

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 6.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs Coughlan (Chair), Bowyer, Hallam-Wall and Roper-Caldbeck, Mrs Medwell (Clerk), NNC Cllr H Howes and Cllr Tweed (representing Cottingham Parish Council).

1. Election of Chair:

The position of Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Bowyer nominated Cllr Coughlan and was seconded by Cllr Roper-Caldbeck. Cllr Coughlan **agreed** to become Chair and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk.

2. Election of Vice Chair:

The position of Vice Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Coughlan nominated Cllr Boucher in her absence and was seconded by Cllr Bowyer. Cllr Boucher had previously indicated that she would become Vice Chair if nominated. Cllr Boucher will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.

3. To approve apologies for absence:

Cllr Boucher – approved.

4. Declaration of Interests in Items on the Agenda or Changes to the Members' Register of Interests:

There were none.

5. 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 14th April 2026 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Bowyer Seconded Cllr Roper-Caldbeck

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

There were no matters arising.

7. Meeting Open to the public:

The Chair welcomed Cllr Tweed to the meeting.

Cllr Tweed attended to discuss issues of mutual concern affecting the two neighbouring parishes. The following matters were raised and discussed:

a) Play Area Ownership and Safety

Cllr Tweed raised concerns regarding discrepancies between the North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) routine inspection reports and an independent inspection report. He advised that Cottingham Parish Council will not agree to the transfer of ownership of the play area from NNC to the two parish councils until it is formally deemed safe. The Chair requested copies of all related correspondence and asked Cllr Howes to make enquiries on behalf of the Parish Councils. It was also suggested that the two councils consider playground inspection training for councillors.

b) Parish Boundary Clarity

Cllr Tweed asked whether there was an up to date parish map that clearly defined the boundary between Cottingham and Middleton. It was agreed that the Chair together with a member of Cottingham Parish Council, would walk the part of the parish boundary between the two villages to clarify and resolve any boundary issues.

14. Finance:

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

Payee	Details	Amount	VAT element	Legal Authority
S Morphy	Grass Cutting	£235.00		OSA 1906 s.15
S Morphy	Noticeboard Repair	£380.00		s.111 LGA 1972
VHMC	April Hall Hire	£6.00		s.111 LGA 1972
S Morphy	Obelisk Trim	£130.00		OSA 1906 s.15
Cottingham PC	Rechargeable Expenses	£585.87		s.111 LGA 1972, OSA 1906 s.15, War Memorials (LAP) Act 1923 s.1

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	£4,008.98
Unity Trust Account	£16,489.68
Total:	£20,498.66

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

15. Correspondence:

There was no further correspondence to consider.

16. Exchange of Information:

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

17. Business for next meeting:

Nothing identified at present.

18. Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 14th July 2026

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.17 pm.

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