

Etton Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Etton Parish Council held on **Wednesday 25th February 2026** starting 7.00pm at The Golden Pheasant, Main Road, Etton, Peterborough, PE6 9DA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Fred Morton (Chair), Anne Curwen (Vice-Chair), Steve Watson and Martin Brook.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk Elinor Beesley (attending remotely).

PUBLIC FORUM: Seven members of the public were present in relation to item 26.20.3 regarding the potential installation of a village flagpole.

The Chair invited Cllr Brook to provide an update on actions and information gathered to date. Information has been obtained from Openreach and National Grid regarding underground utilities and required distances from overhead cables. This information, together with consideration of tree canopies and root protection areas, has indicated a single potential installation location, which has been plotted on a map for inclusion in the resident consultation.

A Commons Consent application would be required, alongside a planning pre-determination application and/or a planning application. The site is within the conservation area, which would be taken into consideration as part of any planning application. The owners of the adjacent property had been consulted and had indicated that they are not supportive of the proposal.

Residents asked questions regarding the proposed location and the purpose of the flagpole. Members explained that alternative locations were not feasible due to tree canopies and root protection areas. Residents expressed a range of views regarding the necessity of a flagpole and the types of flags that might be flown.

The Chair reported that pledges had been made towards funding the project and invited the resident who had previously indicated that donations from residents would fund the purchase, installation and maintenance of a flagpole to confirm their intention. The resident confirmed that it was the intention of a group of residents that these costs would be fully funded by donations and that there would be no cost to the Parish Council. The Chair explained that such funding would need to be confirmed and secured prior to expenditure due to the Council's financial position and limitations in funding the project.

A resident queried why the consultation had not been sent out at an earlier stage in the process. The Chair explained that, prior to establishing where any potential flagpole could be installed on the Green and obtaining information about land ownership and potential costs, EPC did not have enough information to be able to adequately explain the situation to residents and ask their views.

26.14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None.

26.15 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**, held on Wednesday 21st January 2026: it was **resolved** to approve the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.

26.16 **REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS or OTHER INVITED SPEAKERS:** None.

26.17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** No declarations of interest were received and no written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests were granted.

26.18 **GOVERNANCE:**

18.1 *To note purchases made under delegated powers:* None.

26.19 **PLANNING:**

19.1 *To note applications and decisions received after the publication of the agenda:* None.

26.20 **VILLAGE AMENITIES AND MAINTENANCE:**

- 20.1 Members reviewed outstanding maintenance and Councillors' actions: None that are not addressed elsewhere.
- 20.2 Members received and considered further information obtained regarding the possibility of installing a flagpole on the Village Green including:
 - a) The implication of overhead and underground cables and trees on the green and the identified potential location: there appears to be only one potential location which has been marked on a map, after considering clearance distances. Trees officer would be consulted at planning application stage.
 - b) Land registration and ownership: The Clerk has received confirmation that the land is Registered Commons land and there is no record of an owner at Land Registry or the Commons Register; for planning and Common Consent applications, EPC would be required to demonstrate that every effort had been made to attempt to find the owner through notices on site and in the main local paper.
 - c) Conservation area considerations, including the Appraisal Report and Management Plan: a heritage statement would be required to accompany any planning application.
 - d) Planning and Commons Consent applications requirements: The applications could be made separately or simultaneously; it is understood that there is no fee for a Commons consent application. For planning the conservation officer and trees officer would be consulted. Natural England, Historic England, Open Spaces Society and others are required to be sent notices.
 - e) Known and potential costs: Estimates for installation and flagpole, planning application have been obtained and are included on the consultation.
- 20.3 It was **resolved** to update the previously approved consultation with the newly obtained information and that the consultation period will run from Wednesday 4th March 2026 to Thursday 26th March 2026. It was agreed that members will print and deliver the questionnaires to households and that an extraordinary meeting will be held on Thursday 26th March 2026 in order to consider the consultation results alongside all relevant information, and to determine whether the flagpole proposal should be pursued. It was agreed that no further information is required at this stage. **ACTION – Members** to arrange printing and delivery of the questionnaires. **ACTION - The Chair or any two members** to request the extraordinary meeting.

26.21 **COMMUNITY AND EVENTS:**

- 21.1 Members discussed the resident interest in attending an Adult First Aid Awareness Class at a cost of £30.00 per person. It was agreed that there is sufficient interest and it was **resolved** that EPC will arrange and host the class, delivered by Mini First Aid Peterborough, in the marquee at The Golden Pheasant, that payments by residents must be received into the EPC bank account prior to the event being booked, and that booking terms and conditions be approved and issued to participants. **ACTION – Clerk** to obtain suggested dates from residents, draft booking terms and conditions, and confirm arrangements with the provider.

26.22 **FINANCE:**

- 22.1 It was **resolved** to approve receipts and payments according to the attached schedule.
- 22.2 It was **resolved** to approve financial reports for one month to 31st January 2026.

26.23 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CLERK:**

- 23.1 *To receive reports from Councillors:* None.
- 23.2 To receive reports from the Clerk on items not covered elsewhere on the agenda:
 - a) A Government consultation on the four options for Local Government Reorganisation has been launched, and residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough invited to submit comments up to the closing date of Wednesday 18th March 2026.
 - b) A quotation from a Peterborough company for installation of a flagpole was received from a resident; the Clerk responded to explain that EPC has resolved to instruct a specialist flagpole installation company in the event a flagpole is installed.

- c) PCC has launched Local Plan additional site consultation regarding a site in Wittering; the closing date for responses is 4th March 2026.

23.3 *External meetings, conferences and training – to note upcoming dates, agree Council representation and receive reports:* None.

26.24 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- 24.1 Members noted correspondence from The Deepings Practice PPG reporting their new triage system will be implemented on 2nd March 2026.

26.25 **NEXT MEETING:** Members confirmed the date of the next ordinary meeting as Wednesday 22nd April 2026. An extraordinary meeting will be scheduled for Thursday 26th March 2026 once request.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Approved as a true record of the Meeting: Chair, 26th March 2026

Abbreviations used in these Minutes:

EPC – Etton Parish Council
PCC – Peterborough City Council
PPG – Patient Participation Group

Schedule of Receipts and Payments (26.22.1)

Items marked * were paid prior to the meeting as a statutory obligation or under delegated powers, with the relevant Minute shown against the item. No VAT is charged on receipts. Any VAT included in payments is reclaimed annually at year end. Where no VAT is indicated, it was not charged by the supplier.

Receipts:

- a) TSB: Interest (10th January 2026), £3.95

Payments:

- b) E Beesley: Paper ream (reimbursement), £5.99 (Minute 26.5.1.a)*
c) Staff Salary: Basic (January 2026), £100.00 (standing order)*
d) Staff Salary: Adjustment (January 2026), £75.15
e) HMRC: PAYE (January 2026), £44.40