

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs S Coughlan (Chair), C Boucher, K Bowyer and D Hallam-Wall, Mrs Medwell (Clerk), PLR Del Robertson and one member of the public.

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1. To approve apologies for absence:

NNC Cllrs H Howes and B McElhinney.

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2. 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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3. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting as a correct record.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Boucher

Seconded Cllr Bowyer

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

There were no matters arising.

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5. To consider Councillor Vacancies:

The Council **agreed** to co-opt Mr Darren Hallam-Wall to fill the vacancy arising from the last elections.

Proposed Cllr Bowyer      Seconded Cllr Boucher      All in favour.

Cllr Hallam-Wall was welcomed on to the Council and duly completed and signed the Members Register of Interest and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

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6. Meeting Open to the public:

There was nothing raised.

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7. NNC Councillor Report:

There was nothing to report under this item.

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8. Monthly Crime Report:

PLR Robertson reported three incidents of crime involving domestic violence, assault of two Police Officers and animal welfare offences, all at Oakley Park. The animals concerned had been removed and the perpetrator charged.

PCSO 7074 ALI WALLACE can be contacted via e-mail on [alison.wallace@northants.police.uk](mailto:alison.wallace@northants.police.uk)

The Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted via [NPT-CorbyTown@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NPT-CorbyTown@northants.pnn.police.uk)

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9. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council reviewed the situation regarding the culvert at Manor Court, which is currently being cleared by a local resident. Since it was unclear whether the culvert is on private or public property, the Council decided that the parish councils should take responsibility for its upkeep. Without a definite boundary, the Council **agreed** to share the maintenance costs with Cottingham Parish Council (subject to its approval) using its usual one-third/two-thirds arrangement.

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

**Highways** – The Chair provided an overview of the drainage systems in the village and explained the ongoing

Issues concerning drainage at both the top and bottom of The Hill, as well as along Main Street. Additional work is required to clear the culvert located on the park side of the wall on The Hill and to carry out repairs to existing drains. The Chair is actively pursuing necessary maintenance to the drainage ditches in the fields at the top of The Hill to mitigate water runoff flowing down The Hill.

The Parish Council noted the new NNC Highways Online Reporting Tool via the link below. This will drop straight into the NNC work plan, be assessed for urgency, will appear on a map of activity and it will provide a reference number which can be checked for progress

<https://highways.northnorthants.gov.uk/>

Grit Bins – The Council thanked Del Robertson for organising the refill of the parish council owned grit bin on School Hill.

Cllr Bowyer raised a faulty light outside 6 The Hill – the Clerk will report (*action JM*).

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#### 11. Risk Assessment:

The Risk Assessment was shared with all Councillors before the meeting. An item 'Cyber Security' was added to identify and mitigate against risks such as email hacking, phishing, malware, data breach or fraudulent payment requests. This addition was formally approved.

Proposed Cllr Boucher    Seconded Cllr Bowyer    All in favour

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#### 12. Community Governance Review:

The Council submitted the following response to NNC regarding the Community Governance Review:-

*Middleton Parish Council proposes that the parish boundary be amended so that it follows the line of the A427, with Middleton Parish forming the northern side of this road. The Council considers the A427 to represent a clear, logical, and easily identifiable boundary that reflects both the physical landscape and the developing pattern of communities in the area.*

*This proposed boundary change aligns with the proposals put forward by Corby Town Council in respect of the incorporation of the new West Corby Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE). The Parish Council is supportive of an approach that ensures effective and coherent governance arrangements for the West Corby SUE, reflecting the communities it will serve and providing clarity for residents, developers, and service providers.*

*Middleton Parish Council believes that adopting the A427 as the parish boundary will promote good governance, avoid future ambiguity, and support joined-up planning and community representation as the area continues to develop.*

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#### 13. Rockingham Road Youth Football Team:

The Chair reported that the Rockingham Road Youth Football Team had contacted Cottingham Parish Council to request permission to use the playing field and village hall. The Council expressed its support for grassroots football initiatives and is currently awaiting a detailed proposal from the club before considering any potential agreement.

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#### 14. Parish Assets and Events:

It was noted that all assets including the defibrillator were all in order.

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#### 15. Upgrade of Children's Play Park:

The Chair provided an update from the recent meeting of the working group. It was agreed that the Cottingham Parish Council would explore options for grant funding, whilst other members of the group have

Signed..... Chair

Date.....

