

HECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Heckington Parish Council meeting held Monday 12 January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Chambers, St Andrews Street, Heckington

1. Chair's Welcome (25/166)

The Chair welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. He delivered the usual health and safety announcements and asked those present to silence their mobile devices.

Councillor Wright reminded the meeting that the Parish Council coffee morning will be held on Saturday 24 January 2026 at 10.30am.

2. Public Forum (26/167)

There were four members of the public present.

3. Councillors present (26/168)

Councillor Spencer, Chair

Councillor Atkinson

Councillor Cocks

Councillor Davison

Councillor Gower

Councillor Malone

Councillor O'Connor

Councillor Wright

4. Apologies (26/169)

Apologies were received from Councillor Garlick, Vice Chair. The reasons for his absence were noted and accepted.

Councillor Thorpe failed to submit his apologies. His absence was not accepted.

5. Member's interest, pecuniary or otherwise in relation to the agenda and any dispensations in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 (26/170)

None.

6. Finance (26/171)

a) Nilfisk Mower

The Chair proposed the sale of the Nilfisk mower/sweeper for the best price available. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Davison and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council. The Clerk informed the meeting that Euromec have offered a price of £12-13k.

The Chair proposed that the funds received from the sale are directed to general reserves to be used as and when necessary. The proposal was seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

b) Budget 2026/27
 i) Review of Reserves

Record of ring-fenced/general reserves	2026/27
Capital Equipment	10,000.00
Elections	7,000.00
Legal Fees	10,000.00
Chamber Maintenance	2,000.00
Memorials	0.00
Verge Maintenance	0.00
Lift	0.00
Rates	0.00
Trees	0.00
Coronation Balance	0.00
Cemetery 2025/26 Carry forward (variable)	14,482.11
Cemetery	10,000.00
Emergency Building Repairs	0.00
General Reserves	15,000.00
TOTALS	68,482.11

Members discussed the elections and legal fees figures but they remain unchanged from the draft budget previously reviewed.

The Chair proposed that reserves for 2026/27 are set at £68,482.11. The proposal was seconded Councillor Davison and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

ii) Review of Income

INCOME SOURCES (excluding Precept)	2026/27
LCC Litter Picking Grant	1809.00
Cemetery Fees	3000.00
Library LCC	5167.00
Library Fines	80.00
Fair	300.00
Room Hire	100.00
Wayleave	174.60
Interest	800.00
TOTAL	11,430.60

The Chair proposed that the income figure of £11,430.60 is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wright and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

CEMETERY FEES 2026/27				
EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL (TABLE 1)	Resident		Non-resident	
	2025/26	2026/27	2025/26	2026/27
For the Exclusive Right of Burial for 99 years in an earthen grave 6ft by 3 feet	210.00	221.00	363.00	381.00
For the Exclusive Right of Burial for 99 years in a cremated remains plot 3ft by 2 feet	162.00	170.00	294.00	308.00

If a larger plot is required, 2 standard grave spaces will be required (Parish Council, 31 October 2016).

INTERMENT (TABLE 2)	Resident		Non-resident	
	2025/26	2026/27	2025/26	2026/27
A still-born child whose age does not exceed one year	0	0	0	0
A child under the age of 15 years	115.00	120.75	173.00	182.00
Adults (aged 16 years and above)	187.00	196.00	317.00	333.00
Cremated remains (burial)	126.00	132.00	222.00	233.00
Cremated remains (spreading on the surface of a grave or other designated area)	80.00	84.00	145.00	162.00
The right to bury cremated remains in a grave space already having been used for a burial shall only be allowed provided the recently deceased is listed on the Exclusive Right of Burial or, a transfer of ownership will be required.				
These fees exclude the digging of the grave. This must be arranged separately or via the Funeral Director.				
MEMORIALS & TABLETS (TABLE 3)	Resident		Non-resident	
	2025/26	2026/27	2025/26	2026/27
For the Exclusive Rights to erect a headstone for 99 years.				
Single	90.00	95.00	180.00	189.00
Double*		142.50		283.50
Kerbs*		50.00		100.00
For the Exclusive Rights to erect a tablet for 99 years	80.00	84.00	160.00	168.00
TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL (TABLE 4)				
Administration Fee				10.00
Exclusive Right of Burial Administration Fee				10.00
Interment Application Administration Fee				10.00
Application to Erect a Memorial Administration Fee				10.00
Surrender of Exclusive Right of Burial Administration Fee				10.00
Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial Administration Fee				25.00
Search of the Register of Burials				0.00
Chapel Hire				25.00

(5% increase approved at the November Meeting of the Parish Council)

The Chair proposed the burial fees are accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Cocks and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

iii) Draft Budget 2026/27 - Review of Expenditure

GENERAL	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Insurances including motor fleet	6300.00	7500.00	8000.00
Annual Subscriptions	400.00	2500.00	5250.00
Village Hall Hire	200.00	120.00	200.00
Election Costs	15,155.00	7000.00	3500.00
Speedwatch	500.00	0.00	300.00
SID	500.00	500.00	500.00
Defibrillator	600.00	500.00	1000.00
Training Courses/Subs	800.00	2000.00	1250.00
Legal Fees	9098.72	3500.00	5000.00
PWLB	3900.00		
Banking Fees	200.00	100.00	150.00
Computer Maintenance	1000.00	540.00	630.00
Stationery & postage	200.00	250.00	600.00
Office Equipment	790.00	200.00	750.00
Printer Ink		485.00	750.00

Telephone	1000.00	120.00	200.00
Broadband	500.00	360.00	400.00
Sundries/Hospitality	350.00		
Refunds	0.00	150.00	150.00
Land Purchase	0.00		
Payroll	1200.00	500.00	500.00
Library/Hub			10.00
Internal Audit	1100.00	500.00	525.00
External Audit		1000.00	1000.00
Printing (external)		500.00	
Councillor's expenses	150.00	0.00	250.00
Delivery fees (newsletter)		1956.00	
Portaloo	0.00	1500.00	1260.00
Office equipment (ring-fenced)			
Chair's Allowance	780.00	0.00	300.00*
Drainage Rates (Star Fen)	0.00	57.00	
TOTAL	45,503.72	31,838.00	32,475.00

The Chair stated that the only new item to note is the Chair's Allowance. This will facilitate the purchase of small items i.e. gift cards for competition winners, where the Parish Council doesn't currently have spending powers.

Councillor Davison proposed that the Chair's Allowance is added as a budget sub-heading. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wright and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

The Chair proposed the General Expenditure budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wright and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of Council.

STAFFING	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Salaries inc. PAYE and NIC	52,000.00	69,953.00	80,000.00
Locum Cover	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Pensions	4500.00	3000.00	7,000.00
Staff Travel	125.00	540.00	0.00
TOTAL	56,625.00	73,493.00	92,000.00

The Chair proposed that the staffing budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Davison and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

CARETAKER & VILLAGE MAINTENANCE	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Business Rates (Village Green)	610.00	550.00	565.00
Village Maintenance	3700.00	3500.00	
Village Green Electricity			500.00
Replacement Noticeboard/s			5,000.00
Caretaker Equipment, Repairs and Servicing	6000.00	3000.00	4,600.00
Caretaker Supplies	2130.00	500.00	1000.00
Diesel	1250.00	1500.00	0.00
Petrol	250.00	500.00	1000.00
Trees/Hedges General	4000.00	1500.00	4585.00
Other/Registered Waste Removal		500.00	100.00
TOTAL	17,940.00	11,550.00	17,350.00

Members discussed the noticeboards budget sub-heading; it was agreed that a new noticeboard is needed in East Heckington and there was discussion about a community noticeboard in Heckington near to the Coop. The Clerk stated that she has had no response from the Lincolnshire Co-op.

Councillor Cocks proposed that the Caretaker & Village Maintenance budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wright and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

CEMETERY	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Water	200.00	150.00	155.00
Electricity	3000.00		
General Maintenance	1000.00	3000.00	3,500.00
Project Forget Me Knot		0.00	7,500.00
Memorial Safety Checks	0.00	3500.00	7,500.00
Pest Control	0.00	500.00	600.00
Trees/Hedges	0.00	2500.00	2,500.00
Rates	610.00	625.00	1,061.00
Reserves	0.00	12515.11	<i>See reserves table</i>
Totals	4810.00	22,790.11	22,816.00

The Clerk informed the meeting that NK are scrapping Small Business Relief and the Chambers, which has been exempt, is under review.

The Chair proposed that the Cemetery budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Cocks and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

WORKSHOP	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Equipment			0.00
Electricity	3000.00		1,000.00
General Maintenance			2,500.00
First Aid Supplies			50.00
Inspections & testing			500.00
Totals	3,000.00	5,500.00	4,050.00

The Chair proposed that the Workshop budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Connor and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

SECTION 137/GRANTS	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
TOTAL	2300.00	4,100.00	6,000.00

The Chair proposed that the Section 137 budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Connor and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

CHAMBERS	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Water	400.00	0.00	500.00
Electricity	9000.00	4250.00	3,750.00
General Maintenance	7619.88	1000.00	3,500.00
Lift Servicing LOLER & Maintenance	3000.00	500.00	750.00
Window Cleaning		150.00	150.00
Cleaning		720.00	700.00
Supplies (cleaning/hygiene)		200.00	100.00
Chambers Equipment		200.00	750.00
Testing/Inspections	250.00	1820.00	7,000.00
Building Repairs (Emergency)		0.00	<i>See reserves table</i>
Rates	2,000.00	0.00	2,725.00
TOTALS	22,269.88	8,840.00	19,925.00

The Chair proposed that the Chambers budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Davison and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

PLAYGROUND	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Annual Inspections			273.00
Repairs			2677.00
Cleaning & general maintenance			50.00
TOTALS	400.00	3,000.00	3,000.00

The Chair proposed that the Playground budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Connor and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

ALLOTMENT PARISH COUNCIL	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Testing			300.00
Trees/Hedges	1,300.00	1,500.00	1,300.00
Dykes	0.00	0.00	200.00
Drainage Rates	0.00	110.00	150.00
Pest Control	0.00	450.00	550.00
TOTALS	1,300.00	2,060.00	2,500.00

The Chair proposed that the Allotment budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wright and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

EVENTS	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
TOTALS		400.00	500.00

The Chair proposed that the Events budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Connor and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

PAVILION	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
Water			
Electricity			
Maintenance (Buildings)	1000.00		
Maintenance general (to include pest control)			
Inspections/testing	250.00		
Special Projects	0.00		
Other	0.00		
TOTAL	1,250.00	50,000.00	20,000.00

Members discussed the allocation to the Pavilion at length. The Chair proposed that the Pavilion budget head is accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Malone and the motion was passed unanimously by

FINETURF (CIL)	2024/25	2025/26 (as amended)	2026/27
TOTALS	5288.00	3888.00	8650.00

Members noted the Fineturf budget head (*paid for using previously acquired Section 106 funding*).

TOTALS EXPENDITURE		2026/27
General Administration		32,475.00
Staffing		92,000.00
Caretaker & Village Maintenance		17,350.00
Cemetery		22,816.00
Workshop		4,050.00
S137 and Grants		6,000.00
Chambers		19,925.00
Playground		3,000.00
Allotment		2,500.00
Events		500.00
Pavilion		20,000.00
TOTALS		220,616.00

The Chair proposed that the totals for expenditure as part of the draft budget for 2026/27 are accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wright and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

Predicted Year End Balance	30,000.00
Proposed Reserves	68,482.11
Proposed Reserves minus Year End Balance	38,482.11
Budgeted Expenditure for 2026/27	220,616.60
Total Required for 2026/27	259,098.71
Budgeted Income for 2026/27 exc. sale of Nilfisk	11,430.60
Precept Request 2026/27 (rounded up)	247,668.00

c) Precept 2026/27

The Chair proposed that the precept figure for 2026/27 is set, £247,688.00. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Davison and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

Note: The Clerk perceived an error in the calculation which led to an amendment to the resolution but the perceived error but that was erroneous; the income had been subtracted twice from the expenditure leading to a lower than required figure. The original resolution will stand and this will be clarified and ratified at the Parish Council meeting on 26 January 2026 for the avoidance of doubt.

i) Members discussed the potential impact upon the Council Tax Figure per Band D household using the 2026/27 Council Tax calculator DRAFT provided by NKDC.

Actuals to be confirmed once the precept calculator, which is currently in draft format, has been finalised by NKDC.

7. Date and time of the next meeting/s (26/172)

Committees

Finance Committee Meeting, TBC

Allotment Management Committee Meeting, Thursday 5 February 2026 at 7.30pm.

Staffing Committee Meeting – Not scheduled

Cemetery Committee Meeting, Thursday 26 February 2026 at 7.30pm

Pavilion Committee Meeting – Not scheduled

Parish Council

Monday 26 January 2026

Monday 23 February 2026

Monday 30 March 2026

Monday 27 April 2026

Monday 25 May 2026

Monday 29 June 2026

Monday 27 July 2026

August TBC

Monday 28 September 2026

Monday 26 October 2026

Monday 30 November 2026

8. Questions from the public (26/173)

None

The Chair moved the meeting into closed session in agreement with the Council, in accordance with the Public Bodies Act 1960.

9. Closed Session (26/174)

a) Salary range for the role of Caretaker

Members discussed the salary range at length.

Councillor O'Connor proposed that the pay scale is set at SCP 11-25 (£28,142.00 - £35,412.00). The proposal was seconded by Councillor Gower and the motion was passed unanimously by resolution of the Council.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm.