

Deene and Deenethorpe Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting
held on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Hannah Chambers (Chair), Simon Hickling, Cllr Linda Watling, Jo Turner, Ian Bridden

In attendance: Clerk & RFO Joe Roberts

16.03.111	Welcome The Deputy Chair opened the meeting following the resignation of the Chair.
16.03.112	Requests for Dispensation There were no requests for dispensations
16.03.113	Deceleration of Interests (Agenda items) Cllr Simon Hickling recorded a deceleration of interest with the Deene Estate
16.03.114	Public Forum No members of the public were present
16.03.115	Updates from North Northamptonshire Councillors North Northamptonshire Councillors were unable to attend the meeting due to a clash of meetings.
116.03.116	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr E McDonald and Cllr B O'Brian of North Northamptonshire Council
16.03.117	Minutes of previous meeting It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 th January 2026
16.03.118	Finance Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It was RESOLVED to approve the payments listed in Addendum A b) Payments and receipts were noted January and February c) Bank Balances were noted as at 28/02/2026, Current Account balance was £13,288.11 and Savings Account balance was £21,770.28 d) Payment to HMRC was deferred to the following meeting e) Verbal update was given on bank access
16.03.119	Licensing matters Cllr Watling and the Clerk gave a detailed update on Licence Application 25/02091/LAPNEW for the Ground Rules Festival at the grounds of Deene Park, Deene, NN17 3EW. Further information on the application and what was approved by North Northamptonshire Council can be found online
16.03.120	Planning Matters No updates on the open planning applications.
16.03.121	Highways and Village Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It was RESOLVED to approve the recommendation from Cllr Watling and Cllr Turner to appoint Deene Estate as the grass cutting contractor for 2026/27. The total cost of the grass cutting contract will be £7,650.

	<p>b) It was RESOLVED to approve additional litter picking by Deene Estate, outside the scope of the Grass Cutting Contract, at a charge of £25 per hour.</p> <p>c) A verbal update was given on the Benefield Road repairs, and further concerns were raised regarding the condition of Deene Village Road.</p> <p>d) It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to contact neighbouring local councils to determine whether they were experiencing similar issues and concerns, and to explore whether joint action could be taken to ensure North Northamptonshire Council addressed the matter. It was also agreed that speeding along the A43 had not improved.</p> <p>e) Cllr Hicklin informed the Council that additional trees would be beneficial for the Community Orchard. The Clerk agreed to contact North Northamptonshire Council to enquire whether any further trees were available.</p>
16.03.122	<p>Official reports</p> <p>The Clerk reported on the correspondence received and confirmed that email correspondence would continue to be circulated to Councillors as it is received.</p>
16.03.123	<p>North Northamptonshire Rural Grants</p> <p>It was agreed that the Council remained interested in pursuing the use of the grants, and the Clerk would seek guidance from the North Northamptonshire Council Planning Department as to whether planning permission would be required.</p>
16.03.124	<p>Meeting dates</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to move meetings to the third Tuesday of the month.</p>
16.03.125	<p>Community Governance Review</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to formally adopt the position that Deene and Deenethorpe Parish Council believes that Prior Hall should be formed under its own Parish Council.</p>
16.03.126	<p>Clerk Equipment</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would continue to use their personal laptop, and options for backing up the saved information would be explored.</p>
16.03.127	<p>Tresham Village Update</p> <p>A brief update was given on Tresham village, and it was agreed that further updates would be provided at future meetings. It was also agreed that this would become a standing agenda item.</p>
16.03.128	<p>Formation of Staffing Committee</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to form a Staffing Working Group instead of a formal Staffing Committee. The Working Group will meet three times a year and will comprise Cllr Chambers, Cllr Turner, Cllr Watling and Cllr Hickling. The Working Group will also have the flexibility to meet virtually if all members agree.</p>
16.03.129	<p>Meeting closed at 9:05</p>