

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Chairman: Cllr P.A. Scouse.

Parish Clerk: Alison McDaid.

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Broughton Parish Council Annual Meeting held at Broughton Chapel Room, 7pm, Thursday 13th November 2025

Councillors Present:

Cllr P. Scouse (Chair)

Cllr R. Shrive

Cllr M. Rose

Cllr M. Gray

Cllr. H. Bull

Cllr B. Davies

Cllr A. Tempest

Ward Councillors present:

No ward councillors were present

119/25. Apologies.

Cllr Brian Benneyworth

120/25. Declarations of Interest.

No declarations were declared

121/25. Public right to speak (maximum of three minutes).

None were present

122/25. Devolution of Services – 136 Urban Highway Grass Cutting 2026/27.

URBAN HIGHWAY GRASS CUTTING 2026/7 - Letter from NNC to BPC dated 30th October 2025

Following on from discussions at the recent Town and Parish Forum, the current arrangements for Urban Highway Grass Cutting have been reviewed in order to harmonise (make them more consistent) across North Northamptonshire, and as such give all parishes the same opportunities.

For the parish of Broughton this means that the level of service that has been provided by the Council's Grounds Maintenance team since the creation of North Northamptonshire Council (NNC), will be reduced to align with other parishes in North Northamptonshire.

This means that urban highway grass cutting will be carried out by NNC 3 times per year from 2026/27 (reduced from an anticipated 6 times per year currently).

To help mitigate this change, NNC would like to offer you the opportunity to carry out

the mowing of 'urban' grass within the public highway in your parish.
This is offered under the provision of Section 136 of the Local Government Act 1972, through a grant payment and associated agreement.

The payment being offered is a contribution towards urban highway grass cutting activities and allows for mowing to the minimum standard that is required for highway safety (see enclosed specification). For clarification, urban grass cutting covers areas within 30mph (or lower) speed limits.

These agreements give control to parishes in terms of the timing and overall frequency of cuts undertaken. We appreciate that you may wish to carry out the mowing of larger areas and to a higher standard / frequency for amenity purposes. NNC have no objection to this but is unable to make any further financial contribution towards those arrangements.

For 2026/27 the grant being offered to Broughton Parish/Town Council towards the cost of carrying out this work is £1,130.78. The value of this grant will be reviewed annually to take into account recently adopted areas and inflationary pressures. Plans of the areas of highway covered by this agreement will be made available on request.

Should you wish to participate, you and your contractor must comply with the enclosed requirements, specification and guidance when undertaking works on the public highway.

This guidance applies to the whole highway, which includes verge areas and not just the carriageway or footway.

Should you wish to enter into this agreement, please sign and return the enclosed forms by 22nd February 2026 to the address above or via e-mail at NNCCommunications@kier.co.uk.

Failure to respond in time may result in you not receiving your grant. If you do not wish to enter into the agreement please let our team know by letter or e-mail before 22nd February 2026 so that arrangements can be made for these works to be carried out by our service provider.

If you opt to enter a Section 136 agreement and you would like to discuss the option of using NNC's Grounds Maintenance team as a contractor to carry out the cuts on your behalf, please contact Groundsmaintenance@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Ben Wright BSc CMgr MCMI
Delivery Manager
Kier Highways

BPC agreed they understood the NNC devolution of Urban Highway grass cutting is proposed for 1 year only and will be subject to a review at the end of the term.

There is the question that if NNC do refuse to perform the work in the future, the consequence will be if parish councils do not pick up the maintenance, the work will not get done. This will mean BPC will have to look into rising their precept to cover these costs to manage the work.

It was noted the current service quality of the NNC's debatable six cuts are currently not up to standard and there is nothing to suggest three cuts will be any better.

The meeting discussed the Redrow estate, noting its excellent grass maintenance which is managed by a management company and paid for through subscription.

It was also noted that at the Town and Parish Forum last month, any land not owned by NNC currently, will no longer be maintained by NNC.

Confirmation needs to be sought regarding the timescale for any extra cuts and as stated within their own costings, does this mean any extra cuts they are instructed to carry out by BPC would be £376.92 per cut?

It was agreed to wait until three quotes had been received by outside contractors before a decision is made.

Action: The clerk has already contacted three different contractors to ask for quotes, providing the mapping of the grass verges for the village provided by NNC and will report back as soon as they have been received.

The meeting was closed at 8:10pm

Signed:

Dated: