditions approved 21/1/26. • 25/01007 A Holt, Rushton. No decision as at 19/1/26. • 25/01317/NMA R Luddington, Pipewell. Approved 8/1/26.
15/26	<p>Funded Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates for the meeting. Clerk to remove this Agenda item. Action: Clerk
16/26	<p><u>Defibrillator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new battery is needed for the defibrillator. NCALC have sent out an email to offer defibrillator training with St Johns ambulance. Clerk to request further information. Action: Clerk. <p><u>Litter Pick:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A litter pick in the parish has been organised for the 15th of March. Cllr Smith to advertise. There is enough kit. <p><u>Tree Planting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Smith to contact David Payne. The Parish Council cannot think of anywhere for new trees to be planted. <p><u>School bus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Cruickshank mentioned a school bus recently blocked his driveway along with several others. This is a danger to the young children crossing the road. The school staff are still parking along Station Road. Clerk to re-send recent letter to the Chair of Governors. Action: Clerk. <p><u>Pipewell – Solar Farm</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A planning application has been put together for a new Solar Farm at the airfield. There is a public footpath which runs through this piece of land which has been promised to be maintained. There is a consultation to discuss plans on the 22nd of January.
17/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting closed at 8.29pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 18th March 2026 in the Village Hall.

ACTION SUMMARY – JANUARY 2026

Item	Action	Who?
51/25	Cllr Cruickshank to review/reconfigure RPC Neighbourhood plan when possible.	Cllr Cruickshank
62/25	Cllr Parker to question the position of the Desborough Road speed van with our Police rep Brandon Scott.	Cllr Parker
07/26	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

10/26	Clerk to purchase a new Speed Watch camera.	Clerk
10/26	Clerk to put together a WhatsApp group to include all volunteers for the Speed Watch scheme,	Clerk
13/26	Clerk and Cllr M Brightman to write a response to the NNC elections team to confirm Rushton Parish Council would like to continue without any changes – Community Governance Review.	Clerk/Cllr M Brightman
15/26	Clerk to remove the agenda item for 'Funded Projects.'	Clerk
16/26	Clerk to re-send the recent school parking letter to the Chair of Governors.	Clerk