

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OF MORETON PINKNEY PARISH COUNCIL**
Held on Wednesday 3rd April 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Richard Lainchbury	Chairman
	Andy Jalland	Vice Chairman
	Judith Baxter	Councillor
	Brian Collett	Councillor
	Keith Keeves	Councillor
	James Smith	Councillor
	Les Tucker	Councillor
	Caroline Bedford	Clerk
	Louise Gibney	Waste Management Officer SNC
	Ben Smith	County Councillor
	Peter Davies	District Councillor
	Chris Bird	PC Northamptonshire Police
	Duncan Cumming	PCSO Northamptonshire Police
	Tim Eastwood	St Mary's Church
	Leonard Baxter	Village Hall Committee
	Richard Lingard	Garden Club
	Margaret Goodwin	Indoor Bowls
	Dick Holloway	Moreton Pinkney Charities
	Margaret Holloway	
	David Lawrence	
	Kirstie Lawrence	

Apologies:

None

1. The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the 2012 Annual Assembly**
Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 3rd April 2012 had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed they should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
4. **Louise Gibney - Recycling**
Louise Gibney is the Waste Management Officer for South Northants. Council, she explained how the new recycling scheme will operate. A revised four day working week has already been introduced, which means Bank Holidays no longer interrupt routine waste collections. New blue and green bins will be delivered in a rolling programme across the county between June and September and there will be new grey bins for food waste - one for indoor use and on, larger one, to be placed outside for collection weekly. The scheme aims to recycle between 60 - 65% of waste.

5 Reports

5.1 Ben Smith – County Councillor

Cllr Smith related some amusing anecdotes of his time as County Councillor and expressed his concerns over future County Council funding for Parish Councils. His formal report follows.

As you may know I am not standing for re-election on May 2nd so this is my final report and I will keep it fairly short. First of all I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all Parish Councils and local communities for the support I have received over the last 26 years. I have very much enjoyed being a County Councillor and working with you.

Looking back at some of the highlights I was privileged to be the only councillor on the official UK delegation to the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002 and to represent the County Council on visits to Germany, Belgium, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Switzerland and the USA. I enjoyed working for other councils in England and Wales as an IDeA/LGIU Peer Member and Peer Mentor and to serve on the Local Government Association Environment and Waste Management Executives. I was a member of the Northamptonshire Police Authority for seven years and I was the Deputy Chair for three of those years. I was pleased to be able to raise the importance of environmental issues at the County Council and to contribute to significant increases in recycling and being able to steer the council away from mass burn incineration as a solution to residual waste. At a more local level I spent many thousands of pounds each year from my *'councillor's empowerment fund'* on a variety of projects. I was pleased that every village benefited at some time from this 'pot' of money.

Due to boundary changes the Greens Norton Electoral Division will come to an end on May 1st and the new Silverstone Electoral Division will be created which will cover most of the villages I currently represent. I wish the new County Councillor the very best of luck and I am sure he/she will be making contact with you in early May.

After this report the Chairman presented Cllr Smith with a card on behalf of the Parish Council and expressed the Cllrs' appreciation for his work on behalf of the parish.

5.2 Peter Davies

Cllr Davies expressed concern over two proposed wind turbine developments in the area, one of which is at public enquiry stage and the other (between Adstone and Canons Ashby) has received objections from both Daventry District and South Northants Councils.

He commented that the proposed HS2 project has had the judicial appeal turned down in eight out of nine bases. The one that was upheld related to the detail of compensation and does not affect the project itself.

The mini farm, for gypsies, at Abthorpe has been approved in spite of local objections.

He noted the Moreton Pinkney Conservation area appraisal had been carried out, this has been on the website for a couple of months, it updates and rationalises the conservation area, following consultations with the Parish Council and interested parties.

Cllr Davies explained the details of the Government's New Homes Bonus scheme which provides incentives for new house building, depending on the number of homes being built. County Councils receive 20% and District Councils 80% of the sum available in each area. Cllr Davies indicated, in view of the number of new houses built in Moreton Pinkney recently, there was potentially a sum of money available to the village. He also mentioned the Grants Panel, which meets bi-monthly and has responsibility for distribution of further funds.

Although the District Council is subject to cuts in funding, South Northants Council is in a stronger position than many district councils, as it is debt free and, following the merger with Cherwell District, there are significant economies of scale in providing public services.

In response to a question from Tim Eastwood about the number of caravans at Bishopstone on the Weston Road, Cllr Davies said he had taken up the matter with the enforcement officer, as two new caravans had recently been left on the site and he was concerned it might turn into another mini farm, as at Abthorpe. He was waiting for a response regarding the permitted development.

5.3 **Police**

PC Chris Bird introduced himself; he has recently been posted here, effectively meaning we have an additional PC covering the area. There were nine recorded incidents over the past year, none in 2013 to date, a drop of two incidents compared to last year.

These include burglary non-dwelling, criminal damage where a car window was broken, an opportunist crime where a laptop had been left in plain sight in a car, theft from a house, incidents where garden equipment, patio furniture and saddle stones were stolen, one case of an assault at a private party and a break-in to a container at the Verde construction site.

Leonard Baxter expressed concern about the amount of equipment, such as garden tools and children's toys, that is regularly left outside overnight and asked if leaflets could be sent round the village to remind people to take more care. PC Bird said if he saw things left out, he would leave a note but would write something for the village newsletter as he felt this was a better way of getting the message across. He also asked people to call 101 if they see anything suspicious as it allows the police to map incidents more effectively.

5.4 **Richard Lainchbury, Chairman of Moreton Pinkney Parish Council**

There have been eight Parish Council meetings since the last Annual Assembly, including the Annual meeting in May and there have been no changes in Parish Councillors during the year. I would like to thank Andy Jalland for his continuing help and support as Vice Chairman and to the other five councillors – Judith Baxter, Brian Collett, Keith Keeves, James Smith and Les Tucker for all their efforts throughout the year and to Parish Clerk, Caroline Bedford.

We were able to complete our second phase of replacement old style street lamps with new EU approved energy efficient ones as planned, which means we only have three old style lamps to replace. We are already seeing the benefits in reduced electricity bills.

The village website, thanks to Richard Lingard's expert design and ongoing maintenance, continues to be an asset to the village and a useful tool for both the Parish Council and village organisations to allow them to promote their activities.

Richard extended his activities regarding village communication last year when he took over the task of producing the newsletter, in conjunction with Leonard Baxter's help in organising distribution. We would like to extend our thanks to both of them as the newsletter is a very useful way of letting people know what is going on in the village, especially for those with no access to the internet.

Progress on the refurbishment of England's Rose pub and the construction of five houses adjacent to it has been rapid, we look forward to the re-opening of the pub this year.

In spite of the very wet summer and extremely cold temperatures this winter, which have caused the formation of many potholes, I am pleased to report Northants. County Council's road maintenance contractor, MGWSP, has been consistently doing a good job - responding promptly to reports of problems.

The Parish Council has commissioned a feasibility study from the County Council, with the aid of a grant from County Councillor Ben Smith, to find a solution to the shortage of parking spaces in The Old Square. The proposal has been received and is being considered. The cost of the work is estimated to be around £15k and would improve access to and the look of an area near to the noticeboard where cars are currently being parked. However, it does not appear to add any additional parking spaces.

We have had two unexpected expenses this year as the lime tree near to The Old School needed urgent remedial work during the summer and a subsequent, recommended, inspection when the foliage has dropped this winter showed the tree to be so diseased that it was unsafe and it has had to be felled.

Cllr Smith commented that with increasing strains on County Council budgets, there may be difficulty in maintaining the current high standards of pothole repair, as the methods used (to seal the edges) are more expensive.

Cllr Keeves, speaking on behalf of the other Parish Councillors, thanked the Chairman for doing an excellent job.

Village Organisation Reports

5.5 Village Hall - presented by Leonard Baxter.

Written report attached.

Mr Baxter also added that the Village Hall had been opened on New Year's Day for a while, to allow villagers to get together and this was deemed a great success.

5.6 Garden Club - presented by Richard Lingard.

The Garden Club can report another busy and exciting year, which began on Monday 5th March with the Annual General Meeting of members in the Village Hall. The Spring Garden Competition was judged in early April and the Plant Sale took place on Saturday 12th May. Due to the unpredictable

weather, we held this event in the Village Hall and served teas, coffees and cakes which helped the coffee morning atmosphere - and sales!

The Summer Garden Competition was judged on 8th July, the day after our second dedicated Sweet Pea Competition in the Church on Saturday 7th July. Although neither event attracted much participation from members once again, the sweet peas brightened up the Church considerably and we got to view some beautiful village gardens.

Being the Diamond Jubilee Year, there was no Summer Garden Party this year. Instead, the Garden Club lent £200 to support the Jubilee Fun Day, Hog Roast & Barn Dance on Saturday 14th July which was a wonderful village occasion for young and old alike. The Garden Club later decided to donate the funds permanently to the Village Hall to help pay for the maintenance of the village Play Area.

The Annual Show was held at the Village Hall on Saturday 1st September with far fewer entries than last year which caused some concern for the Committee and we hope to encourage many more members to enter something for the Show this year. The produce was sold off at the end of the Show which helped raise funds for the running costs of the show.

The Garden Club organised a Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief in the Village Hall on 29th September which raised over £200.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Village Hall on 1st December and was very well-attended and for many, marked the beginning of the festive season. It was a great success and highly-praised thanks to the hard work of committee members who planned, provided food and manned the busy bar!

During the course of the year, the Garden Club received a generous donation from Northamptonshire County Council through Cllr. Ben Smith for the renovation and upkeep of the Tarry Well area in the centre of the village. The Garden Club will continue to fund the maintenance of the area in the coming year.

Thanks to the continuing support and generosity of our 150 adult members, the Garden Club's financial status remains healthy and continues to play its part in the busy social and horticultural life of this village. I believe we are very fortunate to have such a vibrant and active Club in our community.

My personal thanks are due, once again, to the entire Committee and our President, who have contributed to our meetings, worked with diligence and good humour on our many events and who have kindly agreed to serve the Club for another year.

5.7 **Indoor Bowls** - presented by Margaret Goodwin.
Written copy attached to these minutes.

5.8 **St Mary's PCC** - presented by Col. Tim Eastwood.
The two major events for St Mary's during 2012 were the Service of Thanks and Celebration for Her Majesty The Queen's Silver Jubilee, and the Service of Institution for the new Rector of Culworth Benefice and Vicar of St Mary's, Moreton Pinkney, The Reverend Brian Fairbanks.
The Jubilee Service was held on the 15th July and was a great occasion when, naturally, the National Anthem was sung in full

A restitution service may be held in any of the churches of a benefice and St Mary's was the Benefice choice on this occasion. The service was presided over by the Bishop of Peterborough. It was a very well attended service and the church was filled with church officials from the Diocese, a choir from Chipping Warden, friends of Brian Fairbanks, supporters from his previous parishes (including some bell ringers from his penultimate benefice who unexpectedly turned up and joined us in the bell ringing for the service) and members of this village and the other villages in the Benefice. After the service there was a reception for all to meet our new vicar in the village hall. Brian has two grown up daughters and is strongly supported by his wife, Catherine, who is an accomplished bell ringer and, when she attends our services, likes to help with the bells.

During the latter part of the year the lambs were removed from the churchyard but the two ewes remained until they were taken off to be put in lamb again in the late autumn. An important contribution to our grass control, they will be returning later in the spring and are expected to produce between them five lambs to assist in the grass cutting. Many thanks are due to Katharine and Paul Lewis for producing and looking after them.

As mentioned in our last report there have been a number of maintenance costs resulting from the Quinquennial Inspection which have now been completed with the exception of a major repair required to the chancel for which, fortuitously, Oriel College, our patron, has historically had the financial responsibility. This we hope to have completed in the coming year. Once again the Parish Council has granted a contribution towards the cost of the churchyard maintenance for which we are grateful. Finally, the AGM will be held on 14th April, after Evensong.

5.9 **Moreton Pinkney Charities** - presented by Dick Holloway.

Dick said the normal sources of income for Moreton Pinkney Charities had been significantly supplemented by a large donation of £650 from the proceeds of the grand prize draw organised by the Jubilee Committee last year. He thanked the committee and everyone who contributed to the success of the draw by buying tickets. The increase in funds was opportune as it allowed help to be extended to a family in the village for travel costs and incidental expenditure, after the husband had been involved in an accident at work in Essex. More help was extended as part of the youth assistance scheme, with three grants of £200 and one of £150 being given to young people in the village who are variously going to university, starting apprenticeships or are at an early stage of their career. He was happy to report a healthy balance of £710 at the end of the year which is a good reserve.

6. **Public Time**

Marrion Holloway expressed her appreciation to the Parish Councillors for their work on behalf of the village.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed

Date

Chairman - R Lainchbury