

Pitsford Parish Council www.pitsfordvillage.co.uk

Minutes of Pitsford Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 3rd March 2026, at 7:30pm, Pitsford Village Hall, Pitsford High Street.

Minutes taken by the Clerk, Sarah Stock.

Apologies received: Cllr Simon Phipps.

Attending: Cllrs Alastair Kimbell, Mary Podesta, Keith Issacs, Jon Sambrooke, Chelsey Furniss, Maureen Holliday.

Ward Cllrs Gaskell & York, MOP x1.

2025/074 **Declarations of Interest.** No declarations made.

2025/075 **Public Session** Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the council.

Anthony Pile requested street lighting be switched off at night (midnight to 5am) to reduce light pollution and for the benefit of wildlife. As there is a certain amount of light emitted from housing, the streets would not be completely dark. AP suggested a trial period to test the scheme. See item 2025/080.

Verbal Updates (no decision can be made on items in this part of the agenda)

- Queens Jubilee bench (at Playing Field) is in very poor state of repair. Paul Thomas to re-finish in Spring.
- Tumulus Bench – Delivered. To be installed by PT
- Church Yard tree safety work: Land Prune instructed to complete works as per quote. Planning approval is required – area is part of the conservation area. An application has been submitted.

2025/076 **To approve minutes from:** 13th January. Approved & signed by the Chairman.

2025/077 **To accept Bank Reconciliation & YTD Budget vs Expenditure review.** Accepted.

Opening Balance 2025/26	**£34,459**	
YTD Income	£42,919	
YTD Expenditure (inc. VAT & pending unity payments)		£37,316
Current Account (Unity 20427472)		£2,332
Reserve Account (Unity 20428196)		£41,149
Balance b/f		£43,482
YTD Closing balance (less pending expenditure)		**£40,062**
2025/26 YTD Unclaimed VAT	£3,020	

Cllr MP inspected the accounts. Except for a small overpayment <£3.00, there are no matters arising.

2025/078 Accounts for Payment & Receipts. Council approved the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Amount Due (Inc. VAT)	VAT
British Gas	819383199	9.2.26	£53.56	£2.67
Northampton Services	January	28.1.26	£182.07	
Minuteman Press	18939	28.1.26	£97.00	
British Gas	801074401	30.1.26	£76.18	£3.62
Northampton Services	February	28.2.26	£182.07	
*Pitsford Village Hall	Grant - Roof	3.2.26	£785.00	
Mark Reeve (Window Cleaner)	Inv 3	15.12.25	£20.00	
(SO) HMRC	120PB00464145 24/11	28.2.26	£4.87	
(DD) Unity Trust Bank	Statement 84	28.2.26	£6.00	
(SO) Sarah Stock	February	28.2.26	£429.52	
Minuteman Press	19071	26.2.26	£97.00	
Glasdon UK Ltd	SI932310	26.2.26	£1,538.05	£256.34
British Gas	819383199	9.2.26	£2.67	£0.11
British Gas	802534491	3.3.26	£69.55	£2.90
(DD) West Northants Council	Green waste	18.3.26	£138.00	
(DD) West Northants Council	Green waste	18.3.26	£69.00	
(INCOME) ERB-PPC 12	INV PPC-012	18.2.26	(£500.00)	
(SO) HMRC	120PB00464145 24/12	28.3.26	£4.87	
(SO) Sarah Stock	March	28.3.26	£429.52	
Northampton Services	March	28.3.26	£182.07	
Barbara Osborne	8292	28.3.26	£66.00	
Minuteman Press	19197	30.3.26	£97.00	
Aitchenson Rafferty	BS003711	27.3.26	£450.00	£75.00
(DD) Unity Trust Bank	Statement 85	28.3.26	£7.00	
INTEREST	Statement 68	31.3.26	(£208.19)	

*Subject to approval; item 2025/079

2025/079 Grants & Donations

Resolution to awarded Pitsford Village Hall committee a grant of £785 towards retreatment of the hall roof.

Council recommended property revaluations for the Village Hall and Sports Field Pavillion. Property should be revalued every 4-5 years to ensure the insurance covers Reinstatement Cost Assessment (RCA). Estimated cost £375 each. Council will award grants to cover these costs. Clerk to follow up with respective committees.

2025/080 Street Lighting – Overnight Switch-Off Proposal

Members considered the request for parish street lighting be switched off between midnight and 5.00am to reduce light pollution and support wildlife.
The current LED system is programmed to dim during those hours. As the lighting is parish-owned, any move to full switch-off would require replacement of individual controllers on each column, resulting in capital expenditure. Council in favour in principle subject to cost and consultation. Council has 40 lights.

2025/081 Village Green Spaces & Maintenance Council to note, resolve action and allocate funds: Wildflower strip, Moulton Rd: Tumulus: Millennium Spinney: The Green: The Island: The Square: Cemetery:

Council allocated up to £100 towards seeds for the Moulton Road wildflower bed and grasses for Cemetery.
PT will rotovate the Moulton Road wildflower bed and order wildflowers, additional charge for machine rental.

2025/082 Village Sign
Council agreed in principle to purchase a village sign from Black Forge Signs. Members agreed that community involvement was essential and resolved to gather ideas at the Annual Parish Meeting. Meeting will be published in newsletter, on FB and using email contacts.
Suggested to locate the sign on the sports field at entrance to the village.

Quotes received from:
The Village Sign People supply signs, cast aluminium from £5,840
RS Engineering Installation Ltd, cast aluminium sign from: £6,500
Black Forge Signs Limited, cast aluminium sign from: £6,500

2025/083 Local Plan Consultation
West Northamptonshire Council published the latest draft of its Local Plan, consultation closing on 27 March.

The 2021 Pitsford Housing Needs Survey is dated and will carry limited weight later in the process, but it can still be used as contextual evidence for the Regulation 18 response. A new survey is not recommended at this stage; however, updated evidence should be considered for Regulation 19 but will have to be commissioned independently by the Parish Council. Noted.

Pitsford Regulation 18 response focuses on settlement hierarchy, the availability of sustainable sites within the village confines, limited availability outside them, and challenges the methodology behind allocating 30 homes. Further information will be gathered from other local responses.

Council resolved to support Boughton's objection to the allocation of 1700 homes north of Boughton Lane.

2025/084 Planning Applications. Council to consider and resolve response to each planning application.
Applications received after the publication of this agenda may be included.

2025/3625/FULL at 1 The Square Pitsford NN6 9AG See below.	(CO Molly Finch, obs by 13th March) Single storey rear extension, modular timber frame outbuilding in front garden and new boundary fencing

2026/0756/TPO at Pitsford Court Manor Road Pitsford NN6 9AR Refer to MV. No Observations.	(CO Michael Venton, obs by 18 March) T1- LIME- TO CROWN RAISE TO 5.6 METERS TO ALLOW FOR CLEARANCE OVER THE DRIVEWAY AND ALLOW LIGHT INTO THE GARDEN. TO THIN THE CANOPY BY UP TO 30% REMOVING DEAD, DYING, RUBBING, CROSSING AND DUPLICATING BRANCHES. TO TARGET PRUNE EXTENDED BRANCHES AND REDUCE THEM BY 2 METERS BACK TO SUITABLE GROWTH POINTS. THIS WILL HELP PREVENT FAILURE.

2025/3625/FULL Members consider that the proposed 8-foot boundary treatment, intended to screen a neighbouring garage, would result in a visually intrusive and incongruous form of development that would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the street scene. The height and scale of the fence are out of keeping with the prevailing pattern of development within The Square and would fail to preserve or enhance the local character. The Council recommends that the fence height be reduced to 6 feet 6 inches to better reflect the established boundary treatments in the immediate vicinity.

Furthermore, the submitted application lacks clarity regarding the proposed use of the extension. Should the extension be intended for use as a domestic garage, the applicant must ensure compliance with the relevant planning legislation and permitted development provisions, as applicable.

Date of future meetings: 12th May 2026 (Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Council Meeting); 14th July 2026; 8th September 2026; 10th November 2026

Meeting closed 20:45