

NETTLEBED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Nettlebed Parish Council at
Nettlebed Village Club, High Street, Nettlebed on
Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Councillors

Present: Chair: James Leach (JL)
Councillors: David Camburn (DC), Geoff Bond (GB), Ondrej Žacko (OZ)
Paul Overment (PO), Andy Bryan (AB), Steve Marley (SM)

In attendance: Parish Clerk: Jo Pugh (JP)
SODC: Cllr. Jo Robb

Also present: 0 members of the public

MINUTES

258/25 **To receive and accept apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Amanda Foister

259/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensations**

i. **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda**

There were none

260/25 **To facilitate public participation with regards to items on the agenda**

It should be noted that the time allocated for the public session is a total of 10 minutes for all those wishing to speak.

There were no members of the public.

261/25 **To receive reports from District Councillor**

Cllr Jo Robb highlighted the following in the SODC Report • SODC delivered a balanced budget for 2025-26 • £10m of funding will be released from reserves for the purchase of more social housing to match the £10m committed from the government's Local Authority Housing Fund • The budget included continued funding for the well-used, and much needed Community Hub • The Council continue to fund an ongoing programme to improve Leisure Centres • The Councillor Grant budget has increased to £7,500 per councillor the Grants Team are hosting an information evening on 20th March • see full report on the NPC website.

262/25 **To receive reports from County Councillor**

Cllr Freddie van Mierlo was not in attendance, the February Focus on Parishes has been circulated and is available on the NPC website.

263/25 **To approve the Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th February 2025

The Council **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4th February be accepted as a true record.

264/25 **Update on progress from the Minutes** – the Clerk / Chair to report on progress of outstanding items which do not require further decision.

•The speed camera, which was struck, has been reported again on FixMyStreet •Street Lamps on Priest Hill, Christopher Marks, OCC has advised that vegetation around column 6 will be cleared, but column 5 is on private land. **Status:** awaiting further update • Mud on path by Priest Hill – OCC has reported to Biffa • A further gully (not previously logged) on Priest Hill will be cleared within 28 days. •20 mph repeater signs at The Green have been replaced.

265/25 **Affordable housing**

Three Councillors took part in an informal discussion with a resident regarding affordable housing and the potential pros and cons of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village, particularly in light of the new government's increased housing targets. JL has contacted Tom Wyatt, Principal Planning Officer at SODC, to request an update on any proposed amendments to the draft Local Plan 2041 concerning Nettlebed and is awaiting a response. This item will remain on the agenda for next month.

266/25 **Crocker End Green Common**

Mud and vegetation encroaching onto the highway along Old Camp Road and fly-tipping near the OCC furniture store has been reported on FixMyStreet. **Annual Report:** The Climate Change Team at SODC provided positive and constructive feedback, to be discussed at the CEGCMC meeting on 11th March. Key points include: Bramble clearing took place in February 2024, outside the nesting season • Ongoing efforts regarding mowing and clippings • Committee activities. **Sonning Common Green Gym (SCGG):** A session was held on 22nd February, during which brambles were cleared, and cut branches were moved under the Ash trees. It is hoped that the next session will be in July, however SCGG have several other priorities. **Byelaw Posts:** Installed, with signage to follow as soon as possible.

267/25 **Website refresh – update**

Councillor Emails: Nearly all Councillors have set up new .gov.uk email addresses. **Website Updates:** The Clerk will continue populating the website and inform major contacts and subscriptions of the new email addresses and website. **File Transfer:** Councillors **RESOLVED** to engage Massimo Nicolossi to assist with transferring/downloading files from the existing website. **Action:** Clerk to proceed with the changeover from .org.uk to .gov.uk

268/25 **Annual Parish Meeting (APM) format**

RESOLVED: The format of the APM on 20th May will remain the same as the previous year. **Action:** Clerk to email local groups and individuals, inviting them to submit a report or speak. **RESOLVED:** A maximum budget of £100 is allocated for refreshments.

269/25 **Governance and Consultations**

i. Have your say on our Housing Policy (SODC)

RESOLVED: Cllr. David Camburn elected to complete the consultation on behalf of NPC.

270/25 **Finance**

i. To receive the Finance Report

Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to accept the Financial Report which had been previously circulated and **RESOLVED** to accept the VAT Reclaim of £1,006.21 from 1.9.24-31.01.25 **Action:** Clerk to submit VAT reclaim.

As at 28th February (online download), the Accounts stood at:

Bank Transactions (online download)

	28 th February
Barclays Community Account	£990.27
Barclays Premium Account	£43,657.45
Total Holdings	£48,575.66

INCOME RECEIVED – FEBRUARY 2025

Date of Receipt	Payment Method	Ref	Payer	Current Acc	Bus Acc
-	-	-	-	-	-

PAYMENTS MADE – FEBRUARY 2025

Date of Payment	Payment Method	Ref	Payee/Description	Current Acc	Bus Acc
05.02.25	BACS	131b	LGPS 6 Dec to 5 Jan month 9 PAYE 04.02.25	£59.20	
05.02.25	BACS	141	The Village Club - hall hire	£200.00	
05.02.25	BACS	142	Nettlebed Estate - allotment rent	£3.45	
05.02.25	BACS	143	NPC Grant awarded to St Bartholomew's PCC	£500.00	
24.02.25	BACS	145	HMRC 6 Jan to 5 Feb month 10 PAYE 18.02	£195.33	
24.02.25	BACS	146	LGPS 6 Jan to 5 Feb month 10 PAYE 18.02	£392.49	
05.02.25	BACS	150	TLGO – Crocker End Common maintenance	£975.00	
26.02.25	BACS	161	Nettlebed and District Common Conservators Grant	£500.00	
03.02.25	SO	134	Function 28 - Feb	£24.00	
28.02.25	SO	144	Salary - Feb - month 11 - due 28.02	£1,112.38 £1,065.25	
17.02.25	DD	147	iD Mobile Feb - due 17.02	£6.00	
30.01.25	DD	149	Castle Water 01.12.24-31.01.24 due 30.01	£7.78	
21.02.25	DD	158	Castle Water 01.01.25-31.01.25 due 21.02	£6.67	

TRANSFERS MADE – FEBRUARY 2025

Date of Payment	Payment Method	Ref	Payee/Description	Current Acc	Bus Acc
19.02.25	TRF	153	Transfer Barclays Premium to Business acc	£3,000.00	£3,000.00

RESOLVED: Following a review, the Council agreed to accept the finance report.

The Council noted that the Standing Order for the Clerk's Feb Salary has been amended as per the figures provided by the Payroll provider (was £1112,38, revised figure: £1,065.25)

- ii. To acknowledge scrutiny and acceptance of the previously circulated bank statement

Bank Statements

10th February
Community Account Balance £156.56

10th February
Business Premium Account Balance £46,657.45

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to accept the bank statements and noted that the interest rate on the Business Premium Account will be reduced by 0.05% to 1.35% from 11 March 2025.

iii. Invoices for Payment – to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the schedule below:

05.03.25	BACS	151	HMRC 6 Feb to 5 March month 11 PAYE 18.03	£60.85
05.03.25	BACS	152	LGPS 6 Feb to 5 March month 11 PAYE 18.02	£302.57
05.03.25	TRF	153	Transfer Barclays Premium to Business acc	3,000.00
28.03.25	SO	154	Salary - March - month 12 - due 28.03	£1,065.25
05.03.25	BACS	155	The Landscape Group Oxford - 1999 Playarea	£351.78
05.03.25	BACS	156	Clerk's Expenses (mileage)	£11.70
17.03.25	DD	157	iD Mobile March - due 17.03	£6.00
03.03.25	SO	148	Function 28 - March	£24.00
05.03.25	BACS	159	OALC Membership 01.04.25-31.03.26	£240.00
05.03.25	BACS	160	The Village Club - hall hire	£200.00
05.03.25	BACS	162	Massimo Nicolosi - IT Support	£155.00
05.03.25	BACS	164	TLGO – Crocker End Byelaw Post installation	£164.70
05.03.25	BACS	165	TLGO – Crocker End Byelaw Posts	£159.29
05.03.25	BACS	166	Shield Maintenance Group – dog waste	£12.98
30.03.25	BACS	167	Higgs & Co Printers	£405.60
21.03.25	DD	169	Castle Water 01.02.25-28.02.25	Variable DD est. £6.67

The Council noted that Shield Maintenance Group invoice was not on the published agenda. **RESOLVED:** The Council agreed to pay £405.60 for the CEGC byelaw graphics, noting that the cost may increase by approximately £20 if an additional image is required. The Council approved the invoices itemised above, with Cllr James Leach authorising all BACS payments as listed. The Council also noted the Castle Water tariff increase from April 2025, averaging over 20%.

271/25 **Grants** – to consider any grant applications received
No applications received

272/25 **Training** – to consider any further training offered by OALC, NALC and SLCC
A list of training courses/events available has been sent to the Council • The Clerk attended an SLCC meeting on 27th Feb, Experienced Clerk refresher course on 4th March.

273/25 **Planning**

i. **Planning Applications** – to consider all recent applications received from SODC

detailed below and any other planning applications submitted and published on the SODC planning portal between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting.

[P25/S0562/HH](#) 25 Crocker End Nettlebed Henley-on-Thames Oxfordshire RG9 5BJ
Demolition of existing lean to conservatory and construction of two storey rear infill extension including roof adjustments and single storey side glazed lean to extension.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council have No Objections to this application.

Vote: unanimous

[P25/S0362/DIS](#) Manor Farm South High Street Nettlebed RG9 5DA
Discharge of condition 8 (Landscape and Ecology Management Plan) on planning application P23/S3533/FUL (Change of use and extension of existing building to allow for expansion of existing creamery business and change of use of Dutch barn to cafe in association with creamery (part retrospective). Provision of new parking area, landscaping and other works). No response required.

ii. To note notices of Planning Decisions

There were none.

274/25 Project Gigaclear – update

AB liaising with Gigaband to find a solution to enable the roll-out in Crocker End.

275/25 Village Matters

i. Annual Litter Pick – update

The Annual Litter Pick will take place on 29th March, meeting at the Community Car Park at 10am • The White Hart will provide tea and coffee to volunteers from 12.00 pm • The Henley Standard will be present. **RESOLVED** Councillors approved the purchase of two litter pickers, hoops, and hi-vis jackets for £31.21 to be loaned to residents wishing to participate in litter picking.

ii. Allotment update

It has been reported that deer are a problem in the allotment and cyclists have damaged the footpath. **Action:** JP to arrange a meeting with Rosemary Passmore and DC to review vehicle access, inspect the perimeter fencing, assess the need for gates at both ends, and identify potential improvements to encourage plot uptake. There are 6.5 vacant plots, whereas Henley and Watlington have waiting lists.

iii. Play area – update

TLGO has completed the commissioned works. DC inspected the work and confirmed it meets the required standard. **RESOLVED:** Payment approved - £351.78

iv. The Green

Patrick Heathcoat Amory, Chairman, Nettlebed District Commons Conservators and JL have placed logs around the damaged section of The Green to prevent vehicles cutting across the verge • The knocked-over post has been re-installed by TLGO **RESOLVED:** Payment approved. Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree that the verge is reinstated using topsoil and re-seeding at a maximum cost of £200.

v. Traffic calming – update

The traffic surveys have been booked for 29.09.2025 – collection on 07.10.25. Funding has been allocated in 2025-2026 budget.

vi. Village Maintenance / Grass Cutting

The next deep cleanse is scheduled for 22-23 December 2025.

- 276/25 Nettlebed District Commons Conservators (NDCC) – update JL
An oak tree to Commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III has been planted on The Green. Sincere thanks to David, Margaret, Michael, and Sam Butler, as well as Patrick Amory, for providing the sapling. JL assisted with the planting.
- 277/25 Nettlebed School & Community Centre (NSCC) and Joint Use Committee (JUC)
Awaiting update – AF not present at the meeting.
- 278/25 Correspondence – to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required
- OCC – Small Business Sustainability Workshop
 - Resident – Think Before You Park (Elephant)
 - OCC – Subsidised bus services: Summary of changes from 30 March 2025
 - OCC Response following the Formal Consultation on the Proposal by OCC to Designate Certain Streets as Traffic-Sensitive
 - Resident – Satellite Dishes and Planning Permission
 - Nettlebed Stinger Advertising – Signage Policy sent.
- 279/25 Chair’s and Clerk’s Report
Councillor Roles: The Chair asked Councillors to consider roles for May, including Chair and Vice-Chair, Finance Group, Allotments, Play Area, CEGCMC, Joint Use Committee, Transport Representative, and Communications/Social Media.
- 280/25 Items for the next agenda
None.

2025 Full Council Meetings:

4th Feb, 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, 20th May (Annual Parish Meeting), 3rd June,
1st July, 2nd September, 7th Oct, 4th Nov, 6th Jan 2026, 3rd Feb, 3rd March