

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 6.35 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs S Coughlan (Chair), C Boucher, K Bowyer and S Roper-Caldbeck, Mrs J Medwell (Clerk), PC Rudkin, PCSO A Wallace and NNC H Howes.

1. To approve apologies for absence:

Cllr D Hallam-Wall
PLR Del Robertson

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.

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 10th March 2026 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Boucher Seconded Cllr Bowyer

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

There were no matters arising.

5. To consider Councillor Vacancies:

The Council **agreed** to co-opt Mr Shaun Roper-Caldbeck to fill the vacancy arising from the last elections.
Proposed Cllr Coughlan Seconded Cllr Bowyer All in favour.

Cllr Roper-Caldbeck 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.

6. NNC Councillor and Monthly Crime Report:

NNC Councillor Howes provided an update regarding the Ward Initiative Fund. He explained that there have been recent changes to the fund, which have resulted in the available monies being reduced by half and that the application window has been shortened, leaving less time in which to submit applications.

He also informed the Council that NNC will be extending the Keir Highways contract. Although Keir has met its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), the company will be subject to scrutiny as part of the contract extension process.

PCSO A Wallace introduced PC Rankin and was pleased to confirm that there were no reported crimes in Middleton during the past month. However, she advised of a car theft incident in Cottingham. She encouraged everyone to remain vigilant and suggested that residents take photographs of the registration numbers of any vehicles they consider suspicious or notice loitering in the area.

During the meeting, Councillor Bowyer raised an incident of pick pocketing which had occurred at the car boot sale. The police emphasised that incidents such as these should always be formally reported. This enables them to build a comprehensive picture of local crime patterns and respond appropriately to community concerns. The Council also raised concerns regarding traffic congestion on Bringhurst Road, particularly in relation to vehicles queuing before the sale site opened. It was noted that the volume of queuing traffic resulted in the entire road being blocked, causing inconvenience for other road users. It was suggested that the owner of the sale site be encouraged to explore measures to alleviate the problem.

PCSO 7074 ALI WALLACE can be contacted via e-mail on alison.wallace@northants.police.uk
The Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted via NPT-CorbyTown@northants.pnn.police.uk

7. Orchard and Open Space:

In response to several reports that some dog owners were failing to pick up after their pets, anti-dog fouling signs have been installed at both entrances to the orchard. The Council encouraged all dog owners to act responsibly and ensure that the orchard remains a pleasant environment for everyone.

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

Highways – The additional work required to clear the culvert located on the park side of the wall on The Hill and to carry out repairs to the existing drains has been done.

The faulty light outside 6 The Hill has been reported.

9. Parish Assets and Events:

a) Safety Check

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

b) Upgrade of Children’s Play Park

There was nothing further to report on this item at present

c) Approval for Recreation Field Use by Rockingham Rovers

The Council considered the proposal submitted by Rockingham Rovers, a junior football club, seeking permission to use the Recreation Field. The Council unanimously approved the club’s request which will include use of the meeting room facilities and responsibility for pitch maintenance.

The Village Hall Committee will draft a working contract to outline terms of use and expectations for both parties.

d) Noticeboard – This had fallen in recent winds and has been removed for repair.

e) Village Fete – The Council discussed preparations for the upcoming village fete. It was confirmed that a comprehensive risk assessment is being undertaken to ensure the safety of all participants and visitors during the event. Additionally, arrangements for adequate insurance cover are currently in hand, with the Council ensuring that all necessary procedures are followed to comply with relevant requirements.

10. Planning:

26/00519/HFUL 12 Darescroft Replace conservatory with single story rear extension

The Council had no objection to this application.

Gypsy and Traveller’s Sites

The Chair informed the Council that NNC has now met with MP’s and their representatives who are in agreement that legislation changes are needed on licensing laws for Gypsy and Traveller sites as well as enforcement notices and stop orders. NNC will inform the Council of next steps in due course.

The Council continues to await the outcome of the Oakley Park enforcement appeals from the Planning Inspectorate and a Court Date for the Peasdale Hill site.

The visitors left the meeting at this point.

Signed..... Chair

Date.....

19. Business for next meeting:

Nothing identified at present.

20. Date of Next Meeting:

Annual Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 12th May 2026

Cllr Boucher offered her apologies for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.36 pm.

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