

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 6.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs S Coughlan (Chair), K Bowyer, C Boucher and S Roper-Caldbeck, Mrs Medwell (Clerk), NNC Cllr D Howes and PLR Del Robertson.

1. To approve apologies for absence:

NNC Cllr H Howes

The Council noted the recent resignation of Cllr Hallam-Wall. There are currently three council vacancies.

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

There were none.

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 12th May 2026 were duly approved and signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Bowyer Seconded Cllr Roper-Caldbeck All in favour.

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

There were no matters arising.

5. Meeting Open to the public:

There were no members of the public present.

6. NNC Councillor Report:

NNC Cllr D Howes had nothing to report at this point.

7. Monthly Crime Report:

PLR Representative Del Robertson reported just one incidence of crime, a theft from Main Street, over the last two months.

Mr Roberston had attended a recent PLR online conference and provided the Council with a detailed overview of the items covered – see appendix at the end of the minutes.

Mr Robertson was thanked for his input and duly left the meeting at this point.

8. Orchard and Open Space:

The overgrown orchard and culvert area had been referred to Steve Morphy for his attention.

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

Main Street Parking: The Council had previously discussed concerns raised by North Northamptonshire Council following reports that parked vehicles on Main Street were, at times, making it difficult for the school bus and other larger vehicles, including emergency services, to get through. It was agreed to deliver a letter to residents asking for considerate parking to help keep the road safe and accessible. The Council was pleased to note that the leaflets had been well received and that the response from residents had been positive.

Community Speed Watch: The Council considered a request from Cottingham Parish Council to take part in a joint community-led Speed Watch initiative and to contribute towards the cost of equipment. It was agreed that the Council would not participate at this stage but would be interested in seeing how the

scheme develops before reviewing its position. Councillors suggested that Cottingham Parish Council consider the siting of advisory 20 mph signs which could help encourage lower speeds through their village.

10. NNC Local Plan Scoping Consultation:

A full and detailed response had been submitted to NNC as part of the Local Plan Scoping Consultation. This document can be viewed through the below link.

<https://www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk>

11. Parish Assets and Events:

Parish Assets: All in order.

Upgrade of Children's Play Park: The Chair informed the Council that no further work will be undertaken in relation to the proposed upgrade or the transfer of maintenance responsibilities until North Northamptonshire Council has satisfactorily addressed all issues identified in the independent inspection report concerning the existing play equipment and safety surfacing. The Parish Council agreed that it would not be appropriate to proceed with the project or accept responsibility for the site until it is satisfied that the outstanding defects and safety concerns have been remedied by NNC.

Cottingham and Middleton Village Fete: The Council thanked everyone who contributed to another very successful village fete and expressed its appreciation to all the volunteers, organisers, participants, and supporters whose efforts helped make the event such a success.

12. Planning:

26/01641/FUL Desborough Airfield Installation of Solar Farm

The Council noted that the parish councils directly affected by the proposed development will be submitting detailed responses to the planning application, reflecting the views of their local communities and including recommendations for mitigation and improvement. These responses will focus on battery safety risks, glint, glare and noise, impacts on the natural environment and identified animal habitats, traffic management, and the location of the substation and associated pylon connection point. Middleton Parish Council agreed that it would not submit any further comments in addition to those representations.

26/01171/AOC Woolpack Farm Approval of Condition

The Council supported this application

26/00452/HFUL 4 Lightfoot Lane Extension and Loft Conversion

The Council had no objection to this application

Land South of Oakley Park – Planning Inspectorate Response

The Council noted that of the two appeals raised against NNC enforcement notices on Land South of Oakley Park, the Planning Inspector had dismissed appeal B, against North Northamptonshire Council's principal enforcement notice relating to the unauthorised expansion of the Oakley Park Gypsy and Traveller site. The Inspector found that the development significantly exceeded the approved planning permission and that several planning conditions had not been met. The enforcement notice has been upheld, requiring removal of the unauthorised caravans and infrastructure, restoration of the land, and reinstatement of boundary hedgerows. Compliance is required within five months (End October 2026).

12. Finance:

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

Payee	Details	Total Amount	VAT Element	Legal Authority
S Morphy	Mowing	£235.00		OSA 1906 s.15
Curtis Website Design	Website	£96.00		s.111 LGA 1972

Signed..... Chair

Date.....

Payee	Details	Total Amount	VAT Element	Legal Authority
S Morphy	Mowing	£470.00		OSA 1906 s.15
Krystal Hosting	Website - June	£8.40	£1.40	s.111 LGA 1972
Village Hall	Hall Hire	£6.00		s.111 LGA 1972

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	£2,188.00
Unity Trust Account	£16,557.03
Total:	£18,745.03

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

c) Cllr Boucher advised that she had carried out a quarterly review of the Council's accounts and found all to be in order.

13. Correspondence:

There was no further correspondence to consider.

14. Exchange of Information:

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

15. Business for next meeting:

Nothing identified at present.

16. Date of Next Meeting:

29th September

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.51 pm.

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

Appendix – provided by PLR Del Robertson

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone's Immediate Justice programme.

The Immediate Justice programme gives people who have committed anti-social behaviour the opportunity to pay for the harm they have caused through meaningful and visible reparative work.

In March 2023, the Home Office announced that Northamptonshire OPFCC was one of just a few areas in England and Wales that would receive funding to trial a new 'Immediate Justice' scheme to deliver swift and visible punishments to those who commit anti-social behaviour.

The current Labour Government closed the scheme but Northants PFCC decided to fund the scheme internally to keep it going.

It means those found committing anti-social behaviour can be made to repair the damage they have inflicted on victims and communities by picking up litter, removing graffiti or carrying out other work to

make environmental improvements in areas where they offended. This has included removal of moss/lichen from Gravestones. Others have worked in Charity Shops, Food Banks etc.

The scheme has an ambition for offenders to start work within 48 hours of a police decision, demonstrating that anti-social behaviour is treated seriously. Offenders subject to either a Community Resolution Order or those who have received a Conditional Caution are eligible for the scheme.

There have been 700 'referrals' to the scheme with just a 13% re-offending rate. Manager Aiden Gibson states there is no formal referral procedure with initial contact being made to the team on immediatejusticeteam@northantspfcc.co.uk. The team will respond and if a work requirement is agreed, all that is asked is that a Point of Contact from wherever the work is required is there to meet the supervisor and his workers on the day.

This scheme is separate from 'Community Payback'. The I.J.T is a small team with manager Aiden and 3 staff who work with and supervise the offenders. The offenders carry out a maximum of 20 hours work over 5 sessions. Supervision is on a 1-1 or 2 basis, so that mentoring can take place on a much more personal and inclusive level alongside the work that is carried out.

The team will travel all over the County, and whilst they prefer to have offenders carrying out work in their local area, this is not written in stone and the crew will work anywhere required.

RURAL CRIME TEAM

Northants Police have recently increased Officer numbers on the Rural Crime Team.

Their main objectives are: -

1. To disrupt Criminals and reduce harm
2. To Prevent Crime and Protect the Community
3. To Partner and to deliver measurable impact

Officers deal not only with crimes such as Burglary and Theft, but a host of Wildlife issues such as Poaching, Hare Coursing, Illegal animal fighting, Disturbance of nesting and roosting sites for Birds, Bats etc. and Livestock worrying.

A lot of Rural Crime such as Theft of high value Agricultural equipment and Tack, as well as Poaching Gangs can be linked to Serious Organised Crime Groups, and these groups will also be involved in other serious criminality.

The team insists that members of the Public will not be "bothering" them by contacting them and they are keen to hear of any relevant criminality and any suspicious sightings of vehicles or persons. They are also keen to hold accurate records as to the scale of offending or suspicious activity in our Rural areas.

Northants Police liaise closely with neighbouring Police Forces, as this form of criminality holds no Borders for the perpetrators.

The Team will attend organised Village events, subject to notice and availability.

They have regular meetings with Young Farmers groups Countywide and advise them on such issues as Crime Prevention, including the latest technological advances on Tracking equipment such as 'Smart' Tags, Data Tags, kit marking etc. as well as offering advice on Road Safety issues.

The Team has access to 4x4 vehicles, Drone equipment, Animal Handling Kit etc.

They also link in with 'Horseback Volunteers' around the County, who report back with such issues as Off-Road Motorcycle misuse and Fly-Tipping.

The team are contactable on ruralcrime@northants.police.uk