

Draft **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF THE MORETON PINKNEY PARISH**
Held on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 7.35 pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Ben Vincent (BV)	Chairman
	Brian Collett (BC)	Councillor
	Dorothy Brooke (DB)	Councillor
	Claire Poulton (CP)	Councillor
	Russell Howarth (RH)	Councillor
	Alison Eastwood (AE)	WNC Unitary Councillor
	Gary Denby (GD)	Parish Clerk
Public:	Isabelle Kerwood	Danny Kerwood
	Jane Wheeler	Barbara Keane
	Margaret Goodwin	Ruth Grimett
	Helen Phipps	Tim Aber
	Hillary Foxton	Simon Shepheard-Walwyn
	(18 total)	Emma Danby

Welcome from the Parish Council Chairman Ben Vincent

1. **Apologies** – Cllr James Smith, Richard Prior (Flood Warden)
2. **Minutes for the previous Parish Meeting on 28th April 2021 via Zoom**
These were received by the Parish Council and agreed as an accurate record at their meeting on 28th April 2021.
3. **Matters Arising from the minutes – none.**
4. **Reports received from village organisations**
 - 4.1 Cllr Eastwood – West Northamptonshire Unitary Council (Appendix A)
 - 4.2 Hilary Foxton - Garden Club report on 2021-22 activities (Appendix B)
 - 4.3 Simon Shepheard-Walwyn – St Mary’s Church Warden (Appendix C)
 - 4.4 Danny Kerwood - Path Warden report 2021-22 (Appendix D)
 - 4.5 Cllr Dorothy Brooke - Village Hall report April 2021-22 (Appendix E)
 - 4.6 Margaret Goodwin - Short Mat Bowls Club report April 2021-22 (Appendix F)
 - 4.7 Brian Collett - Moreton Pinkney Charities statement 2021-22 (Appendix G)
 - 4.8 Richard Prior – Flood Warden report 2021-22 (Appendix H)
 - 4.9 Cllr Ben Vincent - Parish Council summary 2021-22 (Appendix I)
5. There being no further business the meeting closed at 08:05 pm.

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Chairman

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Date

APPENDIX A: Cllr Alison Eastwood – West Northants Unitary Council

Cllr Eastwood provided a verbal extract of the most relevant aspects of her **Silverstone Ward Annual Report – April 2022**, prepared jointly by our ward councillors Dermot Bambridge, Alison Eastwood and Charles Manners:-

The unitary authority replaced the previous district, borough and county councils on 1 April last year and has since been making good progress on its fresh start to deliver better local public services across Daventry, Northampton and south Northants areas.

Born from the biggest restructure of local government in Northamptonshire in over 40 years, the Council, having guided communities through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, now heads into its second year with a balanced budget and additional investment in services ahead.

Future transformation plans are also taking shape, including progressing work to join up health and social care services and working collaboratively to help people live their best lives, work on our Anti-Poverty plans and skills agenda and an ambitious new approach to making West Northants a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place to live and work, to protect and improve the local environment, economy and society for future generations.

We are fully aware of the challenges presented by the warehouse developments in Towcester and HS2 in the north of the Ward, and are doing everything we can to mitigate the impacts of these developments.

Since last April the Council has delivered a broad range of services, projects and activities as part of its six top priorities for making the area a great place to live, work and thrive;

Priority: Improved Life Chances

- Supporting and guiding residents and businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Continuing the improvement journey in children's services as recognised by Ofsted
- Progressing plans to join up health and social care services
- helping the most vulnerable including free school meals, funds to help households with food and energy bills, resettling Afghan families and the Government's Ukraine response locally
- Developing our Anti-Poverty Strategy with partner organisations and charities
- Continuing to build high quality council homes
- Council Tax reduction scheme and improving financial support for care leavers
- Allocating school places and proposals for a new secondary school proposal for Moulton
- Staging a range of events to celebrate our communities, equality and diversity
- Awareness and commemoration days and events – IDAHOBIT, Pride, Armed Forces Day, International Day of Disabilities and Black History Month
- Developing the Armed Forces Covenant and establishing new armed forces hubs
- New customer experience strategy to improve how residents access our services

Priority: Green and Clean places

- Shaping our new sustainability goals – to net zero the Council's own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045
- Retaining Green Flag awards for our high-quality parks
- Improving Towcester Water Meadows and encouraging community tree planting
- £6.2 million community flood protection scheme
- Installing new electric charge points across West Northants
- Crackdowns and prosecutions on environmental offenders, from fly tipping and food safety
- New litter charter and community litter-picking initiatives
- Grants for landowners to tackle fly tipping

Priority: Economic Development

- Submitting a bid for city status for Northampton
- Securing £37 million funding for regenerating Northampton town centre and market Square
- Delivering Daventry's new cinema complex
- Redeveloping Brackley Library and delivering our award-winning 'For the Love of Books'
- Supporting businesses and start-ups with funding, advice and support

Priority: *Connected Communities*

- Embarking on a major roads improvement programme
- Making plans and funding bids to improve bus services
- extending Northampton's public e-scooter scheme
- Shaping our future highways maintenance service and transport infrastructure
- Appointment of an HS2 Marshal

Priority: *Thriving villages and towns*

- Providing accommodation and support for rough sleepers
- localising planning arrangements and simplified, more effective planning enforcement
- Investing in a host of initiatives to make communities safer
- Distributing grant funding for community and voluntary groups
- re-opening the refurbished and extended Northampton Museum and Art Gallery
- Showcasing our heritage with open days and supporting Go Northamptonshire
- Working with Parishes on neighbourhood development plans and conservation areas

Priority: *Robust Resource Management*

- Capping Council Tax rises at £99 per year
- On target, deliver our first year on budget, and settling a balanced budget for the year ahead and making robust plans to tackle financial challenges
- Working to join up local services across the whole West Northants area, to make them better and more cost-effective

We are proud to serve our local communities and look forward to helping you in 2022/23

Cllr Dermot Bambridge -

Cllr Alison Eastwood – alison.eastwood@westnorthants.gov.uk

Cllr Charles manners – 07836 550356 charles.manners@westnorthants.gov.uk

APPENDIX B: Hilary Foxton - Garden Club report on 2021-22 activities

Covid remained a threat during 2021. Our Committee has continued to provide new events and to adapt existing events to ensure a full Covid-safe programme. We are fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of our members and village community. This has enabled the club to donate £1000.00 to charities in 2021 and already in 2022 to fund the purchase of the Queen's Jubilee trees.

Changes made to some events in 2020 have remained in 2021. The zoom AGM, online dinners, Facebook recipes and quizzes, regular 'Keeping in Touch' emails.

Other events carried on as usual. We had three garden visit days, to Hardwick House, three gardens in Warwick and a visit to Pettifers Garden in Wardington. The Horticultural Show, Sunflowers for Solidarity, Macmillan Coffee morning, A Coven of Witches at Halloween were all held as usual, the Plant Sale became the Garden Market and Café – held outside.

New in 2021 - Open Gardens. A tentative opening of 10 gardens and two afternoon tea venues was a fabulous success. We hope to repeat the Open Gardens in 2023.

- The Bird Watch Weekend, encouraging children and adults alike to record the birds outside their window, well received and to be repeated annually.

- A very special initiative in 2021 'Trees for the Queen's Jubilee'. Villagers voted resoundingly YES for trees to be planted. A group of 'professionals' from the village lent their expertise. In late February 2022 the eight trees were planted around the village along with a Queen's Jubilee plaque beside the Oak Tree. These trees are now included in the Queen's Green Canopy Map, part of the National Platinum Jubilee initiative.

The strategic aims for 2021 were three fold:-

- (1) To focus on encouraging Junior Members. As I write this report (April 2022) we have 40 Junior members, up from 9 in 2020.
- (2) To move to on-line banking – this has proved helpful both for our officers and many members who now pay subs and event fees without leaving home!
- (3) To simplify the content and language of the existing Constitution and to introduce a limit on the length of time that anyone person may hold the position of Chairman. The new Constitution was adopted at the AGM in March 2022.

2021/2 Has seen many properties change hands in the village with lots of lovely new villagers in our beautiful village. We welcomed these people, in person, by delivering a plant and a leaflet about the Club, often enjoying a welcoming chat too!

We are pleased to say that the Club continues to thrive, providing an extensive, varied programme of events to both members and villagers. New members always welcome.

Hilary Foxton (Chairman) April 2022

APPENDIX C: Simon Sheppard-Walwyn – St Mary’s Churchwarden

We have been delighted to welcome the Rev Mike Chesher to our Benefice. Since Covid restrictions were lifted, church has once again been open every day, and we have seen our congregation return more or less to pre-pandemic levels, despite the loss of some regular attendees. Mike has introduced a Messy Church service on the first Sunday of the month, which has attracted a number of new families.

We were unable to hold any social events last year, but this year we are planning a Hymns and Pimms evening service on July 24th and the Harvest Supper will be on September 23rd (with Harvest Festival on September 25th).

The library in church, which is available to the whole village, now has a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction titles.

We have not experienced any major issues with the church or churchyard this year. We are due to have a Quinquennial inspection this year, which may highlight some maintenance to be undertaken, but we do not expect this to be onerous or expensive. Over the past couple of years we have been focusing on re-wilding areas of the churchyard as well as providing habitats for wildlife, and we are encouraged by the increased biodiversity that we are experiencing. Once again, we would like to thank all those who have contributed both time and money to the upkeep of the church and grounds.

Unfortunately, Mike (Rev. Michael Chesher) has had to make the difficult decision to resign from the Benefice on health grounds, though he will stay as long as possible while we seek a successor. We would like to record our thanks for the energy and commitment he has demonstrated in his short time with us, and wish him well for the future.

Simon Sheppard-Walwyn

APPENDIX D: Mr Danny Kerwood - Path Warden report 202-212

Dear Mr Chairman

This is my first report having taken over the role from Judith Bryant in January of this year.

I have now managed to walk every one of the rights of way indicated on the definitive map given to me by Judy Bryant and am please to report that all of the paths appear to be well used and in generally good condition.

There are one or two areas on AV22 and AV23 that have some ruts caused by motorcycles although these are not excessive and are certainly less than I have seen many times over the years whilst living in Moreton Pinkney. The routes remain easily passable by foot or horse but these ruts will become harder to see as the grass grows.

I have reported to our rights of way officer that the route taken by AV12 from a position opposite Gary Penns to the Drift road does not follow the route of the map due to developments on the ground. It also has two stiles over 4'6" fences surrounding horse paddocks that would not be navigable with a dog. Otherwise it is clearly marked and well maintained. The response has been that the council does not currently have the resource to tackle the route issues and that there is no requirement for a footpath to be "dog friendly"

As previously reported work has been completed to strengthen the bridge support in brook street. This has withstood the recent occasions of high water levels but will not win any awards for its aesthetics .



The old slumping gate as you leave the yard of Heartwood at the beginning of AV15 has recently been replaced by the landowner and some new fencing erected making access a little easier.

Although it has now been cleared up, there has recently been a genuinely disgraceful amount of dog waste left by one of the stiles on AV1. This had the appearance of being the act of one person. This has now been cleared up and a sign erected (presumably by the land owner) requesting that dog waste be taken home. Thus far this seems to be working but there really shouldn't be a need to remind people about this. There also seems to be an issue with dog waste at the village end of AV6.

Over the course of the last few weeks I have collected the remains of 7 foil/helium balloons from around the parish rights of way. In addition to being unsightly these also pose a real threat to livestock so ask that people consider this before releasing them.

I recently encountered a case of fallen branches being deliberately positioned across AV22. Whatever the intent of this, it is likely to be an offence to obstruct a right of way.

With so many young lambs in the fields around our village at the moment, it seems like a good time to remind dog owners that their dogs should be kept on a lead.

Any issues found on our paths can be reported to me on moreton_paths@yahoo.com and I will investigate them or directly to Northamptonshire county council/street doctor/rights of way.

Yours sincerely

Danny Kerwood

APPENDIX E: Cllr Dorothy Brooke - Village Hall Committee report April 2022

Thankfully 2021 saw the village hall return to some sort of normality after the dreadful Covid lock-down period. The lock-down period highlighted how valuable the village hall is as a meeting place to meet and join in various activities and events.

In celebration of this and to help bring the village community together the village hall committee organised a BBQ which was held on August Bank Holiday Monday. Stan Shenton kindly volunteered to provide the afternoon entertainment and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

The Auction, which is very popular, also resumed booking the hall on a monthly basis. The Auction provides a good regular income which helps fund the village hall facilities. The Garden Club staged the Annual Horticultural Show. The Parish council meetings moved from 'Zoom meetings' back to the village hall. We have had several private event bookings.

More recently, we saw the return of 'Film Night' which was very well received. The fish and Chip van visited throughout the year as did the Pizza Van. 'Carols on the Green' was well attended, around 60 people, despite the rain.

The local police now have access to the hall which they are using at various times as a hub. It was decided by the committee that a visible police presence in the village may deter crime and reassure the residents.

The village hall continued to make improvements by installing Wifi, having the stage floor re-newed and the back room carpet replaced. The fence was installed around the playground equipment; the Parish Council using CIL funding to contribute £1,000 towards the cost.

We also have a new cleaner, Jean Gardner, who is doing a great job.

Thank you to all committee members for working to keep the village hall a place that everyone can come and enjoy whatever the occasion.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support!

Dorothy Brooke
Secretary MPVHC

APPENDIX F: Margaret Goodwin - Short Mat Bowls Club report April 2021-22

After no play throughout the 2020-2021 season because of Covid restrictions, we were able to start the 2021-2022 season in September with our weekly club nights, with some vulnerable members deciding not to join us at this time. However, we did gain one new member. It was not possible to play tournaments, the league or friendly matches against other clubs.

In December we enjoyed a Christmas Evening: some bowls followed by a Christmas meal in the village hall provided by the members.

On 1st April we were able to play a friendly match against Nether Heyford Bowls Club. This season comes to an end in May.

We hope to return to a normal season with more matches etc. in September and hopefully welcome some new members.

APPENDIX G: Brian Collett - Moreton Pinkney Charities statement 2021-22

6 Students were awarded £100 each towards books for there studies at university.

Balance of account for year April 2021-April 2022.

Account at 1st April 2021	£1,114-81
Payments to a Students	-£ 600-00
Income from Charity Field	£ 720-00
Balance 1st April 2022	£1,234-81

Brian Collet (chairperson)

APPENDIX H: Richard Prior (in absence) – Flood Warden report 2021-22

Since the last report, we had the worst flooding on the Banbury road in the last 5 years. On 24th May 2021 after sudden heavy rain storms the culverts under the road were unable to cope with the run off from the higher fields and road water coming from both directions, (down hill from the village and also from Banbury direction coming past the Garage and collecting in the lowest part of the village). This was covering the main road for a number of hours, and would have caused less problems if the passing cars had driven through at walking pace, but quite a few made tidal waves without any regard for the surrounding properties.

February 2022 bought major storms Dudley, Eunice & Franklin to the UK, but luckily it had little impact on Northamptonshire, most of the rainfall landing north of our county hardest hit being Yorkshire, the Lake district, and up to Scotland. On 21 st February the brook rose to around 20 inches above normal levels, and subsided quite quickly.

With the usual spring showers and saturated ground on 16th March, the Brook was up to it's maximum capacity at the Banbury Road, and broke the banks just before the ford in Brook Street. At the footbridge it was running over the concrete walkway and measured 35 inches total depth. It returned to only a few inches deep in the next 48 hours.

We found a number of blockages across the brook downstream from the ford when we walked it this week. Of course these would need to be cleared as a matter of urgency even in the summer months as sudden downpours will cause major problems, such as May last year which was unexpectedly wet and problematic. Pictures below:-



We will try to find the landowners adjacent to these areas (with help from the parish council) and ask permission for access to organise work to be done. This will help to keep the water flowing through the village and reduce the flooding risk at the ford and the Banbury Road.

Eagle eyed gardeners spotted healthy green plants growing in the brook at a couple of locations, which turned out to be Fools Watercress (*Apium Nodiflorum*) and isn't poisonous, and can even be eaten once cooked.

The Road sweepers were out Monday morning (25th April) cleaning the edges of the road. This will help to keep the drains clear from leaves and dirt being washed into them, but I have yet to see the drain cleaners themselves, they are usually around in the Autumn.

Richard Prior (Moreton Pinkney Flood Warden)

27th April 2022.

APPENDIX I: Cllr Ben Vincent - Parish Council summary 2021-22

The Parish Council has continued to administer its duties, despite the restrictions of the Covid crisis, it has been welcome to return to in-person meetings in the village hall.

We have been working with the garden club over the last few months to agree sites for Trees for the Queens jubilee. These have now been planted by the garden club at various locations around the village – thanks to all those involved, a lasting legacy for the Queen. As part of the Jubilee celebrations the parish council have agreed to purchase each child between 0-18 in the village a Jubilee mug to mark this special occasion. We have also formed a group with representatives from the Church/Parish Council/Garden Club/Village Hall to work on a plan to mark the Platinum Jubilee in June.

The council are working on a green infrastructure plan for the village landscape in order to help combat climate change, which is a work in progress. Thanks to Cllr Claire Poulton for all her work in regard to this.

We are continuing to work with the Police to stop the illegal use of the restricted byways and bridleways by quad and trail bikes, who are damaging the rights of way, and spoiling the legal use by walkers, cyclists and riders. Please report illegal and anti-social behaviour on the Northamptonshire Police website. The more reports, the more help the Police can offer:- www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/

I would like to thank our flood warden, Richard Prior, and our footpath warden Judith Bryant. Judith after many years has decided to hand the reins to Danny Kerwood for this important role in the village. The parish council sent Judith flowers as a thanks for all her hard work over the years. We welcome Danny Kerwood to his new role.

On a sad note Peter Gaydon, who served for many years on the parish council, has recently passed away – we send our condolences to Stevi and the family. Peter had made huge progress with the registration of the greens, a particularly bureaucratic, slow and frustrating process.

We welcome Emma Danby to the parish who has joined us in in order to maintain a full council of 7 members. Lastly a sincere thank you to my fellow councillors who do so much for the village as volunteers, giving freely of their time only to the benefit of us all. I am so appreciative of their effort, common sense and the way that the council operates in a robust but polite and effective manner. My best wishes to you all for all for the year ahead.

Acting Chairman.

Ben Vincent.