



Podington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 3rd March 2026 at 7:30pm

Venue: Podington United Services Club (Committee Room)

Present:

Cllrs S. Stevens (Chair for meeting only), M. Webb, S. Worthington, P. Garlick, Z. Morgan, C. Hawkins, L. Schofield

Apologies:

Cllrs P. Lockyer, M. May, Borough Cllr A. Foster

In Attendance:

Clerk S. Rand

Public Participation

- The Council was joined by the owners of **1 Irchester Road, Farndish, Wellingborough**, in relation to Agenda Item 4(a) – Planning Application 26/00051/FUL, concerning the proposed demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of a replacement dwelling.
 - Borough Cllr Foster submitted a written report in advance of the meeting, which was discussed.
 - John Tizard, Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, was not in attendance. It was noted that he hopes to attend the Parish Council meeting scheduled for **12th May 2026**.
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1. Declarations of Interest

The Clerk declared an interest in:

- Item 4(a) – Solar Farm (married to a director of the business involved)
- Item 4(a) – Planning Application 26/00051/FUL (married to a director of the applicant business)

The Clerk left the room during discussion of these items.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Chair.

Matters Arising – Clerk's Update

The Clerk provided updates on actions from the previous meeting.

3. Highways and Rights of Way

- Clerk to contact Bedford Borough Council regarding the footpath adjacent to Stonepit Cottages.
 - Clerk to liaise with Cllr May (upon return) regarding evidence collection for muntjac activity.
 - Cllr Schofield to investigate woodchipping at Hinwick Allotments, which is becoming impassable due to horse traffic.
 - Clerk to engage with a Hinwick resident regarding repeated vehicle collisions with their property.
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4. Planning

a. Applications for Consideration

St Giles House and Orlebar House

Comments received from applicants were noted.

Clerk to write to highlight the extension of Santa Pod events into Thursdays and Fridays, to ensure this is considered in planning context.

Application No: 26/00051/FUL – 1 Irchester Road

The Parish Council **resolved to support** the application, with comments regarding the proposed brickwork.

b. Solar Farm – Update

The Council discussed the ongoing planning process and noted current status.

c. Podington Padel Courts – Update

Noted that no objection had previously been submitted to the Borough Council.

d. Other Planning Matters

No additional matters raised.

5. Finance

Cllr Schofield presented the financial report.

- Budget and financial position were noted.
 - It was noted that the Parish Precept will **not be increased**.
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6. Play Area

Clerk to engage with Paul Denyer regarding planned works.

7. Allotments

- Clerk to contact Kat Miller regarding availability of an allotment plot in Hinwick or Podington.

Cricket Club Request (7th June):

Request to use the playing field for additional parking for an Under 9s cricket tournament was **approved**.

8. Streetlights

Clerk to explore grant funding opportunities for LED streetlight replacement.

9. Police Matters

Clerk to ensure attendance of the Police and Crime Commissioner at the May meeting.

10. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The Clerk briefed the Council on the PSPO process, noting it occurs every five years. Ongoing discussions with Bedford Borough Council regarding local concerns were noted.

11. Parish Website

Clerk to liaise with Jamie Gibbon regarding development of a more dynamic parish website.

12. May Meetings

- Village Meeting proposed for **5th May 2026**
 - Parish Council Meeting confirmed for **12th May 2026**
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13. Village Meeting

Clerk to approach key village organisations to present (2 minutes / approx. 250 words):

- School
 - Church
 - Cricket Club
 - Neighbourhood Watch
 - Saxby's Parish Council
 - Podcast Magazine
 - Pod Padel
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14. Proposal: Podington Parish Scarecrow Festival

The Clerk presented the proposal for a Scarecrow Festival to take place over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend.

The proposal was discussed and noted.

15. Correspondence and Any Other Business

No additional matters raised.

Meeting Close

The meeting closed at **20:31**.

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____