

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs Coughlan (Chair), Denton and Thomas, Mrs Medwell (Clerk), PC Brad Wilson and NNC Cllr K Watt.

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### 1. Election of Chair:

The position of Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Thomas nominated Cllr Coughlan and was seconded by Cllr Denton. Cllr Coughlan **agreed** to become Chair.

The Chair duly completed and signed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Responsible Financial Officer.

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### 2. Election of Vice Chair:

The Council noted the resignation of Cllr Morrell. The Clerk will notify Electoral Services and the casual vacancy will be advertised (*action JM*).

The position of Vice Chair was deferred to the next meeting.

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### 3. To approve apologies for absence:

Cllrs Cole and Appleby

Police Liaison Representative Del Robertson

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### 4. Declaration of Interests on Items on the Agenda or changes to the Members Register of Interests:

There were no declarations of interests.

There were no changes to the members Registers of Interests.

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### 5. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting as a correct record.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were duly approved and signed by the Chair

Proposed Cllr Denton      Seconded Cllr Thomas

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

There were no matters arising.

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### 7. Meeting Open to the public:

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed to the public.

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### 8. Monthly NNC and Police Crime Report:

NNC Cllr Watt informed the Council of an upcoming meeting of the Greenway Board which aimed to progress the idea of creating an attractive route for pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders, waterways and river users to provide better access to work, training and healthier lifestyles across North Northamptonshire. The route will also provide the physical infrastructure necessary for residents and visitors to access various local attractions on offer and promote an increase in tourism spend.

PC Wilson was pleased to report no incidents of crime or antisocial behaviour for the month of

April. He advised that speed enforcement would be taking place in the village shortly and that the new force priorities included drug harm and violence against woman and girls.

It was noted that surveillance equipment may be available to position at a site where fly tipping was a particular problem. Cllr Thomas undertook to find out the relevant landowners so that permission to erect the camera may be sought (*action MT*).

The Chair referred to the recent sheep worrying incidents which had been passed to the Rural Crime Team. This had been followed up and the offending dogs have been seized.

The Chair thanked the visitors who duly left the meeting at 7.59 pm.

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#### 9. Orchard and Open Space:

In the absence of Cllr Appleby, the decision to approve the draft maintenance contract for the culvert and obelisk area was deferred.

The Chair advised that she had been unable to plant the commemorative trees due to the hard ground conditions.

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

**The Hill** – The Chair informed the Council that she was meeting with Sarah Barnwell of NNC Highways the following day to look at the overgrown vegetation at the triangle and the work to increase the visibility of the sharp bend down from the A427.

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

It was noted that the newly refurbished bench had been returned to the Orchard.

The Defibrillator had been checked with the new pads and a replacement battery fitted.

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#### 12. 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and Tree Planting:

The Chair informed the Council that organisation for this event was progressing well and that Cottingham Parish Council had agreed costs of up to £600 split on a two thirds one third basis. It was noted that no application had been submitted for outside funding therefore the one third share from Middleton, totalling £200, would come from reserves as agreed.

Full details of all events can be found on Facebook- Cottingham and Middleton Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

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#### 13. Finance:

a) The following cheques and BACS payments were presented and unanimously **agreed**:

BACS	Clerk – Salary and Expenses May	£373.58
BACS	Village Hall – Hire	£12.00
BACS	Wilbarston PC – Welland Bus Service	£360.00
BACS	I Arnott – Internal Audit	£75.00
BACS	Zurich – Insurance	£167.44
D/D	NEST - Clerk Pension March	£24.08

#### SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	£283.39
Unity Trust Account	£13,203.19

Signed..... Chair

Date.....

Total:

**£13,486.58**

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

c) The Internal Audit had been carried out with no issues raised and a robust audit trail found. The Chair thanked the Clerk for all her work with the audit.

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**13. Correspondence:**

The Council referred to correspondence from the Northants First Responders offering complimentary CPR and Defibrillator training along with supplementary equipment to be placed in the cabinet with the defibrillator. It agreed to seek a date for training and to add the bleed kits to the cabinet.

The Council also noted correspondence from the editor of the village newsletter regarding the cost of printing and the possibility of it being distributed electronically. The Council agreed that this continue to be distributed in its existing paper format as well as via email.

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**14. Dissemination of Information:**

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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**15. Business for next meeting:**

Orchard Maintenance Contract

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.36 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

Signed..... Chair

Date.....