

Dear [Redacted]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 260420001

Thank you for your request received on 20 April 2026.

You wrote:

“Dear Newton Longville Parish Council,

Dear Clerk,

I write as a local council taxpayer within the parish of Newton Longville to request disclosure of the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and pursuant to my rights under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

I request that all information be provided in full within the statutory 20 working day period.

PART 1 — PRECEPT AND BUDGET

The full precept demand figure set by Newton Longville Parish Council for each of the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27, together with the minutes of the meeting at which each precept was set and any supporting budget documentation.

A full breakdown of how the 2026/27 precept of £255.55 (Band D equivalent) was calculated, including all budget headings, estimated expenditure lines, and any reserves held or anticipated.

The total value of all reserves held by the council as at 31 March 2025 and 31 March 2026, itemised by reserve type and purpose.

PART 2 — EXPENDITURE

A complete schedule of all payments made by the council in each of the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, including the payee name, amount, date, and stated purpose of each payment, regardless of value.

Specifically, a full schedule of all payments made to or on behalf of any church, religious organisation, or place of worship, together with the legal authority under which each such payment was made.

A full schedule of all payments made to legal advisers, planning consultants, barristers, solicitors or any other professional adviser in each of the above financial years, together with the stated purpose of each instruction and the matter to which it related.

All invoices, fee agreements or engagement letters relating to any legal or professional costs incurred in connection with the Salden Place / Salden Chase development (planning reference 15/00314/AOP) or any associated appeal, planning application, infrastructure negotiation or S106 matter.

All invoices, fee agreements or engagement letters relating to any legal or professional costs incurred in connection with the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Development Plan 2023–2033, including examination, environmental assessment, and referendum costs.

PART 3 — INCOME AND DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS All sums of money received by the council from any developer, landowner, or their agents in connection with the Salden Place / Salden Chase development, including but not limited to S106 contributions, community infrastructure payments, goodwill payments, or any other financial contribution, together with the date received, the payer, and the purpose stated.

All sums of money received from East West Rail Company (EWR Co), Network Rail, the Department for Transport, or any associated body, together with the stated purpose of each payment.

All sums of money received from First Class or any associated entity, together with the stated purpose of each payment.

All grant income received from any source in each of the financial years listed above, including the grantor, the amount, and the stated purpose.

PART 4 — GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

Copies of all resolutions passed by the council authorising expenditure on legal or planning matters in connection with Salden Place / Salden Chase and the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The specific statutory power or powers relied upon by the council for each category of expenditure listed in responses to questions 5, 6, 7 and 8 above.

Copies of the council's standing orders, financial regulations, and any scheme of delegation currently in force.

Copies of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for each of the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, including the internal auditor's report and any matters raised.

Details of any matters raised by the external auditor in relation to the council's accounts in any of the above financial years, including any public interest reports or referrals.

PART 5 — ACCOUNTS INSPECTION RIGHTS

Please confirm the dates during which the council's accounting records will be available for public inspection pursuant to s.26 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 for the financial year 2025/26, and the name and contact details of the person to whom inspection requests should be directed.

NOTES

I note that parish councils are subject to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and are required to publish all individual payments exceeding £100 on their website. If the council has been publishing only payments above £500, I request confirmation of this practice and the legal basis relied upon for limiting publication to that threshold.

Should any part of this request be refused, I require a full written explanation of the exemption relied upon under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, together with details of the public interest test applied.

I reserve the right to refer any refusal or partial refusal to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Thanks

[Redacted]

Newton Longville Parish Council (NLPC) Response

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

We can confirm that Newton Longville Parish Council holds information on the subject you have requested.

Under the provisions of the Act and as defined by "The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004" (the Regulations), an authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the "appropriate limit". This appropriate limit is set by the regulations at £450 for our type of authority.

In the Regulations our staff time is valued at £25 per hour. This has the effect of imposing a time limit of 18 hours of staff time for activities specified in the regulations.

The Regulations make the following activities by an authority countable towards the cost limit.

- Determining whether it holds the information.
- Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information.
- Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information.
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.

We have estimated the time and therefore costs as provided by the regulations, and in doing so have taken into account the above activities.

We estimate that this work will take in excess of 40 hours of effort by our staff. We estimate this will exceed the limit provided for by the regulations and therefore your request is refused on the grounds provided for under section 12 of the Act.

We may be able to provide some information if you are able to reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the regulations limit. We suggest that you could formulate your request with more limited scope, for example not requesting

information that will already be published by us or other authorities, or limiting the historical information required.

Please contact us if you would like to refine your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance and we will undertake an internal review.

If after the internal review you wish to complain further then you can complain to the Information Commissioners Office www.ico.gov.uk and request a decision notice.

Newton Longville Parish Council