

BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Boughton Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13th April 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Boughton Village Hall, Butchers Lane, Boughton

Present: Parish Councillors: J Clarke (Chairman), K Greatorex (Vice-Chairman), A Dale, R Greener, Mrs G Kingston, J Parker, S Potter, Mrs J Shephard and R Wilson

In Attendance: District Councillor John Shephard
Mrs J Bunting – Parish Clerk

Other Attendees:

Mr Steve Broadbent	Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park
Mr Steve Campbell	Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park
Sergeant Matt Moore	Northamptonshire Police
Mr Michael Stead	Neighbourhood Watch
Mr David Whalley	Boughton Village Hall

Seventy Members of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr Paul Archer and Mr Greg Quine Boughton Primary School and PCSO Natalie Halling.

2. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 14th April 2014

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 14th April 2014 were approved and signed by Cllr John Clarke as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

3. To Receive the following Annual Reports

a) Northamptonshire Police

Sergeant Matt Moore reported that the mobile speed camera van continues to regularly visit the village. From statistics at least twenty cars an hour are being caught speeding and these figures are quite high. From these numbers the proposals for traffic calming would tie-in quite well. Sergeant Moore explained the aims of Community Speed Watch which is a partnership initiative between local residents and the Parish Council. He suggested that Moulton Lane would be an ideal location to run such a scheme. Following a question from a resident Sergeant Moore confirmed that a recent warrant issued under Operation Thumper had recovered a great deal of stolen property which was now being identified. This was an on-going police operation. Sergeant Moore confirmed that he had been in post since last October and managed a team of three PC's and three PCSO's. They had a very large

area to cover but were visible and he encouraged use of their link on the police website to send e-mails which are picked up regularly by his team.

b) Report by the Chair of Boughton Parish Council

Cllr John Clarke presented the following report:-

As Chairman of the Parish Council may I welcome you to the Annual meeting of the Parish, and thank you for your attendance this evening.

The Parish Council have met regularly through the year, including extra meetings on planning matters.

I would like to put on record my thanks to the Councillors for their attendance at meetings, and for their time, contribution and support both on their specific roles and in Council.

The Parish Council have been ably supported by our District Councillors' - John Shephard and Barry Frenchman - who share the Ward; and our County Councillor Judy Shephard. Judy also serves as a Parish Councillor.

I know that all the Parish Councillors will join me in recording our appreciation to our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Jayne Bunting, for her guidance, commitment and professionalism through the year, not only in the routine matters concerning the Council, but also in the proactive way that Jayne demonstrates that she has the wellbeing of our village at heart. We are indeed fortunate to have such an excellent Parish Clerk.

Representatives of the Parish Council have attended external meetings outside of those concerned with routine matters. These include various Planning Committee meetings at Daventry District Council, Northants County Council and Northampton Borough Council, Joint Core Strategy Hearings, Parish Forums at Daventry District Council, Police Community Panels, Boughton Charities including the Richard Humfrey Trust and the Village Hall, the Pocket Park, Quarry Liaison Meetings and Liaison Group Meetings with neighbouring Parish Councils concerning major developments to the North of Northampton.

Before specifically singling out two key matters, it is worth recording some of the activities that have taken place;

Statutory Consultee response to planning applications that affect the village. Two major applications that have been fought off are a large scale development of a solar farm off Welford Road, and a development of up to 41 houses on adjacent land.

The Parish Council have developed a new Village website which is regularly updated by the Parish Clerk. Parishioners are encouraged to view it as a key communication tool for the village.

The Village Day held in July was a great success, and thanks to Councillor Potter for organising the event. From the money raised money was donated to village organisations - Ladies Fellowship, Boughton PCC and Boughton School.

The Street lighting upgrade is nearing completion with the replacement of three street lights in Church Street with a more traditional design which is more in keeping with the conservation area of the Village. Our thanks to Councillor Parker for managing this significant improvement so ably.

Successfully negotiated with Northamptonshire Highways the removal of all urban signage on the Village Green and a replacement Church Street sign on the other side of the road.

Secured money from our County Councillor's Empowerment Grant for the refurbishment of the Telephone Kiosk in Church Street.

Northamptonshire Highways Community Enhancement Gang undertook work in the village and at the request of the Parish Council all the benches were repainted and various signs were cleaned and graffiti removed.

This year the Parish Council have taken on the mowing of verges from Northamptonshire Council and have been able to take on additional cuts.

Work continues on updating the Village Design Statement.

The two key items to update on are;

1. Buckton Fields

Phase 1 for 376 dwellings. This is due to start in the coming months and take up to five years to complete. We have pressed Bloor Homes to set up a liaison committee to monitor progress and they have indicated that they are willing to do so. The Parish Council have attended meetings with Agents for the Developers and Daventry District Council re the scale and design, particularly on the Harborough Road.

Phase 2 for the balance of the 1000 dwellings is still on hold because Northamptonshire County Council have not agreed to release the land under their ownership, which represents two thirds of the land.

2. Traffic

Traffic, both speed and volume, have been an ongoing major concern for Boughton for a long time. Boughton, however, does not meet the criteria for funded traffic calming based on collision history, which is determined by the Casualty Reduction Officer.

In the shorter term we now have £30,000 to spend from the Section 106 for Phase 1 of Buckton Fields. We have consulted with Northamptonshire Highways on a proposed scheme, and their recommendation is on view tonight, and is open for discussion once we completed the reports.

Realistically, this scheme will not solve the problem of the volume of traffic through the village at peak times. It will alleviate the problem of speeding, particularly in Moulton Lane. The proposed North West by-pass would provide an answer, but it is a long way off being extended.

Our special thanks and appreciation go to all the volunteers who so generously give their time to our village, and who contribute so positively to making Boughton such an agreeable village to reside in.

Their valued activities will be reported on at this meeting.

c) Boughton Parish Council Financial Report

Cllr Russell Wilson presented the following report:-

The Parish was funded this year by a precept of £27,100. Bank balances at the year-end were £29,496 an increase of £3,550 compared with bank balances at the start of the year.

Our planned expenditure for the year was £35,700, an amount which was greater than the precept and included payments to be made out of reserves for legal and consulting advice relating to the Buckton Fields development (£3,600) and the final phase of the footway lighting replacement initiative (£3,500). In the event no external legal advice was required this year on Buckton Fields and the footway lighting expenditure has been delayed until the new financial year pending final approval by Daventry planning department and the village residents whose properties are affected.

Savings on parish expenses and the deferral of expenditure on the updating of the village design statement has resulted in a surplus of £4,242 arising out of this year's precept. For example, we received a refund of electricity charges from E.ON of £1,060 due to the more efficient footway lighting and the cost of village green works was reduced by a competitive tendering initiative. £2,000 has been set aside to fund the village design statement in the new financial year. The remaining surplus will be allocated to any new traffic calming initiatives which are approved in addition to those financed by the £30,000 provided by the Buckton Fields developers.

So where did we spend the Parish precept?

The main recurring costs include electricity for the village footway lighting, maintaining those green areas in the village which are the responsibility of the parish council, insuring our assets and employment of a parish clerk.

We continue to make discretionary funding awards to the Pocket Park (£500), the Village Hall (£500) and the coffee morning group (£150). For the first time we have introduced the concept of awarding grants to assist with worthy new projects in the Parish and Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park and St John the Baptist Church were both recipients of such grants.

The Village Day generated a very creditable surplus which enabled donations to be made to various good causes in the village (Boughton Primary School, Boughton PCC and Ladies Fellowship).

£2,000 was invested in an excellent new website for the parish which I hope residents are using to its full potential.

With the assistance of Councillor Shephard an empowerment grant of £750 was received from Northants County Council which has funded the refurbishment of the telephone box in the heart of the village.

In the new financial year we have requested a precept of £29,174. I recognise that this is an increase of 6.3%, greater than inflation but, to put it in context, it represents only 1p per household per day. The Parish Council is committed to continuing to invest in the parish. This year will see a new village design statement. £1,000 has been put aside for the award of new grants and £2,000 has been reserved for further capital investment in footway lighting. We are also "investing" in our Parish Clerk and have recently increased her employment hours for a second time since she took up her role. Jayne Bunting continues to make a significant contribution to any new initiatives being introduced for the benefit of the parish, most notably this year the development and launch of the new website .

With in excess of £29,000 in the bank the parish council has resources available for the funding of other projects. Clearly the principal concern being expressed by parishioners is the volume and speed of traffic through the village and the likelihood that this will only become a greater risk with the onset of Buckton Fields. In the circumstances it seems only right that priority for the use of these reserves be given to addressing these traffic issues and as quickly as possible.

d) Report by County Councillor Mrs Judy Shephard

County Councillor (Moulton Division) Mrs Judy Shephard presented the following report:-

Our Infrastructure Programme

The County Council is in the middle of the largest infrastructural investment programme in its 125 year history. In the last five years we have spent over half a billion pounds. During the next five years we will be investing a further £600 million upgrading and building new schools, roads and Superfast broadband. Last year saw the opening of the £35million Corby Link Road and workings on upgrading key strategic junction pinch points. I am sure you will have noticed that we are laying the basis for the next stage of the duelling of the A43 between Northampton and Kettering. The Round Spinney Roundabout is very near completion. Other important road projects include the A45 Daventry link Road, the Weekly Warkton Bypass and the A6 Chowns Mill Junction. The Kettering East Development will see the opening of the first of two new primary schools in September.

Work will also begin in the next couple of months of the County Council's New HQ. This is an 'Invest to Save' project that will see the closing and selling of twelve old, expensive to run existing buildings that are no longer fit-for-purpose. This project will bring 2000 plus public sector workers back into Northampton Town Centre which will be an important boost to our County town and more importantly, will reduce our running costs and make significant savings. We estimate that in the first year of running, we will be £300,000 better off and in the next thirty years our annual operating costs will be half of what we would be spending on the twelve existing buildings.

The Council Budget and Next Generation Working for Public Services

The pressures on Strategic Local Authority services are immense. Due to Government pressures we have already taken out nearly £200 million from our base budget and we have another £148 million to take over the next five years. Quite simply, we cannot go on as we are. Our current operating model is not fit for purpose.

Over the next five years the costs of providing services due to a continued surge in demand and other pressures including a growing and aging population, will rise by £104m whilst the money given to us by government will reduce by £79m. This means, quite simply, the cost of running services will be double the amount of money available to us. At our February Council budget meeting we passed our 2015/16 budget and our new Council Plan to meet these demands and to protect our front line services.

Our new strategic direction means that by 2020 we will see a far smaller retained organisation, the right-sourcing and commissioning of services from a new set of accountable organisations and social enterprises which may be owned, managed and run by current council staff. We will be using the Community and Voluntary Sector more in delivering vital local services and most importantly giving our service users more choice and control in the services that they use.

For more information on our council plan please see our website <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/performance/Pages/plans.aspx>

Empowering Councillors Scheme

Our Empowering Councillors scheme is as popular as ever. Countywide we have funded well over 2500 community projects to the tune of over £2.5million. In my district I made sure my money has made a positive difference by funding various activities within my 13 villages that make up the Moulton Division, including funds towards Moulton FC, Moulton's Party in the Park, Spratton WWI Memorial Paving Slab, Hannington's Church Wall and its Village Hall, Old's WWI Commemorative Planters, The Walgrave Wellbeing Centre, Chapel Brampton's Bus Shelter, Pitsford and Brixworth Youth Start Up Equipment, Boughton's K6 Telephone box refurbishment and defibrillators for Overstone! If you have any pet community projects for this coming year please let me know!! I have already committed another £1000 towards Moulton's Party in the Park for this year.

Friends Life Women's Cycling Tour

Last May, we hosted the start and first two stages of the 5 stage "Friends Life" Women's Cycling Tour through Northamptonshire. The cream of the international and Olympic cycling world participated with 300,000 spectators over the five days and a total of over a million television viewers which equalled the viewing figures of the British leg of the Tour de France. The event was an incredible success for Northamptonshire, both economically and for the prestige of the County. I am delighted to report that we have successfully negotiated 3rd stage of the 2015 tour back to Northamptonshire on 19th June starting in Oundle and finishing in Kettering.

Educational Excellence: Race to the Top

February 2015 saw the launch of our "Race to the Top" strategy to raise educational attainment in our schools. We are aiming to make Northamptonshire one of the highest performing counties for education by 2020 by encouraging schools to strive for excellence.

An innovative Strategic Education and Skills Partnership Board will be created to lead the programme, bringing together education and business leaders. The project has the support of, George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nicky Morgan, Secretary of State for Education and Lord Heseltine who has been working closely with the County Council to make this a reality.

Race to the Top has been prepared in collaboration with the Department for Education and has three main strands:

1. To identify and intervene in schools across the county which are judged to be failing or in need of improvement. These schools will be given time to produce improvement plans, with a promise of local authority intervention if they fail to improve.

2. An invitation to all schools to apply for a share of the £1million improvement fund for projects to improve young people's aspirations. The bids will be assessed by a panel, including representatives from the business sector via Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership and Northampton University, and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

3. Sixteen new schools will be needed in the county over the next 12 years and the council will be looking for a number of top quality sponsors, with clear track records of success, to collaborate with the LEA in providing these schools.

Good educational attainment is a key cornerstone of the prosperity agenda of our County and we plan to engage local businesses and schools to work more closely together to provide better outcomes for our children.

This is just a snapshot of the work of the County Council. Most recently, I arranged a meeting with David Farquhar, Head of Highways and Members of your Parish Council to review the ridiculous road layout in Overstone Road, and in particular near Tarrant way. I am delighted that this junction will now be removed and that there will be a Highways review of all traffic calming in that area.

At NCC I continue as Chairman of the Health, Adult Social Care & Wellbeing Committee and I also Chairman the Scrutiny Management Committee. I also sit on the NCC Development Control Committee and The Councillor & Governance Working Group. I attend all Parish Council meetings when I can or when I am specifically invited, and I have been a Boughton Parish Councillor for the past 27 years. I attend other external committees including the OMBBH Committee, Pitsford & Boughton Liaison Forums and Ray Bell's Liaison Forum, I am on the Fundraising Committees of SSAFA and also on the committee the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association. I am a Life Member of the RAFA.

I am proud to have been your County Councillor for the past 18 years!

e) Report by Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Michael Stead (Senior Co-ordinator) presented the following report:-

Chairman and members of the Boughton Parish Council I am pleased to report for the year as follows some main recent themes -

1. Most recently there was a major recovery of stolen goods. This has been of particular interest to a number of parishioners and some items have been returned. This event has sparked some renewed interest in Smartwater which was introduced

into the village about five /six years ago and which does assist the process of reclamation. The situation is currently ongoing.

2. We have some concern that BNHW does not always become aware of individual incidents in the village. This is important because incident statistics can be seen as less well established and the flow of information less reliable.

3. Our PCSO now covers around 40 villages in total which is many times greater than in the days of PCSO Allan Whenmouth. These are straightened times and police resources, like most other public services have been severely tested by budgetary cuts.

4. The community coordination meetings between Boughton and neighbouring villages with the police which were previously held every other month are now less frequent and we wait to hear if they are to be continued.

5. Following questions raised about removal of signs in neighbouring villages the following have been established

i) BNHW signs and Smartwater signs appear to be in complete complement as set up a number of years ago – nine of the former and three of the latter have been traced.

ii) All signs are attached to posts that are owned by the Parish Council for residents.

iii) All the BNHW signs are in need of replacement having been time and weather ravaged. Their replacement is currently being costed. We believe, based on initial enquiries, that BNHW has sufficient funds for this work (although we currently await firm estimates)

6. The Boughton Neighbourhood Watch A G M, attended by our PCSO's and Andy Crisp of Daventry Area NHW Support Team, and the BNHW Co-ordinators meeting were both held in the first quarter of this year and the senior co-ordinator, police secretary, Chris Boyce and treasurer, Susan Wilson, were re-elected. My special thanks, as senior coordinator, are due to these last two and to other active members of the Boughton Watch.

f) Boughton Village Hall

Mr David Whalley (Chairman) presented the following Report:-

Boughton Village Hall continues to offer a valuable facility to local people particularly following the decorative improvements undertaken in the previous year. The evidence of the fine state of the Hall is all around you.

During the year to the 31st January 2015 we saw some decline in letting income of £1,557 with fund raising events held in the same period raising £1,290 to which was added a £500 donation from the Parish Council for which the committee wishes to reiterate their sincere thanks. Expenditure in the period of £5,345 was comfortably covered by income of £6,542 to leave a modest surplus of £1,197. The previous year saw capital expenditure of £11,590 which resulted in a deficit of £8,806 carried forward.

In the current year the panels at the front of the Hall have been replaced with fifty percent of the overall cost funded by Daventry District Council. It is the intention over the summer to redecorate the Hall externally.

Overall, therefore, the Village Hall finances remain satisfactory. Lettings are growing and the Committee remain dedicated to ensuring our village facility provides a wide programme of events. In conclusion, I do wish to give my sincere thanks to all members of the committee including our auditor, Russell Wilson for their fulsome efforts.

g) Age Concern (Boughton Care for the Elderly)

On behalf of Mrs Sue Greatorex, the Clerk read out the following report:-

This year has, again, been fairly quiet with regard to the vulnerable elderly residents of Boughton, although we have lost three long-term residents. Ivy Fox, Tony Cooper and Sylvia Lovell. Very sad.

Although many of the older residents of the village are getting very frail and struggling a bit, they all have support up and running and they all have mine and Barbara's phone numbers should they need to get in touch with either of us.

We do keep calling and visiting quite a few anyway through Ladies Fellowship and the Wednesday coffee morning and of course word of mouth.

I would like, again, to thank Barbara very much for her help and support and as long as we can keep helping this way, we will.

On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman thanked Mrs Greatorex and Mrs Piggins for the invaluable service they provide to the elderly residents of the village.

h) Boughton Pocket Park

On behalf of Mrs Charlotte Mackaness, Cllr Greatorex read out the following report:-

The Pocket Park has continued to thrive in terms of its use and the success of events held there. As well as another great bonfire and fireworks, it hosted its second Sport Relief Mile. We also enjoyed a fun fundraiser in the village pub late last year – an event we didn't need to check the weather forecast for beforehand!

In general, the Pocket Park is in a good state of repair and is reasonably clear of litter. The committee has a monthly rota for members who do litter picking, a check of the play equipment and any small jobs. Mowing and strimming is still done by a contractor.

We are in the process of gathering quotes to do repair work to some areas of the path and play area. We are also considering putting in a very small area of boardwalk over the area near the pond that seems forever flooded.

As ever, appeals for volunteers (especially for clear-up sessions) tend to fall on deaf ears. By the time this report is read out, we will have held a whole-day session replanting the maze. It's a big job that requires a lot of volunteers. It would be great to think it was well attended. We must thank Robin Ideson, a garden designer who lives in the village, for devising the scheme and donating his time.

Thankfully, as far as we are aware there have been no major issues with vandalism or anti-social behaviour but I must stress how important communication is: we can only deal with such matters if villagers are good enough to tell us.

The committee still has no chair. I continue to do what I can, while Oonagh Hunt (our super-efficient committee secretary chairs meetings).

Thank you to Kevin our treasurer and all the other members of the committee for giving up their time. We are always keen to hear from those who can help, even if it is just on an ad hoc basis.

Cllr Greatorex appealed for volunteers to assist with the upkeep of the Park

i) Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park

Mr Steve Campbell presented the following report:-

Saturday work activities take place on the first Saturday of every month from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon to maintain the woodland. However, it is a challenge getting volunteers to help. We are grateful for the support of Boughton Parish Council for providing grant funding towards the cost of wild flower planting and bird boxes. Our main priority is the upkeep of the Spinney which includes litter picking, cutting down dead trees, sowing seeds and pathway maintenance. There were sixty one on site work hours last year which is our lowest. Our finances are enough for the year going forward and I would like to thank Steve Broadbent for his support generally but particularly with the accounts and the website.

j) Boughton Primary School

On behalf of Mr Paul Archer (Head Teacher) Cllr Steve Potter read out the following report:-

Boughton Primary School has had yet another very successful year. Academically, all of our pupils make excellent progress from reception class upwards. Our SATs results at the end of year six continue to position us as one of the highest ranked schools in local, regional and national league tables. Last year, the school was awarded funding from the Department for Education for the much needed addition of two classrooms, office space and new staffroom facilities. Following a successful tender process, a local company – Archway Construction were tasked with the expansion project. Work is well underway in readiness for August completion/handover and the new areas of the school will be ready for September 2015.

As part of the expansion process, we have developed a new travel plan which details the ways in which we are going to keep any additional traffic associated with the school to a minimum along Moulton Lane. Councillors will have already received copies of our comprehensive travel plan and it will be published on our website shortly.

In July, Mrs Denise Bott who is Deputy Head Teacher at the school retires after 22 years outstanding service. She will have taught many of the young people who live in Boughton and we will be celebrating her career at the school towards the end of the school year.

Since November last year, the school has had a singing group of 22 boys and girls that eagerly visit Anne Craigie (Church Organist) at the Church on Wednesday mornings to learn hymns and songs both old and new. Such has been the positive response from the children that they have performed at the Parish Carol Service and on Mothering Sunday.

k) Richard Humfrey Charity

Cllr Mrs Judy Shephard (Chairman) presented the following report:-

I have now completed my thirteenth year of chairmanship of the Richard Humfrey Charity. There are at present 10 highly valued Trustees (4 co-opted members, 2 Ex-officio members, 2 members nominated by the Parish Council and 2 extra co-opted members). Mr Roy Palmer and Mrs Norma Pearson are our charity representatives serving on the RH Educational Committee. We have Fr Stephen Trott who serves as a member of our committee

There have been two meetings held this last financial year. These are traditionally held in November and March. All meetings of the Charitable Trust are regularly attended by the Trustees. The March Meeting was ably chaired by Mrs Sue Greatorex, as I had another pressing commitment. Thank you Sue.

Application of income was made to 4 individuals residing within the parish, totalling £700 and a special £100 gift donation was made to a further recipient. (there were 6 beneficiaries last year but sadly in recent years we have lost some of our well-loved and long lived residents so numbers are dwindling). The Trustees agreed to continue to make a payment of £175 to each individual recipient. Mr Oliver Mackaness has done an excellent job as our auditor and we offer our grateful thanks to him for his clear and accurate accounting.

I will make my usual plea that if you know of anyone, young or old, who is in need of benefit within the Parish of Boughton please let me or any Trustee know.

I would like to record my special thanks to Mrs Sue Greatorex and Mrs Barbara Piggins who are our 'Age Concern' Representatives within the village. They are our 'eyes and ears' on issues concerning the elderly, the infirm or those at risk within the parish and they do a sterling job. They ensure that parishioners' health, safety and general well-being is not compromised.

The chiropody service continues to be highly valued by those parishioners who use the service and special thanks must be given to Ms Shirley Morgan the Chiropodist whose ministrations are much appreciated. She is happy to see anyone in the parish by appointment so please feel free to contact her. There were 9 chiropody sessions during the past year costing £20 a session. The Humfrey Charity will of course, happily continue to financially support its continuance.

Mrs Jill Gist is our very valued secretary of both the Humfrey charities. Her dedicated and professional approach to both the Charities have made her a most appreciated member of the team, and I would like to thank her personally for all the extra assistance she so willingly and selflessly provides.

l) Richard Humfrey Education Foundation

Cllr Kevin Greatorex (Chairman) presented the following report:-

I have now completed my thirteenth year as Chairman of this committee.

During 2014 the Foundation continued to support students in higher education and other local groups. In all, grants were made to 10 students totalling £1380.00. These figures compared with 12 students the previous year and £1640.00 in total. In addition, a grant of £2500.00 was made to the Boughton Primary School. In this year, most of the year's income was applied which means the accumulated surplus from previous years was slightly increased. The Trustees maintained the previous funding structure and all applicants received their allocation in accordance with the laid-down formula. There were no students identified as being in particular financial hardship. The Foundation remains in a healthy state at the moment although the Trustees are minded to consider the scheme for the distribution of funds to reflect the actual needs of the young people of Boughton. To this end the Trustees resolved to give particular consideration to applicants where a financial or personal difficulty is made known to them. Prospective applicants will be advised to provide this information which will always be treated as strictly confidential.

The continued success of the publicity last year is self-evident from the take up in the awareness of the scheme and the number of applications. Advertisements will again be published in the Village Magazine and for inclusion in the notice boards at the most appropriate time to have the maximum impact on potential applicants.

A copy of the final accounts for the Charities for 2014 is attached for information.

Application forms will continue to be available from the Clerk to the Charity – Mrs Jill Gist and also from the Chairman – Kevin Greatorex.

- m) The Chairman gave a special vote of thanks to all the volunteers who give their time and make such a contribution to the village.

- n) The Charity Accounts (Boughton Village Hall, Richard Humfrey and Richard Humfrey Education) were available for inspection and are annexed to these Minutes.
- o) The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for presenting reports.

4. Traffic Calming Proposals

Plans for traffic calming proposals were on display and the Chairman reported that although they were not yet agreed the Parish Council had relied on the expertise of Northamptonshire Highways to come up with the best proposals for the village on the basis of the money available from the S106 Agreement for Buckton Fields. The plans had been prepared following an on-site meeting with members of the Parish Council and Northamptonshire Highways in December. The sum of money, £30,000, was not a great deal but had been considered appropriate by NCC. What had been identified from the meeting in December was now the main issue for discussion. These proposals would only mitigate not solve the traffic issues in the village. The Chairman stressed that the plans were only proposals.

District Councillor Shephard stated that any developer has to make a planning application to Daventry District Council (DDC) who has part of the planning process consult with NCC Highways to look at the traffic implications of any development. The legal question is what steps can reasonably be taken to mitigate the effect of traffic from development and they get the developer to pay. The transport experts then look at how it can be done. They will look at the road structure and anything that goes on the road must be to their standard. NCC Highways will then consult with the Parish Council and then with any residents who may be affected by any proposals. Additionally, extra steps could be taken by the Parish Council to fund additional measures.

General discussion took place and there was general consensus from members of the public that speeding traffic was a matter of grave concern. The Chairman stated that speeding is a real problem and the worst area identified was Moulton Lane. The main item of expenditure within the proposals was the chicane in Moulton Lane. Cllr Wilson identified that the cost of a chicane was approximately £15,000 and a vehicle activated sign was £5,000 and the money available would be quickly spent. Cllr Wilson suggested more could be done by spending the funds of the village. Cllr Wilson's suggestion to substantially raise the precept by doubling it to fund traffic calming in the next financial year as a on-off was met with a positive response from residents who were in agreement. It was generally felt that this was a good idea.

Cllr Potter reported that the Parish Council had recently commissioned a traffic survey and this would be undertaken the week beginning the 20th April for seven days. A resident reported that WASPRA had undertaken their own survey and this had shown a 20% increase in the number of vehicles accessing the village in 12 months. This survey had been accepted by NCC Highways and it was suggested combining the two to give more detail.

In summary the concerns and ideas raised by members of the public were:

- a) Speeding
- b) The position of the chicane in Moulton Lane – will this be effective.
- c) Consider a “trial” chicane in Moulton Lane.
- d) Parking on the verges in Moulton Lane which is exacerbated at school times.
- e) Moving the vehicle activated sign to the other side of Vyse Road and locating adjacent to The Spinney.
- f) Consideration of a 20 mph speed limit through the village.
- g) “Village Only” sign in Humfrey Lane.
- h) Parking in Church Street.
- i) Speed bumps in Vyse Road.
- j) Community Speed Watch initiative.
- k) Speed bumps within a chicane.
- l) Consider traffic calming measures in Howard Lane.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and confirmed that the Parish Council would take comments on board. He stated that a further meeting with NCC Highways and members of the Parish Council will follow and further consultation will take place in the near future.

5. Any Other Business

None

6. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Monday 11th April 2016 in Boughton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting

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Cllr J Clarke (Chairman)

Dated this 11th day of April 2016