



SYWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Cllr John Amos

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sywell Parish Council held on
Thursday 12th March, 2026 at 7:30pm at Sywell Village Hall,

In attendance: Cllrs John Amos (Chairman), John Shenfield, Nanette Muttock, Philip Bletsoe-Brown, Paul Groom.

Clerk: Maureen Holliday

86/25 PUBLIC SESSION: No attendees

87/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Vicki Jessop.

88/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATION REQUESTS – Councillors are reminded that if they have either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other interest in any of the agenda items then they should declare the interest and withdraw from the debate or meeting as appropriate. None

89/25 RESOLVED TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 8th Jan 2026, signed by the Chairman

90/25 NEW COUNCILLOR: CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR One application was received for the vacancy on the council arising from the uncontested election. The Parish Council have 2 vacancies following the resignation of Fiona Ingram and an unfilled election position. An application for the election position was submitted by Jeannette Freeman. The Clerk circulated a personal summary submitted prior to the meeting. A proposal by the Chairman that Jeannette Freeman is co-opted as councillor was agreed by all. The Acceptance of Office form was signed.

91/25 NORTH NORTHANTS COUNCILLOR – Report: Cllr Scott Brown provided a verbal report to council.

92/25 CHAIRMAN, CLERK and COUNCILLOR REPORT on items not on the agenda (verbal).

93/25 RESOURCES: RESOLVED to approve the following (a to h) Documents circulated

- a) **Bank Balances at 1 Mar 2026:** Current Account: £ 1365.23
(Traffic Calming Funding) Reserve Account: £ 58483.24
- b) **Income received since previous meeting:** None
- c) **Receipts & Payments: Budget Summary, Bank Rec for year to March 2026,** circulated
- d) **To approve payments made at and between meetings Appendix 1**
- e) **Village Hall Insurance Revaluation:** This revaluation for full rebuilding costs is required every 4 years. AITCHISON RAFFETY carried out the previous revaluation 4 years ago for £350. The quotation for a 2026 revaluation is £375 +VAT. Agreed. **Action: Clerk to instruct.**
- f) **Audit check:** Cllr Muttock reported that all was well, but it would be helpful to note Direct Debit payments. **Action: Clerk to note DD clearly**
- g) **Defibrillator and First Aid training. To be discussed and agreed.** It was agreed that Cllr Freeman would co-ordinate training for the Village Hall committee and any members of the public who respond to the offer of training. **Action: Cllr Freeman to co-ordinate with Agencies.**
- h) **Review of website and new privacy regulations.** The Clerk reported that the website and mailbox provided by Parish Online is complicated and not conducive to the future expected requirement under GDPR, that all councillors should have Official, council-controlled mailboxes to ensure data is handled securely. **Action: Clerk will follow up on recommendations for other sources.**

94/25 PLANNING: RESOLVED to agree responses and actions (a – d).

- a) **New Applications:**
26/00348/FUL 51 Overstone Road Sywell, demolish bungalow and construct replacement self-build dwelling, including conversion and extension of the existing garage block. **Objection submitted**
- b) **Awaiting Decision:**
25/01002/FUL Hayes Lodge Farm, The Farm and Livery, 167 Ecton Lane, Sywell, Erection of Rural Workers Dwelling and Stables, hardstanding for access, parking and turning of vehicles and landscaping. The application was discussed in detail. **No Observations**
- c) **Applications Decided:** None
25/01804/FUL 56 Overstone Road, Sywell, NN6 0AW: Demolition of existing first floor accommodation and replacement with new first floor extension. Demolition of existing, conservatory and replacement with new ground floor extension. **Granted**

- d) **Other Planning Matters:** WNC Local Plan and Proposals: Agreement to form a coordinated, strategic alliance between Sywell, Overstone, and Moulton Parish Councils and formulate a response. Council voted unanimously to the proposal. The plan was discussed.
Action: Clerk will formulate a response on behalf of Sywell Parish Council.

95/25 HIGHWAYS, MOWING AND MAINTENANCE: RESOLVED to approve items (i to v) further action or response.

- i. **Village Sign in Sywell Old Village:** Repairs/repainting of the village sign. The sign is progressing well and regular visits to discuss progress have been made. A quotation for replacement lead works in the sum of £150 was discussed and agreed. The Chairman provided an update on the large amount of first-class work carried out by Valeria Medici. The lead work was agreed. The completion date was delayed and will be 5th May 2026.
- ii. **Ground surface outside the church.** To discuss and decide action. It was agreed to obtain quotations for the resurfacing of the tarmac area. **Clerk to action.**
- iii. **November Lengthsman Report from Peter Clayton.** March 2026 For discussion and action.
Speed signs are all working o.k. and the batteries are being changed every 14 days. All operate within a range 150 yards for about five/six days, and the respond times start to decrease toward the 8 to 14 day mark. When I change the batteries, I also clean the Flood, speed signs etc.

Gullies and potholes: I clear the gullies opposite the stables on Ecton Lane.

The serious pothole situation outside the Brookland Gate has been fixed on a temporary as the road will be having road works the week after Easter.

A nasty pothole just outside the old village has been repaired.

Two Potholes at the entrance/exit to Stonelea Road have been marked for repair soon.

Flooding etc., Recent flooding in Holcot lane was quickly dealt with by NNC

The Horseshoe roundabout is staying clear of flooding but has some minor potholes.

The chicane signs on Overstone Road are kept clean.

The report was discussed and Councillors complimented Peter Clayton on his support for the village. It was agreed that his annual recognition for services payment would be £450.

Action: Clerk – Report blocked road drain in Church Lane.

Thank You: Appreciation to the owner of 50 Ecton Lane, Sywell. For the vast improvement to the pavement, kerbing & road outside the property.

- v) **Lighting:** Lamp 14 Stonelea Road Supply & install new 19w CU Phosco E950 LED lantern for the sum of £310.00 (excluding VAT).
Agreed. Lighting was discussed; it has become apparent that the lamps are failing within the 10-year guarantee period, the supplier has gone out of business. This means that there is likely to be further failures. However, the savings on power costs have been significant due to changing to LED.

96/25 ELLIOTT PARK: RESOLVED to approve report to council. To be circulated.

a) **Playground Maintenance Update.**

Paul Thomas reported that he has been concentrating on litter picking and safety maintenance work.

Maintenance on the sandpit area will recommence later in March.

97/25 TRAINING and Advice Sessions: Agreed that the Clerk can attend the SLCC PIALC training and Membership approved.

98/25 URGENT MATTERS FOR REPORT ONLY (Notified to the Chairman before the meeting)

99/25 DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY and ANNUAL MEETING – 14 May 2026 7:30pm, Village Hall, Sywell

Chairman

Date :

2026

Future meetings : 2026: 14 May, 9 July, 10 Sept, 12 Nov

Appendix 1: Payments and Direct Debits since last meeting					
<u>DATE</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>VAT</u>
12-Jan-26	Office Needs Direct	Elliott Bin	109	-490.55	-98.11
12-Jan-26	Paul Thomas	Lengthsman Elliot Pk	110	-365.40	
12-Jan-26	British Heart/M Holliday	New Defibrillator	111	-1373.32	-274.67
12-Jan-26	Northants CALC	Training	112	-60.00	-12.00
23-Jan-26	DD GIGACLEAR PL)	Broadband, VHall	113	-30.00	-6.00
31-Jan-26	DD Service Charge		115	-6.00	
02-Feb-26	DD GOCARDLESS	CCTV	116	-26.55	-5.31
18-Feb-26	E.ON	18265921 601881057	117	-3286.18	-657.24
18-Feb-26	Sywell Old School	Rent for Hall 2026	118	-500.00	
18-Feb-26	Gavin Jones	Defib Installation	119	-118.15	-23.63
18-Feb-26	Northants CALC	5132 TRAINING	120	-70.00	-14.00
23-Feb-26	Campaign to protect Rural England	24667 membership	122	-60.00	
23-Feb-26	DD GIGACLEAR PLC	Broadband, VHall	123	-30.00	-6.00
28-Feb-26	DD Service Charge		125	-6.00	
02-Mar-26	DD GOCARDLESS	CCTV	126	-26.55	-5.31
11-Mar-26	Paul Thomas	Lengthsman Elliot Pk	127	-182.07	
11-Mar-26	Northants CALC	5155 & 5203	129	-116	-23.20
11-Mar-26	British Gas	604271353	130	-96	-4.88
11-Mar-26	NNC	422002957641 NNC	131	-25	
				<u>-6867.77</u>	<u>-1130.35</u>