

George Nympton Parish Council
Extraordinary General Meeting of the Council
17th April 2025

Minutes of the Meeting

Councillors Present- Ian Horsnell (Chair), Adele Poole, Richard Poole, Jon Ride, Cheryl Pocock, Nan Maxwell.

2025/037-Apologies. Apologies were received from Richard Toller and from Roger Gay.

2025/038-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. There were none.

2025/039-Minutes of Previous Meeting. Unanimously approved.

2025/040-Announcements from the Chair. Ian Horsnell announced he will step down as Chair at the AGM.

2025/041-Democratic 15 minutes/ Public Question Time. There were no members of the public present for the meeting.

2025/042-Parish Council Response to supporters of Hunt Free Zone. The following statement was proposed by Jon Ride, seconded by Adele Poole and unanimously agreed by the Council.

Parish Council Statement to Hunt Free Zone Group-17th April 2025.

The Parish Council of George Nympton and Queen's Nympton has carefully considered the request from the Hunt Free Zone Group to support their wish to declare the village of George Nympton a hunt free zone.

We have listened to the concerns and strength of feeling of the residents and fully support the group's view that aggressive and abusive behaviour by hunt followers towards village residents is totally unacceptable.

The Council further recognises that the group's desire to declare a hunt free zone is, in essence, a symbolic gesture to make clear the view of a large proportion of village residents, as such a zone is not enforceable.

The law does not grant local councils or villages the power to create a 'no hunt zone' or to impose local restrictions beyond the national framework. Therefore, as a legally responsible statutory body the Council does not believe it is appropriate to support the declaration of a hunt free zone or the erection of signs supporting this. Further, the Council believes doing so could in fact raise local tensions.

The safety and well-being of parishioners remains the Council's priority. Having taken the actions detailed in our statement of 20th March we are now writing to local hunt organisations to reaffirm the distress that the hunt and its supporters cause, and to make a clear request that they do not come through the village of George Nympton in the future. We will copy these letters to the Police and our Member of Parliament. The Council will not publicise this, other

than in our Minutes, and we encourage other parishioners to do likewise to help minimise tensions.

2025/043- County Councillor's Slot- Not present.

2025/44-District Councillor's Slot-Not present.

2025/045-Parish Clerk Vacancy-There has been one applicant in response to the advertisement on DALC website. The closing date is May 9th. It was agreed that Adele and Nan will interview the candidate on April 24th. Adele will look at the updated pay scale from NALC prior to the interview.

2025/046-Standing Orders-Richard Poole proposed the adoption of the standing orders circulated after the previous meeting. Nan Maxwell seconded the proposal and the Council unanimously agreed.

2025/047-AOB. Cheryl has painted the phone box roof and Ian will look at the leaks and loose windows.

2025/048-Date of next Meeting. AGM 22nd May 2025 at 6.30pm. Annual Meeting of the Parishes at 7.30pm.