MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF THE MORETON PINKNEY PARISH
Held on Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Andrew Jalland Chairman
Richard Lainchbury
Brian Collett
Les Tucker
Dorothy Brooke
James Smith
Ben Vincent
Gary Denby Parish Clerk
Peter Davies District Councillor, SNC

 Richard Lingard
Leonard Baxter
Richard and Marion Holloway
Ruth Grimmett Claire Poulton

Welcome from the Chairman

1. Apologies
   Judith Baxter
   Margaret Goodwin
This is the pre-election period for the County Council elections on May 4th, which may explain the absence of our County Councillor Ian Morris.

2. Minutes of the previous Parish Assembly held on 13th April 2016
   These were received and approved for accuracy at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 25th May 2016 and are available at http://www.moretonpinkney.info/minutes-of-meetings/minutes-of-the-annual-parish-meeting-followed-by-the-parish-council-meeting-of-moreton-pinkney-parish (13 April 2016).

4. Matters Arising from the minutes - none.

5. Reports received from village organisations
   5.1 Cllr Peter Davies - district report from SNC (Appendix A)
   5.2 Cllr Ian Morris – belated county report, Silverstone ward (Appendix B)
   5.3 Cllr Brian Collett - Short Mat Bowls Club 2016-17 (Appendix C)
   5.4 Judith Bryant (Mrs) - Path Warden report 2017 (Appendix D)
   5.5 Cllr Dorothy Brooke - Village Hall report 2017 (Appendix E)
   5.6 Richard Lingard - Garden Club report 2017 (Appendix F)
   5.7 Richard Holloway - Moreton Pinkney Charities statement 2017 (App’x G)
   5.8 Cllr Andrew Jalland - Extract of Police Report (Appendix H)
   5.9 Cllr Andrew Jalland - Parish Council report (Appendix I)

6. There being no further business the meeting closed at 08:15pm.

……………………………
Chairman
……………………………
Date

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APPENDIX A: Cllr Peter Davies – district report from SNC

Finance

The pressure on local government finances continues, as central government strives to reduce its budget deficit. The Revenue Support Grant to South Northamptonshire Council fell by £600,000 in 2016-17 to £812,000. In the current financial year 2017-18 this is falling again to £287,000 and next year will disappear entirely. At the same time the Rural Services Delivery Grant (recognising that it costs more to deliver services in rural areas) drops from £187,000 to £151,000 this year. Despite these problems SNC achieved a balanced budget for the past year and remains debt-free. Other councils have not fared so well.

Joint working

Last year I mentioned the savings that were being made through joint working with Cherwell Council, especially in back office and IT areas. This has been extended to include joint planning teams, legal and senior management. I said last year that savings from joint working amounted to over £3 million so far. Work continues to identify further economies.

A debate is now going on about more wide ranging reorganisation, including the abolition of district councils into mega Unitary Councils, centred on whole counties. Apart from the logistical problem of providing locals services from a more distant hub, there is also the issue of council debts – would we want to be linked to other council’s debts?

Council Tax

You will have noticed that your Council Tax increased this year. SNC takes just over 11% of the total, with 70% going to Northamptonshire County Council and 13% to the Northants Police & Crime Commissioner. Parish Councils received 2%.

Business Rates

The Rating List is updated every 5 years. For SNC there has been an increase of 5.6% in rateable values, reflecting partly the increase in business activity in this part of the country, compared to a national increase of 11%. There has been a lot of comment in the national press about the damaging effect on some businesses. I would just say there is an appeal system in place for anyone who considers they have been assessed unfairly, but any appeal needs to be made early.

New Homes Bonus

The government is reducing the payments from 6 years to 5 in 2017-18, resulting in a loss of £190,000 this year. This will further reduce to 4 years in 2018-19, meaning a further loss of revenue. As of now, Moreton Pinkney has done well out of NHB. The total local community funding allocated to the village amounts to £27,737, with £15,608 remainder available. This is more than any other village in the Washington Ward. One proposal has been for a flashing traffic speed
indicator on the Cannons Ashby approach to the village, but that would only take part of what is available. I should remind you that other funds may be available under the Community Development Capital and Revenue schemes.

**The Local Plan**

SNC Local Plan Part 2 is currently looking at all village confines. So now is the time to consider if changes in the current boundary need to be made. Mainly it is to tidy up any anomalies but there is also the point that it is easier to get planning permission for building changes inside the village boundary than outside it. We are all aware of the huge amount of house building in progress around Brackley and soon to be for Towcester as well. The congestion on the A5 through the town centre should be eased with the construction of a relief road from opposite the racecourse to the A43 south of Towcester, due to begin in 2020.

All councils are required to have a 5 year land supply, without which a planning inspector can allow any development on appeal. South Northants has more than that, but still no identified travellers’ sites [raising a question on whether any are actually required, according to the latest Plan Part 2 briefing on 4/5 April 2017?].

Finally I should mention that SNC and Cherwell’s joint Chief Executive Sue Smith retired last month. Her replacement Yvonne Rees (currently working with Surrey and Essex councils and selected from forty applicants) takes up the post in June.

**APPENDIX B: Cllr Ian Morris – county report detailing activities 2016/17**

This is my fourth report as your County Councillor; the purpose of which is to highlight the activities of the County Council, my role and the current plans that the new Council (after the Election in May) will be following.

Since May of last year I have been a Cabinet Member. The new leader Cllr Heather Smith asked me to take over the Environment, Development and Transport portfolio – a role that takes in Street Lighting, Waste, Highways, Broadband and potholes amongst other things... so not much of a challenge there then. I will return to this as my report progresses.

Some brief headlines follow:-

- Since 2013 we have provided safety for 3,100 of the most vulnerable children in the county and at any one time we have 1,000 children we care for.
- Our Invaluable fire and Rescue service has attended around 4000 incidents and this number of incidents continues to fall.
- Since 2012 we have created 13,474 new school places.
- Our Library Plus centres are being used more than ever and will have been visited by over 3,000,000 times this year.
- Our Country parks have been visited by 2,000,000 people.
- We have repaired 40,000 potholes this year alone.

I now wanted to take some time to specifically discuss our highways and our potholes. In Northamptonshire we continue to focus on innovative ways of maintaining and improving the roads, while maximising value for money. This against a backdrop of budgets that are under increased pressure. The public recognises that the roads require a great deal of
attention, as surfaces have suffered due to underinvestment in the past and the cumulative effects of severe winters. In recent years we have received additional ‘windfall’ money from the government for potholes: August 2014 - £3.3million; January 2013 - £3.7 million, available for the maintenance over the following two years.

While this is very welcome – it represents a drop in the ocean compared to what is required to bring roads up to a ‘good’ standard – which we estimate to be more than £350 million. Any highways issues can be reported through Street Doctor at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor. The more a pothole or a problem is reported the higher up the priority list it goes so do persevere. This winter has been unusually wet and this has caused some worsening conditions on our roads. We gritted the roads 63 times this winter more than last year which may surprise some people and this combined with the rain to cause further damage to our roads. A programme of road repairs will now be rolled out as the weather improves and we should all see a marked improvement over the summer.

The provision of local bus services will continue to be under pressure and where services are underused unlikely to remain in the sort to medium term. This means that innovative work like our total Transport plan for the entire community may take a significant role in protecting and providing local bus services in the future. Essentially this is a ground breaking new venture that will see the County Partnered initially with the University of Northampton and the Northamptonshire Healthcare foundation trust and which will essentially make use of spare vehicles to provide transport for Schools the Health Trust and the university but this could be expanded to include park and ride and eventually new bus routes into rural areas. The cost of the initial exercise is being entirely funded by government and is being closely watched by other counties.

Northamptonshires rollout of superfast Broadband continues at pace. We were one of the first councils to accelerate rural broadband connectivity. Last year over 43,000 premises were connected and 181 new fibre cabinets were deployed across the county. This year 65,000 more premises have been connected. The phase 3 part of the contract with Gigaclear will see further rollout to the rural areas that have up until now not had any broadband or little chance of connection to superfast broadband and by the end of 2017 we should see 98% of properties connected. In particular those properties with exchange only connections should see a solution that allows them to connect to the network.

In terms of the Council Tax, we still have the lowest council Tax in the country despite having to put it up by 4.99 %. This is broken down into the 3% extra we have been allowed to charge for adult social care ( £11.7 million ) and the 1.9% we are allowed to increase it by without having to go to a referendum. This effectively is saving the taxpayer at least £102 a year compared to the national average.

Regarding our budget: despite the on going pressures from Adult Social care and Children’s services and unprecedented growth in demand for both we have once again balanced our budget and will do so going forward.

Future changes to government funding to 100% retention of business rates by 2020 with no government grant meant that all Local Authorities will have to look at how they operate going forward. This county currently has nine local authorities including the County, Town, Districts and Boroughs and over 400 elected Councillors. I have long been an advocate for some form of unitary authority in this County and this is something that the next administration will have to look at. To be very clear this is not a take over of the Boroughs, Districts and Towns by the County, but a redesigning of the entire system. All nine Authorities would cease to exist and a new one would be formed with all new Councillors and officers. The savings to be made and therefore spent on front line services are large and cannot be ignored going forwards. The number of unitary authorities might be up for debate but it is my opinion that one makes the most savings and any more than two begins
to water down the savings significantly. Whatever model is proposed, the people of Northampton would be fully consulted with and ultimately it would be your decision.

I wanted to finish with a mention of the councillors empowerment fund. Many if not all of the villages within my division have benefited over the last four years from the annual amount of this fund. It has been reduced this year and next to £5k a year. It is something I will fight to retain going forward.

I can be contacted on Imorris@northamptonshire.gov.uk OR followed on Twitter cllr Ian Morris @aussielover100

**APPENDIX C: Brian Collett - Short Mat Bowls Club 2016-17**

Our season started in September after the summer break with 19 members. Our weekly club nights have been well supported and since January we have held practice sessions on Tuesday afternoons.

We played one friendly match against Nether Heyford and lost but we had an enjoyable evening. We again entered the Washington Charity Triples League playing home and away matches against four local clubs throughout the season, winning seven and only losing one match, so the trophy is ours again.

In December our members played a game of “Fun Bowls” and followed this with a three course Christmas meal here in the village hall. In February we entered a tournament organised by Middleton Cheney Bowls Club, with our team coming joint third.

On 23rd April we will again be holding our Annual Tournament. Teams from five local clubs have been invited to compete for Trophy and Shield and will enjoy a lunch prepared by our members. Last year we were the runners-up.

This year on 11th May our club will be 25 years old. We are organising a lunch at the Wroxton Hotel to celebrate the occasion. Our club nights are Tuesdays at 7.30pm here in the hall. The season will finish with our AGM in May.

**APPENDIX D: Mrs Judith Bryant - Path Warden report 2017**

Dear Mr Chairman,

Another busy year around our paths and byways! Despite a few closures, most of our paths have remained passable over the year. Once again, John Richmond and Richard Smallwood have offered to help with keeping stiles and gateways free of undergrowth – I will be calling upon them shortly as the greenery gets into gear for its annual take-over bid.

Small improvements have been made and a couple more requested, though I have so far failed to achieve the hoped-for improvement to AV5. However, we have two notable access improvements in the pipeline. Firstly, many thanks to Richard Lainchbury for his suggestion that a kissing gate be installed on AV4 to replace a rather tricky stile. I am delighted to report that this has now been agreed and the work will be carried out shortly. This will represent a huge improvement in ease of access for many who wish to walk this path. Secondly, a surface improvement is scheduled for AV22 at the level crossing over the old
railway line. The deep hole and uneven surface below this gate is to be filled and levelled but the work will only be undertaken later in the year as the path dries up.

Anyone with a genuine rights of way issue can contact me or report directly to Northamptonshire County Council via their Street Doctor site http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/streetdoctor

Let’s hope that we can continue to keep all our ancient paths open, accessible and enjoyable and the best way to achieve this is by regular use of them.

Yours sincerely,
Judith Bryant (Mrs) judith.bryant@gmail.com

APPENDIX E: Cllr Dorothy Brooke - Village Hall report 2017

The Village Hall has had quite a lot of maintenance work carried out during the course of the year. The new ‘Village Hall’ sign above the door has been erected, the rotten gate to the entrance has been replaced and a new smaller gate, for easier access, has been installed. The stage area has undergone repairs. A new fire door has recently been fitted. We have had further repairs to the parquet flooring, as it sometimes lifts due to damp conditions. A new cooker and microwave have been purchased.

The largest and most costly improvement has been the Playground Equipment. As reported last year the Village Hall Committee secured a grant from Tesco Bags of Help for £8k. The committee decided that what remained of the existing equipment should have a lick of paint so that there wouldn’t be too much contrast between old and new. The cost for the painting was £2,500. We then invited everyone to send in any requests they may have for the type of playground equipment they would like. Once chosen, the cost for the equipment was a further £12,098.54 bringing the total expenditure on the Playground to £14,598.54. The additional £6,598.54 was found through fund raising events and donations.

The new Playground Equipment has now been installed and on behalf of the Committee we would like to thank everyone who assisted and helped with this project. The Village Hall Committee are planning an open day and inviting everyone to join in and celebrate the new playground on the 22nd April.

We are fortunate that we have a lot of regular bookings, including Yoga, Bowls and more recently the introduction of table tennis which, due to its success, is now held every week.

The Auction is still booking the Hall on a regular monthly basis, plus other meetings and functions such as the events organised by the Village Hall Committee. These have also been well attended from ‘Quiz Night’ to an ‘Evening with Stan and Friends’.

All of us on the Committee are well aware that without the support of the community the Village Hall would not survive so we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last year and we hope you will continue to do so.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to say a special thank you to Brian Collett who celebrates 50 years on the Village Hall Committee and has worked tirelessly to ensure the successful continuation of the Village Hall for everyone to enjoy. We also say a special
thank-you to Sue Collett who, as Treasurer, keeps everything in order and always does so much more. Thanks also to Margaret Goodwin who keeps the Hall spic and span and takes good care of the diary. Final thanks to everyone on the Village Hall Committee for all of their hard work throughout the year.

Dorothy Brooke, Secretary M.P.V.H. Committee, 10th April 2017  dot@dhbgrouplco.uk

APPENDIX F: Richard Lingard - Garden Club report 2017
The Garden Club can report another busy and exciting year, which began on Monday 14th March with the 2016 Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall. Here we welcomed our newest Committee member, Julian Burgess.

The Spring Garden Competition was judged on 24th April and the Plant Sale took place on Saturday 7th May in the Village Hall with teas, coffees and cakes which helped the enjoyable village atmosphere and raised £75 towards the running costs of the club.

The Summer Garden Competition was judged on 3rd July and two weeks later, on 18th July, the Summer Garden party was held in Roger and Kay Monk’s garden on Plumpton Lane. It was a warm summer’s evening which was well-attended by many members and raised £150 for the charity chosen by our hosts.

The Annual Show was held on Saturday 3rd September which was a great success and marked a welcome return of entries from some children.

The Garden Club also organised a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief in the Village Hall on 24th September, which was well-attended and raised £190 for the charity.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Village Hall on 3rd December, which was a great success and highly praised, thanks to the work of our committee members who planned, provided food and manned the busy bar.

During the course of the year, the Garden Club continued to fund and maintain the new planters at the village boundaries.

The Garden Club continues to play an important part in the busy social and horticultural life of this village. Thanks to the continuing support of our 140 or so adult members, the Garden Club's financial status remains in a stable and healthy position.

My personal thanks are due, once again, to the entire Committee and our President Dick Holloway, who have contributed to our meetings and worked with diligence and good humour on our many events. I am delighted to report that the current president and Committee have kindly agreed to serve the Club for another year.

Richard Lingard, Chairman, 10th April 2017.

APPENDIX G: Dick Holloway - Moreton Pinkney Charities statement 2017
Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016

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Minutes of meeting held 12.04.17
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Youth Assistance Scheme:
Grants under this Scheme have now totalled 88 for a total amount of £12,650.00

The Trustees were:
Brian Collett
Rev. Brian Fairbank
Richard Holloway
Audrey Keeves
Leslie Tucker

**APPENDIX H: Cllr Andrew Jalland - Police Report 2017**

Brackley and surrounding villages do not show any crime trends over and above any other similar size areas. There have been sporadic reports of thefts from vehicles, particularly from vans for tools. There are no specific patterns to these thefts and as such owners/operators should review the security of their vehicles and contents. As warmer weather approaches we generally tend to see an increase in thefts from vehicles parked at beauty spots such as remote parks, wooded areas, churches etc. We recommend that you visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) to access up to date crime statistics for your area.

Northants Police support local social networks, such as Brackley Burglary Crime & Prevention, Newbottle & Charlton Crime Prevention Group, Northamptonshire Street Watch and other village networks, by providing information and advice for circulation. We recognise the value of these pages for keeping a two-way flow of information between the police and the public. The above sites have proved very popular and all communicate with each other, to improve their effectiveness. If you would like more information on how to develop a similar FaceBook site for your area, to assist in making your area less attractive to criminals, please take a look at the above mentioned pages for examples of content and rules. For more information, please contact Sergeant Michaela Simons.
Members of the community that do not use the internet or social media can obtain this information from Parish Councils and NHW schemes.

Brackley currently has an active Street Watch scheme that is always seeking new members. Street Watch in a nutshell, is the equivalent of a mobile Neighbourhood Watch. In addition, it can cover the entire community and tackle issues such as vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and dog fouling. If you are interested in helping your community and setting up a Street Watch scheme in your area then please contact your local Police team at Brackley for details. Visit our website for more information and updates at northants.police.uk/neighbourhoods

PCSO Jennifer Harrison, South Northants Brackley Safer Community Team SCT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@northants.police.uk

APPENDIX I: Cllr Andrew Jalland - Parish Council report 2017

Supporting all of the above, the current Chairman of the Moreton Pinkney Parish Council, Andrew Jalland, reported that it has been a quiet year. A few items that spring to mind of note are as follows:-

1. Tidying up of the Sports Field margins.
2. Councillors prepared a scaled-down version of the Village Plan to indicate possible future development areas, if required.
3. A road closure for far too long, associated with the water leak on The Square.
4. A flooding report for the village was received from the District Council, offering no solutions and no money available if there was anything to be done.
5. Councillors started work on registering the village greens, an ongoing process.
6. The village clean-up earlier this year was reported as a great success, with lots of helping hands tidying up the village.
7. The new playground equipment was installed in the playing field, with the successful funding from Tesco. The official opening ceremony is to take place on 22nd April.
8. Although it’s still here in the village, the village ‘phone box’ will soon be removed due to lack of use.

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended this evening’s meeting and for their support of the village over the past year.