

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL

1 Chapel Lane,
Rushton,
Kettering,
NN14 1RF



Clerk: Meg Ellis Phone: 07949448871
Email: clerk@rushtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.rushtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: Rushton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.10pm in the Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance: Megan Ellis (Clerk/RFO), NNC Councillor Jim Hakewill and 1 member of the public.

Annual Meeting

33/26	Peter Hooton was proposed and seconded as Chair and then voted for unanimously.
34/26	Mike Brightman was proposed and seconded as Vice Chair and then voted for unanimously.
35/26	The Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
36/26	• Cllr Cruickshank will continue his role as Police Liaison Officer. • Cllr Joy Brightman will continue her role as the primary liaison with the Wind Farm Fund.
37/26	• Planning: Cllr Turner (Lead), Cllr Cruickshank, Cllr Hooton, Cllr Abraham, and Cllr Parker. • Minibus: Cllr Mike Brightman (Lead) and Cllr Joy Brightman. • Recreation Ground: Cllrs Mike Brightman and Cllr Palmer. • Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Cruickshank.

Ordinary Meeting

38/26	Apologies Apologies received from Councillors Cruickshank, Abraham, and Turner
39/26	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.

40/26	Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2026 The minutes of the meeting dated 18.03.2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
41/26	Local Issues Updates a) Police: No update provided to the Clerk before the meeting. Clerk to follow up and provide an update to the Councillors once received. Action: Clerk. b) Mick George Landfill/Environment update: Stephen is happy with how the site is running, no issues. Fly tipping close to the site has been reported and dealt with by NNC. c) Speed Issues: The Mobile Police speed van came to Desborough Road in April. This item is to be removed from the next agenda. Action: Clerk.
42/26	Public Open Forum • The parishioner in attendance discussed his personal situation with the traffic in the village. He is seriously concerned about the speeding traffic and volume of traffic. Cars are also parking in dangerous areas and blocking driveways. He has video evidence and photographic evidence of a car blocking his driveway. He has contacted NNC Councillor Jim Hakewill and requested an update on the Highways report that Cllr Mike Brightman wrote. • Cllr M Brightman submitted the highways report, and it was presented to Chris McGiffen from NNC in the village. 272 parishioners signed the petition. NNC have stated that there is no budget to complete the larger works highlighted in our report, but we have been advised to tackle smaller bits at a time i.e. reducing the speed limit through the village. The Parish Council will update the residents regularly when possible. Cllr M Brightman has asked for the photo/video evidence from the parishioner in attendance. • The Parish Council advised that residents can and should escalate the issues they have with the traffic to NNC themselves.
43/26	NNC Councillor Updates <u>Jim Hakewill:</u> • NNC is continuously spending more money than what it is earning. • 2 residents along Pullmans Close have enquired about incorporating a piece of land in between their properties as it is not currently being maintained by the developer. This piece of land was earmarked as a walkway between Pullmans Close and Midland Cottages. Clerk will make another attempt to contact the developer regarding this query. Action: Clerk. • Cllr Hakewill discussed the new 10-year lease option offered to RPC for the Pocket park by NNC. Cllr Hakewill is going to push back and request a longer lease agreement in his next meeting with Sophie and Julie from NNC. Action: Cllr Hakewill. • The allotments in the village are not being looked after by NNC, they are currently overgrown. Some of the allotment plots have been let out so some plots are not being looked after. Cllr Hakewill will investigate this

	with NNC. Action: Cllr Hakewill.
44/26	Finance - The accounts for the Parish Council and Community Minibus YTD will be circulated to Cllrs before the next meeting ACTION: Clerk - Payments listed in the payment schedule were reviewed in the meeting and approved. Permission for additional expenditure before Mays meeting (reflected by pre-agreed cost schedule) was approved. - Community Heartbeat infant defibrillator pads - Rushton Community Group printing - RPC insurance from July 2026 (prior approval) - Internal audit (prior approval) - The closing April bank balances agreed in the meeting: - RPC account - £28,294.91 - Minibus account - £5,669.99 - Minibus Savings account - £48,484.36
45/26	Audit The following were reviewed and approved where necessary: - The Internal Auditor Reports - Section 1: Annual Governance Statement - Section 2: Accounting Statement - Payments that exceeded £100 - Explanation of variances Action: Clerk
46/26	Community Minibus - Cllr M Brightman has provided a report for the Community Minibus which can be found on the Parish website. - The Parish Council have yet to receive confirmation regarding the subsidy amount for 2026/27. - The Parish Council must carefully review and decide on the long-term sustainability of the Rushton Community Minibus Service. Although the minibus is now 17 years old and has been well looked after, the number of advisories noted on recent MOT certificates is increasing. The Council should consider contingency plans for the operation of the minibus service should the current Coordinator (currently spending 8-10 hours each week on administration) become unavailable or decide not to continue in the role. Cllr M Brightman to set up a meeting to discuss the future of the minibus in more detail. Action: Cllr M Brightman.
47/26	Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Cruickshank was unable to attend the meeting, and no update was provided before the meeting.
48/26	Recreation Ground Cllr M Brightman has provided a report for the Recreation Ground which can be found on the Parish website.

	• Weekly inspections continue to take place. • There is a section of rot around one of the fixing bolts on the small play unit's platform and the Spinner unit has been vandalised, with many cuts made into the seat using a sharp knife. Both incidents have been reported to NNC Parks for inspection and appropriate repairs. • Work has been completed to level and raise the ground beneath both goalposts and at the slide landing areas. • Pruning of several large trees and trimming of the perimeter hedges within the recreation ground have now been completed. This work was funded by NCF Grant from The New Albion Windfarm. • On Saturday 25th April, five volunteers joined together in the recreation ground and thoroughly cleaned all equipment and enjoyed a cup of tea and a friendly chat afterwards. The next Saturday morning working party is scheduled for 23rd May.
49/26	The following documents were reviewed, adopted and approved a) Standing orders b) Financial Regulations – Cllr Parker has volunteered to check all bank reconciliations before each meeting. c) Risk assessment d) Asset Register e) Insurance Cover (Renewal due in July – Action: Clerk) f) Marketing policy g) Health and Safety policy Clerk to add the newly adopted Marketing policy and Health and Safety policy onto the website. Action: Clerk. Clerk to send over the newly adopted Marketing policy and Health and Safety policy to Sophie and Julie from NNC. Action: Clerk. Clerk to update the current risk assessment in line with the internal auditors' comments. Action: Clerk.
50/26	Planning The following updates were provided before the meeting: • NK/2023/0736 Lyndon Thomas Birchfield Springs. No decision as at 16/05/26. • NK/2025/007/0108 Rushton Hall. No decision as at 16/05/26. Decision date expired 14/11/25 and no other date entered. • NK/2025/0079 Pipewell hall entrance lodge fireplace. APPROVED 08/05/26. • 25/00745TCA The barn Pipewell. No decision as of 16/05/26. • NK/2025/0261 Prologis. No decision as at 16/05/26. Decision date extended 04/06/26. • 25/01007 A Holt. Rushton. APPROVED 24/4/26. • 25/011701/TCA Mr McEvan. Station road. No decision as of 16/05/26. • 25/01164/TCA Mr R Baker. Station road. No decision as of 16/05/26. • 26/00346AGD Mr Vaughan Upper lodge farm Pipewell. Construction of steel gain barn. In progress 16/05/26. • 25/01898/FUL Sir John Lowther Scouts. Replacement of external welfare block. In progress 16/05/26.

	• 25/00928/ADV Miller and Carter. Internal and external lighting. In progress 16/05/26. • 25/02021/FUL West Lodge Farm Pipewell road Desborough. Solar Panels in progress 16/03/26. ALL PAPERWORK GONE FROM PLANNING SITE. • 26/00861/HFUL Pipewell Hall repair gate piers after road traffic accident. No decision as of 26/05/26. • 26/00738/FUL Stable block north of station road. In progress 16/05/26. • 25/00917. 3 Woodyard Close. Ground floor extension. APPROVED 08/05/26
51/26	The appointment of a new Clerk • The current Clerk has resigned and has agreed to work a 4-month notice period (up until 25th August). • The vacancy has been advertised in the Village Triangle and on the NCALC website. • There have not been any applications yet, but an individual has shown interest in the role. • The Parish Council is in full agreement that a new Clerk should be hired. The job description will remain the same for the new Clerk as will the pay scale. Cllr Hooton and Cllr M Brightman will conduct interviews. • In the meeting, Cllr Hooton and Cllr M Brightman were given devolved authority to select and appoint a new Clerk.
52/26	Road Issues report • Cllr M Brightman has sent over the report to NNC, and the petition was delivered to Chris McGiffen in the village. • NNC have stated there is no money for the larger works mention in the report, however, the village should try and start pushing smaller requests through. • Cllr M Brightman has created a Strategy report for the Highways issues which will be sent across to all Parish Councillors. Feedback on the report is required from Councillors. • Regular updates will be sent out to the parishioners.
53/26	The Pocket Park • The Parish Council would like to take ownership of the pocket park through a long-term lease agreement. NNC have offered a 10-year Management Agreement. The Parish Council is happy with this offer but would prefer a longer lease agreement. All Councillors present in the meeting agreed that a longer lease would be a superior option.
54/26	Vacancy for Pipewell • Mike Silverstone has resigned as the Parish Councillor for Pipewell. • The Clerk has removed Mike's contact details from the website, and his e-mail address has been closed. • The Clerk has sent over Mike's resignation to the elections team at NNC and received a Statutory notice which has been placed on the Parish Council website and will be included on the notice boards.

55/26	Further matters • None.
56/26	The meeting closed at 9.10pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 15th July 2026 in the Village Hall.

ACTION SUMMARY – May 2026

Item	Action	Who?
41/26	Clerk to follow up and provide an update to the Councillors once received.	Clerk
41/26	Clerk to remove speed issues from the agenda.	Clerk
43/26	Clerk to make another attempt to contact the developer regarding the Pullmans Close query.	Clerk
43/26	Cllr Hakewill to request a longer lease agreement for the Pocket Park in his next meeting with Sophie and Julie from NNC.	Cllr Hakewill
43/26	Cllr Hakewill to investigate the empty allotment plots with NNC.	Cllr Hakewill
44/26	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
45/26	Clerk to scan signed paperwork over to the external auditors before 01/07/26.	Clerk
46/26	Cllr M Brightman to set up a meeting to discuss the future of the minibus in more detail.	Cllr M Brightman
49/26	Clerk to re-new Parish Council insurance commencing July 2026.	Clerk
49/26	Clerk to add the newly adopted Marketing policy and Health and Safety policy onto the website.	Clerk
49/26	Clerk to send over the newly adopted Marketing policy and Health and Safety policy to Sophie and Julie from NNC.	Clerk
49/26	Clerk to update the current risk assessment in line with the internal auditors' comments.	Clerk