

Nicholforest Parish Council

Nicholforest Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13th July 2026 at 7:30pm at Nicholforest Hall

Attendees:

Cllr J Sisson, Cllr C Dunn, Cllr E Smith, Cllr K Ireland, Cllr T Pickstone, Cllr D Hammond,
Cllr A Williamson, Miss R Housden (Clerk)

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Public participation: N/a

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence:

Received from Cllr K Robinson and accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensations

None.

3. Minutes and Meetings - Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd June 2026 were approved as a true record by all and signed by the Chairman.

4. Report on the Activities of the Parish Council

a. The clerk gives an update on the progress of the registration of the Village Hall. The conveyance documents need to be retrieved from the archives. It is hoped that the tree stumps near Kershopefoot could be removed in the next few weeks.

The clerk has also made enquiries into the maintenance of fire hydrants in the parish. The fire service take responsibility for testing them however the council are responsible for any repairs. The Clerk will write to the County fire chief to ask that the hydrants in Nicholforest could all be inspected.

b. All agree to the flyer design, the clerk will arrange printing.

5. Planning Matters

None at this time.

6. Correspondence

The Cross Border connection alliance is discussed, it is agreed that the discussion remains relevant to Nicholforest and that the parish council should continue to receive updates however the memorandum of understanding should not be signed at this time. Cllr T Pickstone informs the room of a meeting at Scaleby (29th July) if any councillors wish to attend.

A report from Councillor Tim Pickstone updates the parish council that the review of speed limits has found that both Catlowdy and Kershopefoot do not have sufficient housing density for a formal speed limit change. Tim will continue to request additional signage for the locations. The removal of stones from the Linns bridge has been reported as a serious structure issue, the clerk updates the room that members of the public have witnessed people removing them with power tools which suggests that they are being taken for reuse

in building work.

7. Financial Matters

a. All payments listed are approved.

Beacon Fire Protection	Fire Alarm Maintenance	£120.00
CPSL	Payroll Services	£22.80
Clerk	Quarterly payment to be made 31/07/26	£373.10

8. Village Matters

The clerk has reported the large amount of refuse and recycling left outside a holiday rental property in Catlowdy, however no conclusion was met as it was explained that this was a commercial waste problem. Cllr T Pickstone to further this with the waste management team, and advised that the Clerk reports it as fly tipping in the mean time.

9. Council Matters

After a long discussion about the future of the garden, with all councillors voicing their different opinions, it is concluded that memorials will not be allowed within the area. It is agreed that the name of the area should be changed to Nicholforest Parish Garden, which will hopefully indicate that the area is not to be used for further memorials and encourage its use as a public space.

The Clerk will write to Mr Schwabb to explain the change of name, and also to check the wording of a sign which will be placed inside the garden giving visitors information on the origin and design of the area.

There has been further degradation of the obelisk in the middle of the gravel area, which is now at risk of collapsing. The clerk will mention this to Mr Schwabb and arrange for it to be made safe.

10. Date of next Meeting - 14th Sept 2026

Meeting closed at 20:55.