

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance: Megan Ellis (Clerk/RFO) & 1 parishioner.

18/26	Apologies Apologies received from RPC Councillors Sandy Cruickshank, Kevin Abraham and Mike Silverstone and NNC Councillors Jim Hakewill and Brian Benneyworth.
19/26	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.
20/26	Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2026 The minutes of the meeting dated 21.01.2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
21/26	Local Issues Updates a) Police: <ul style="list-style-type: none">No update was provided before the meeting. Clerk to circulate an update once it has been received. 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 trying to keep the road tidy, however, they are no long litter picking along the whole road and there is currently a lot of fly tipping. Cllr Smith to report the fly tipping. Action: Cllr SmithGreg from the Environmental Agency is also happy with the running of the site. Speed Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Please see Agenda item 27/26. Clerk to enquire when the mobile speed van will next be at Desborough Road. Action: Clerk

22/26	<p>Public Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 parishioner attended the meeting to discuss the ongoing speeding issues in the village and suggested some remedial actions. The PC advised that there unfortunately isn't enough money for some of the suggestions. The Parish Council advised that a Road issues report has been created alongside a petition, both have been sent over to NNC. The parishioner also mentioned the high amounts of litter spotted near Oakley roundabout. He believes this is mainly caused by the Mick George skips not being netted. The Parish Council did advise that a village litter pick is taking place on Sunday 22nd March.
23/26	<p>NNC Councillor Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates provided.
24/26	<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 March's meeting (reflected by pre-agreed cost schedule) was approved. c. The closing February bank balances agreed in the meeting and reviewed before the meeting: RPC account - £20,232.39 Minibus account - £6,624.65 Minibus Savings account – £48,235.58
25/26	<p>Community Minibus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minibus insurance is due 31/03/2026. • Passenger surveys have been returned, and all the responses have been positive. These surveys are extremely helpful and can be used for future grant applications. • The temporary extension to the Friday Shopping trip (picking up passengers from Rothwell) continues. • Cllr M Brightman gave a special thanks to driver Martyn Owen for helping with the Rothwell residents.
26/26	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update provided.
27/26	<p>Northamptonshire Police Community Speed Watch Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPC have enough volunteers for the scheme to go ahead. • Cllr M Brightman has sent over potential camera placements to the Police and is awaiting a response. • Cllr M Brightman has sent over a couple of potential meeting dates to the volunteers to discuss the scheme further. • Clerk to put together a WhatsApp group with the volunteers. Action: Clerk.
28/26	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly inspections continue to take place. • Tree pruning will be finished 27/03/2026.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NNC will continue to take ownership of the recreation ground maintenance until 01/04/2027. A response needs to be sent to Liam at NNC before 01/04/2026. • RPC have decided to take on the maintenance costs of the recreation ground instead of paying NNC for the annual maintenance and grass cutting. Cllr M Brightman will draft a letter in response, and the Clerk will add the response onto letter head and send to NNC. Action: Cllr M Brightman and Clerk. • Clerk to set up a face-to-face meeting with Julie and Sophie (Surveyor) from NNC to discuss the renewal of the Pocket park management agreement. Clerk to e-mail the Pocket Park committee to invite to the meeting once agreed. Action: Clerk.
29/26	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) The following updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NK/2023/0736 Lyndon Thomas, Birchfield Springs. No decision as at 16/3/26 and all documentation removed from website. • NK/2025/007/0108 Rushton Hall. No decision as at 16/3/26. The decision date expired on 14/11/25 and no other date has been entered. • NK/2025/0255 I M Kelly. APPROVED, 30/1/26. • NK/2025/0261 Prologis. No decision as at 16/3/26. The decision date expired on 9/1/26 and no other date has been entered. • 25/01007 A Holt, Rushton. No decision as at 16/3/26. • 26/00346AGD Mr Vaughan, Upper lodge farm, Pipewell. Construction of steel gain barn. In progress 16/3/26. • 25/01898/FUL Sir John Lowther Scouts. Replacement of external welfare block. In progress 16/3/26. • 25/00928/ADV Miller and Carter. Internal and external lighting. In progress 16/3/26. • 25/02021/FUL West Lodge Farm, Pipewell road, Desborough. Solar Panels. In progress 16/3/26. <p>Cllr Turner to speak to NNC Cllr Kellett regarding the layout of the new website and to discuss our navigation concerns. Action: Cllr Turner.</p> <p>b) Cllr Turner has circulated the minutes from the extraordinary planning meeting held on 12/03/2026. Cllr Turner will look for a copy of the original Gladman Estates refusal issued in 2016. Action: Cllr Turner.</p>
30/26	<p>Road Issues Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hakewill introduced Cllr M Brightman to NNC contacts before sending the Road issues report was sent over. RPC are currently waiting for a response. • The petition gathered over 250 signatures, RPC are still waiting for the signatures from Pipewell. The petition will be handed to NNC by hand by Cllr M Brightman.
31/26	<p><u>Defibrillator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to rearrange the defibrillator training and to check with Cllr Abraham whether the defibrillators have infant pads. Action: Clerk. <p><u>Litter Pick:</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A litter pick in the parish has been organised for Sunday 22nd March. <u>Pipewell – Solar Farm</u> Clerk to request feedback from Cllr Silverstone from the recent Solar Farm meeting. Action: Clerk.
32/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting closed at 8.23pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 20th May 2026 in the Village Hall.

ACTION SUMMARY – MARCH 2026

Item	Action	Who?
51/25	Cllr Cruickshank to review/reconfigure RPC Neighbourhood plan when possible.	Cllr Cruickshank
21/26	Cllr Smith to report fly tipping along Oakley Road.	Cllr Smith
21/26	Clerk to enquire when the mobile speed van will next be at Desborough Road.	Clerk
24/26	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
27/26	Clerk to put together a WhatsApp group to include all volunteers for the Speed Watch scheme.	Clerk
28/26	Cllr M Brightman will draft a letter in response to NNC (Recreation ground maintenance), and the Clerk will add the response onto letter head and send to NNC.	Cllr M Brightman/Clerk
28/26	Clerk to set up a face-to-face meeting with NNC and the Pocket Park committee to discuss the upcoming Pocket Park agreement.	Clerk
29/26	Cllr Turner to speak to NNC Cllr Kellett regarding the layout of the new website and to discuss our navigation concerns.	Cllr Turner
29/26	Cllr Turner will look for a copy of the original Gladman Estates planning refusal issued in 2016.	Cllr Turner
31/26	Clerk to rearrange the defibrillator training and to check with Cllr Abrham whether the defibrillators have infant pads stocked.	Clerk
31/26	Clerk to request feedback from Cllr Silverstone from the recent Solar Farm meeting.	Clerk