

NORTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Thursday 19 th March 2026	Time:	6:30 pm
Venue:	Village Hall, Northington		
Present:	Juliet Blanshard	Chair	
	Rhona Hatchley		
	David Corney		
	Wendy Simson	Clerk	
Apologies:	Andy Bason		
	Gail Taylor		
	Russell Gordon-Smith	District Councillor	
	Margot Power	District Councillor	
	Claire Pinnger	District Councillor	
	Jackie Porter	County Councillor	

Welcome and apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Bason and Cllr Taylor, along with the District and County Councillors.

Declaration of Pecuniary & Personal Interests to note any conflict with any item on the agenda.

None were declared.

Any additional agenda items

The Chair asked if there were any additional agenda items for the meeting, none were suggested.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Councillors reviewed minutes for the meeting on 22nd January 2026 and agreed the minutes as a true representation of the meeting. The Chair proposed that the minutes be formally accepted, Cllr Hatchley seconded this, the minutes were approved.

Cllr Hatchley informed the Council that they now have access to the website, the Clerk agreed to send across the missing minutes as pdfs so they can be added. Cllr Hatchley agreed to add the agenda and papers when circulated prior to a meeting.

Action: Clerk to send minutes to Cllr Hatchley.

Matters arising from the last meeting.

Village Litter Pick

Cllr Corney reported that the litter pick had gone very well. All areas were allocated to families who completed the pick when they were able, this meant that everyone didn't meet at the Village Hall for coffee at the same time which was a shame.

The area between the Conways depot and Micheldever Woods was not included, there seemed to be some confusion if this is within the Parish boundary.

Road Maintenance

The Chair reported that the huge pot hole by Micheldever Woods has been repaired but none of the potholes in the vicinity have been treated. Cllr Coney suggested that the Highways Team had been in the area as other issues in local villages had been fixed.

Cllr Hatchley reported a road sign which had been knocked down, this is also done through the Hampshire County Council website as part of the report it page.

Design for replacement Bench at vantage point by church.

The Chair reported that the original metalworker who was going to work on the bench is not able to help but has given the Chair contact details of someone else.

Clearing the area by the Church.

Cllr Corney informed the Council that he intends to clear the area by the bench at the church this weekend. Once completed Cllr Corney asked the Council to check and if any additional work is required to provide details.

District Councillors Reports

The Councillors reports were circulated to the Parish Council earlier in the month.

Financial Update

The Clerk detailed the payments to be made on the agenda, these are:

- Meeting room hire - £30
- Clerk's salary (January to March 2026) - £300
- Hampshire County Council invoice for siting of Speed Indication Device - £300

Councillors approved all these payments.

Village Hall Update

Cllr Hatchley received the following update from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee:

The outdoor safe play area suitable for early years children is now signed off and paid for. The Rural Prosperity Fund grant has enabled its creation through Winchester City Council. We are delighted with the outcome.

The Spring, however, has been so wet that being able to get the play area to a point where it can begin to be used has been delayed. The turf laid down has at last had its first cut and the surrounding areas seeded. It should all be fit for use after the Easter holidays, but for now is still too soft.

There will be an opening ceremony (which we have had to reschedule) which will now be around the 2nd week in May. The Mayor had been approached, is keen to officiate even at a future date and see the project fulfilled. One of his key charities is Home Start, so he has a real interest in Early Years education in all its forms.

Once everything is decided and confirmed I will let you and the NPC have the details.

Social Events:

- 1. Two coffee mornings have taken place so far since the start of 2026 - One associated with a dog walk and one with the Village litter pick.*
- 2. A Safari Supper will be held on Sat May 9th.*
- 3. A BBQ and Summer sporting activities on Sat 18th July.*
- 4. Harvest event in Oct (exact date to be decided)*
- 5. Christmas Drinks and children's party on Sunday Dec 6th.*

A new Smart Key lock box system will be trialled over the next couple of months which should improve the hall's security.

We now have an official glass box and the food waste caddies for recycling.

We have invested in a Square terminal to help with payments in person at events.

A big thank you to Andy Bason and Sam for cutting the hall's roadside hedges recently.

The Roof:

We are holding a meeting soon with the roof project management team to draw up the job specifications before we go out to tender. One particular snaggle that the committee cannot agree on is the potential removal of the redundant chimney (which some feel is precarious and a potential danger in future years) and the roof lantern (iconic but non-functioning and also very corroded in places).

Do you as the council have any views or advice on both of these? It may come down to a balancing of 'nice to have' as opposed to 'need to have' and the costs involved. However, it would be good to have your views.

The Councillors agreed that the Parish Council feedback was that the Village Hall Committee should look to repair both the chimney and lantern as both form part of the heritage of the building. If the reason for not including this work is due to costs then the Councillors suggested that quotes for the best workmanship be collected and if there is not sufficient CIL funding available from WCC then Heritage funding may be available.

The Council suggests that the Village Hall Committee should ask the residents at the AGM in May. The date of the Village Hall AGM and Annual Parish Meeting was discussed. The Village Hall has suggested 12th, 14th, 19th or 21st May. The Councillors agreed that they could all manage 21st May.

Action: Clerk to message Cllr Taylor and Cllr Bason before confirming with Chair of Village Hall Committee.

Planning applications & related matters

The Parish Council have had two planning applications since the last meeting.

Lawn Cottage (26/00286/HOU) – Demolition of existing garages and outbuildings and the construction of new garages and ancillary building and associated works. [This application has been withdrawn.](#)

Swarraton Farm House (26/00311/FUL) – Change of use from agricultural grain store building to equestrian riding arena. [Councillors agreed that there were no objections to this application.](#)

Lengthsman

The Lengthsman Scheme has been approved for another 2 years. The Clerk has contacted RP Gardening Services who support the Candover Cluster to provide dates as soon as possible.

Policy Updates

Cllr Hatchley had reviewed the policies and has a few notes to circulate.

It was agreed that each policy should have a publication date and then dates of updates to ensure they are tracked.

General Correspondence

Grant application from Citizen's Advice

The Clerk informed the Council that an application has been received from Citizen's Advice. Councillors agreed that the work CAB do helps a huge variety of people including residents in the valley. It was agreed that £250 be given from the One-Off Grant fund.

Website update

Cllr Hatchley has agreed to update all the documents on the Parish Council website.

The Clerk informed Councillors that she has asked for an invoice for the domain name, etc, the last time an invoice was received was 2022.

Date of the next meeting

Proposed dates of 2026 meeting.

- Date tbc with Village Hall Committee for May
- Thursday 16th July
- Thursday 17th September
- Thursday 19th November

Councillor agreed these dates.

The meeting ended at 7:40pm