

**GEORGE NYMPTON & QUEEN'S NYMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Email [gnqnparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:gnqnparishclerk@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Meeting Minutes held on**

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.30pm in George Nympton Village Hall**

**Time commenced:** 19:31

**Those present:** Cllrs A. Poole, R. Poole, Maxwell, Horsnell, Pocock, Gay, and District Cllr Milton.

**2025/035 - Apologies/Attendance Register** – Cllr Ride sent apologies on 12/09/2025, approved.

**2025/036 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – None.

**2025/037 – Minutes of the previous meeting** – 17/07/2025 minutes approved.

**2025/038 – Announcements from the Chair** – None.

**2025/039 – Public Discussion** – No members of the public present.

**2025/040 – District and County Councillor updates** – County Cllr Hopley was not present but did send an email update to the clerk, which stated that he is investigating the development at Furzbray and will be further updating on that at the next meeting.

He is also encouraging people to report crime because it has been announced that trust in Devon and Cornwall Police is currently low and public are not reporting crime, therefore it is being reported as low crime rates when that is incorrect.

He has attended meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Fernandez, and the Chief Constable James Vaughan about these issues and requested the reopening of South Molton police Station, which he was informed will not be happening soon.

District Cllr Milton announced that North Devon District Council are about to start the revision of the local plan which will take roughly 2 years, housing plan target is now 1250-1300 houses built a year. There will be an opportunity to comment at some point and he strongly encouraged the council do so when the opportunity arises.

He informs that it has been proposed to divide Devon into 3 Unitary Authorities under a 145 model. County Councils may be liquidated and the 3 Unitary Authorities be lead under a Mayor role.

Originally the deadline was March, however those leading it have resigned and so that deadline has been extended but no formal date provided – Chair proposed this topic be present on the November agenda, which councillors agreed to.

Planning will be under a new authority, with more planning applications being determined by planning enforcement officers only, it was brought up that a concern of this would be decisions being made by people who do not know the local area.

Cllr Milton also informed that several million has just been invested in the local recycling centre, 18% carbon has been saved since the climate discussion in 2020, and that there is £1,000 funding to share between the 8 parishes he oversees.

**2025/041 – Finance update and village hall proposal** – Second part of the precept will be received this month.

Transactions since the last meeting are clerk wages and tax at £265.20 and £25.60 for July/August.

Closing balance for Business Account is £3,388.87 and Community Account is £72.83.  
RFO Cllr R. Poole will present draft budget at the November PC meeting. Increases in costs will include village hall funding, Clerk's wages, website costs and anticipated increase in insurance charges and graveyard maintenance. He asked that Councillors consider any other potential impacts on the budget before the next meeting.

Chair A. Poole submitted a proposal on behalf of the village hall trustees. The full proposal will be published with these minutes.

The proposal asks the Parish Council to consider increasing the funding to the village hall from the current £500 per year to £750 per year for the next three years.

Cllr R. Poole said this would impact the precept by approximately £8 per annum for a band D property.

The council unanimously agreed to support the proposal which will be included in the draft budget presented in November.

**2025/042 – Recent planning applications** – Planning application 80775, a conversion of a garage to a dwelling at Stoneleigh.

Concerns were discussed around the height of the conversion, proximity to neighbouring houses and the situation of a window overlooking neighbouring houses and gardens. The council would ask for assurances from SouthWest Water around the planned connection to mains sewage system. The Chair will speak to neighbouring property owners and circulate a draft response.

**2025/043 – Website and email addresses update** – The current website parish council section has been updated but more improvements are needed to comply with WCAG 2.2 compliancy, the website does need to be changed to gov.uk, the general consensus is that Parish Online website domain would be easier to have as they take on the responsibility and ensure accessibility and security, they can also host the domain name and email addresses for councillors.

Cllr Horsnell proposed the council move to parish online and have a separate website, Cllr Maxwell seconded and this was agreed upon by the other councillors present.

**2025/044 – List of policies for the Council to adopt** – The council was sent these policies on 22/07/2025 to review prior to this meeting, the Chair has created the first draft of these policies for council consideration:

- a. ICO Freedom of Information Policy – agreed.
- b. Biodiversity Policy – agreed.

**2025/045 – Civility and Respect Pledge** – agreed.

**2025/046 – Village hall information** – Upcoming events are; barn dance 4<sup>th</sup> October, Beaford Arts events band The Cahooners 22<sup>th</sup> November, and the Christmas event 5<sup>th</sup> December. All of these events will have a licensed bar and food will be included.

A new range cooker and microwave has also been delivered, and the lavatories are being refurbished.

The village hall windows are in need of repair and the roof needs to be assessed.

**AOB - Add AOB and say-**

It was agreed that the agenda for PC meetings would continue to be published a week before the meetings. The statutory obligation is three clear days. However the council and the clerk agreed that a full week's notice is preferable locally and that amendments could be made up to three clear days before the meeting if necessary.

Cllr Pocock asked about the possibility of moving the phone box to a different location. The council considered this previously and it decided against the idea because of financial and practical implications.

Cllr Gay has been approached by two people who have expressed an interest in the vacancies on the PC. The Chair said they would be welcome to attend the next meeting.

**Next Meeting – 20<sup>TH</sup> November 2025**

**Meeting concluded: 21:26**

**These minutes are a draft copy until signed as a true account**

**Request to George Nympton and Queen's Nympton Parish Council**

**from**

**The Trustees of George Nympton Village Hall**

**(Adele Poole, Ian Bateman, Steve Howe,**

**Nan Maxwell, Tracey Wright)**

The Trustees of the Village Hall would like the Parish Council to consider the following proposal.

The Village Hall is an important landmark and asset for George Nympton, which is important to continue to maintain.

Originally the village schoolhouse, it was improved greatly in the 1970s with the addition of the large hall. In the last 10 years the committee has raised funds for renovation of the small hall, a new kitchen, a new bar, new staging and an upgrade of the electricity supply. We are currently refurbishing the toilets and future projects will include replacement of windows, repairs to the fabric of the building and carpark. There will always be ongoing maintenance requirements in addition to these.

It provides a central location for community gatherings, hire for functions and enables us to bring a variety of entertainment events into the village.

The day-to-day management of the hall is carried out by a small committee who look after management of utilities, insurance, broadband, advertising, cleaning and maintenance. They also identify maintenance and improvement projects, supported by arranging fund raising events and applying for funding for projects.

It is acknowledged that any project work/maintenance will always need to be supported by raising funds and this will wholly be dependent on the composition and activity of the committee. It is difficult to predict on what that will be going forward.

We also acknowledge and are grateful for the £500 that is given to the hall each year by the Parish Council.

However, the fund raising currently is also required to support our annual costs, which are currently approximately £3200. This covers insurance, electricity, oil, broadband, water, grass cutting, fire extinguishers, cleaning and boiler service.

Fundraising is quite an undertaking for a small committee.

Our concern is that for the village hall to be sustainable into the future, it is wholly reliant on fundraising bar the provision of £500 from the Parish Council.

We would like the Parish Council to consider increasing the funding to the Village Hall to cover its overheads, to allow the committee in whatever its future shape and form to focus on maintenance and improvement.

Understanding that this funding would need to come from the Parish Precept, we would request that the increase by an additional £750 a year for the next three years so that by 2029, the overheads for the Village Hall would be supported by the parish.