

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Coughlan (Vice Chair), Bradshaw, Cole, Freestone, Hicks and Thomas and PC Brad Wilson.

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1. Welcome newly elected Parish Council.

The newly elected councillors and PC Brad Wilson were welcomed to the meeting.

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2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

Cllr Brant was elected as Chair and accepted the role.

Proposed Cllr Bradshaw

Seconded Cllr Thomas.

Cllr Coughlan was elected as Vice-Chair and accepted the role.

Proposed by Cllr Brant

Seconded Cllr Hicks.

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3. To sign the declaration of Members' Interests and Declarations of acceptance of Office:

The Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed and witnessed. The Register of Members' Interests will be completed once the new format for the declarations is received from the NNC.

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4. To approve apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Mrs Justina Medwell, Clerk due to ill health. The Council wished her a speedy recovery following her recent accident.

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5. Declaration of interests.

There were none.

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6. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as a correct record.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were duly approved and signed by the Chair

Proposed Cllr Cole

Seconded Cllr Freestone.

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7. Matter arising from the minutes, not listed on the agenda:

**Refurbishment of Middleton Sign** – There had been no further action to date on the refurbishment of the village sign but George West-Robinson had been thanked and informed that the Council warmly welcomed his offer.

**Speeding** – Following receipt of a positive response from Mr Scott, Head Teacher at Cottingham Primary School the Chair had contacted Cottingham PC proposing a joint approach to NNC, in coordination with the School and our local PC regarding the installation of a 20mph speed limit around the school. PC Wilson confirmed that he would be happy to be involved in such an approach.

**TVAS, The Hill** – The Council noted that the Clerk was still awaiting contact from NNC Highways Engineer Steve Barber for the installation of a post to which the TVAS could be attached, before any progress could be made with the funding application.

**Jurassic Way Spring and Blocked Drain** – The Chair undertook to report the blocked drain at the entrance to the Jurassic Way footpath, which had already been reported (*action SB*).

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Signed .....Chair .....Date.....

### **8. Meeting Open to the public:**

PC Wilson confirmed that he had been designated the PC for the Corby Rural West parishes and would be assisted by a new PCSO replacing Joe Devlin. He would provide their contact details to the Clerk and would ask her for the contact details of all Cllrs. PC Wilson was informed that Del Robertson was the Council's Police Liaison Representative and that he would be provided with his contact details also. *(Action JM)*

The speed gun is currently being re-calibrated and would therefore not be available for 3-4 weeks. Once available PC Wilson envisaged it being used regularly by him and his colleague in the rural villages.

In the last month (April) there were 3 recorded crimes. One false report; one domestic assault and one case of domestic harassment.

It was confirmed that the Chief Constables reported priority areas are

- Serious and organised crime
- Knife crime
- Domestic abuse
- Anti-social behaviour

PC Wilson asked if the Council would be interested in seeing data on reports of anti-social behaviour in the area and the Council confirmed that it would. The data is not currently analysed by Parish but PC Wilson would explore this possibility.

It was PC Wilson's intention to spend time getting to know the geography of the villages for which he is responsible and he would also spend time parked in the villages during periods of 'agile working' away from the office. If Cllrs notice him working on his laptop or phone while parked in his car, they are welcome to interrupt if they have any queries or concerns.

Cllr Hicks asked if there had been any developments on the matter about which she had contacted him and he confirmed that he was waiting to speak to Cllr Tom Russell about it and would get back to her when he had done so. *(action PC Wilson)*

As there were no further questions PC Wilson left the meeting.

### **9. Orchard and Open Space:**

The Attic Sale that had been held in the Community Orchard by The Mill Project fund raising team in April had raised £1,060. The team has asked to repeat the exercise again on 26 June. The Council agreed this request.

It was noted that the paving slabs at the entrance to the orchard were sometimes slippery when wet and the Council **agreed** to consider the feasibility of jet washing them on an annual basis.

### **10. Highways, Signage, Footpaths, Grit Bins, Lighting**

Cllr Hicks undertook to report the overgrown foliage obscuring the 'Give Way' sign at the top of The Hill which was affecting traffic turning left along the old Harborough and causing a hazard. This has already been reported to Highways but Cllr Hicks will chase it up and provide a photo. *(Action GH)*

There were no reports of lighting problems.

### **11. Safety Review of Parish Assets**

Cllr Cole had checked the Parish assets and had nothing to report.

### **12. Monthly Crime Report**

Covered in item 8 earlier in the meeting.

Signed .....Chair .....Date.....

13. Planning:**Update on Parish Councils' meeting with NNC Chief Executive and new NNC Cllrs**

The Chair confirmed that a meeting had been held with the NNC Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place & Economy, newly elected NNC Cllrs Howes, Hakewill and Sims and representatives of Braybrooke, Loddington, Stoke Albany, Ashley, Middleton, Cottingham, Broughton and Harrington parishes.

The discussion focused on

- the NNC approach to the enforcement of unauthorised sites
- the management of authorised sites in terms of their licensing and enforcing the distinction between gypsy and traveller accommodation and commercial caravan sites and
- the lack of a 5-year land supply for gypsy and traveller accommodation.

The Council noted that the lack of a 5-year land supply for gypsy and traveller accommodation is critical to the Appeal cases currently being considered and was an over-riding factor in the Appeal recently upheld in the case of the site on Desborough Road, Stoke Albany.

It was noted that newly elected NNC councillors Hakewill, Howes and Sims are all experienced in the matter of gypsy and traveller accommodation provision and the Council hoped that despite party political differences they would be able to work together to resolve the lack of a 5-year land supply within the NNC area.

14. Finance:

The Council considered the renewal of its insurance policy with Zurich Municipal and unanimously **agreed** renewal.

The Council received the financial statement circulated by the Clerk.

a) The following cheques were presented for signature and unanimously **agreed**:

101646	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	340.24
101647	Clerk – NEST pension	24.08
101648	S Morphy (grass mowing)	420.00
101649	J Bradshaw (maintenance of culvert)	60.00
101650	Zurich Municipal (renewal of insurance)	167.44
101651	Wilbarston Parish Council (rural bus service)	360.00
101652	Middleton Parish Council (deposit into Unity Trust bank account)	500.00

Receipts: None

**SUMMARY OF BALANCES**

National Savings	5,282.86
Business Reserve	167.22
Community Account	1,682.81
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£7,132.89</b>

b) The Council **approved** the bank reconciliation which was then duly signed by the Chair.

15. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items, all e-mailed:

NCALC – eUpdates and advice about meeting arrangements for May 2021

NCC Highways – Request to appoint a Footpath Warden

Wilbarston PC – Update on Community Bus Service

Signed .....Chair .....Date.....

16. Dissemination of Information:

It was **agreed** to publicise the fact that there would be an imminent vacancy for Councillor as Cllr Freestone has expressed a need to stand down in the near future due to family commitments. The Chair to draft a message. (*action SB*)

Those residents who don't already and wish to receive information by email, please contact Jane Smith on [jane@le.com](mailto:jane@le.com) .

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17. Business for next meeting:

New Code of Conduct

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....