

BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Boughton Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9th April 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Boughton Village Hall, Butchers Lane, Boughton

Present: Parish Councillors: J Clarke (Chairman), K Greatorex (Vice-Chairman), A Dale, Mrs R Mc'Donnell, Mrs J Shephard, R Wilson and T Wright

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

Other Attendees:

Steve Broadbent	Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park
Steve Campbell	Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park
Michael Stead	Neighbourhood Watch
Karen Fletcher	Boughton Pocket Park
David Whalley	Boughton Village Hall
Mary James	Headteacher Boughton Primary School
Sergeant Sam Dobbs	Northamptonshire Police
18 Members of the Public	

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs: S Potter, S Trott, District Councillor B Frenchman, Mark Bradshaw, Steve Bryan, Jean Dunn, Sue Greatorex,

2. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 10th April 2017

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 10th April 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

3. To Receive the following Annual Reports

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

I know that all the Parish Councillors will join me in recording our appreciation to our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Jayne Bunting. I am sure that Jayne will also

join me in thanking Councillor Russell Wilson for overseeing our financial management so ably.

Representatives of the Parish Council have attended external meetings throughout the year in addition to regular meetings of the Council. These have included various Planning Committee meetings and appeals at Daventry District Council, Northants County Council and Northampton Borough Council; regular meetings with Northamptonshire Highways representatives; Parish Forums at Daventry District Council ; Boughton Charities including the Richard Humfrey Trust , Boughton Primary School, the Village Hall, the Pocket Park; Quarry Liaison Meetings; Liaison Group Meetings with neighbouring Parish Councils concerning major developments to the North of Northampton; meetings with other Ward parishes to discuss the joint sponsorship of a PCSO and the Buckton Fields Liaison Forum.

In addition, to its statutory duties and obligations, Boughton Parish Council recognises the importance of community engagement and the Council endeavours to achieve this through a range of approaches and uses a variety of methods: -

- We have a public open forum session as a regular agenda item at our meetings*
- Information is published on the Parish Council website and residents can subscribe to and receive information on parish news reports.*
- Information is published on the two parish noticeboards in Vyse Road and Church Street. The Parish Council have specifically requested that the developers provide a parish noticeboard on the new development at Buckton Fields*
- Information is published in Boughton Village Matters and on the Boughton Village Matters Facebook page and I would like to thank the editors, Charlotte Mackaness and Helen Coghill. Boughton Village Matters is also published on the Parish Council website.*
- In addition, I would particularly like to thank Charlotte for all her help and the support that she gives to the Parish Council and the parish. For several years Charlotte was the Chair of Boughton Pocket Park Management Committee and under her leadership drove the grant funding for the purchase of all the play equipment in the Park. Until November 2016 Charlotte organised the annual village Bonfire event.*
- As a regular agenda item each month the Parish Council receives reports from representatives of Boughton primary school, the village hall, the pocket park and village charities. In addition, one of our Councillors is a school governor and regularly visits and works with the school and councillors visit local businesses to listen to problems and concerns.*
- New residents are sent a "Welcome to Boughton" letter and the two developers at Buckton Fields distribute these with their welcome packs.*
- The Parish Council have recently agreed the use of the telephone kiosk in Church Street for a morning delivery of papers from the newsagent at Whitehills.*

It is worth recording some of the activities that have taken place over the last year;

*As a statutory Consultee the Parish Council responded to 32 planning applications throughout the year that affected the parish. This included our continuing objection to an application for 75 residential dwellings on **land off Holly Lodge Drive** which is in our Parish. The Parish Council objected to this application in January 2017 and it was refused by DDC in March 2017. The Parish Council garnered support from our local MP's Chris Heaton-Harris and Michael Ellis and we are grateful to them for their assistance.*

The applicant appealed the decision by DDC to refuse planning permission and the Parish Council made further written submissions to the Planning Inspector. These sought to mitigate the impact that the development would have on the local area within our parish.

In December 2017 I attended, and gave evidence, at a one-day Hearing held in Daventry. I was accompanied at that Hearing by a resident from Boughton Rise, Harpal Singh. Harpal is here this evening and on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank him for his support.

At the Hearing the applicants made submissions that the site was an extension of Northampton Borough where there is a shortfall in five- year housing land supply. They also referred to the appeal decision on the land off Welford Road adjacent to the Buckton Fields SUE which I will mention later in my report.

The appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspector on the 22nd December 2017. The applicant has now launched a statutory challenge to the Planning Inspector's decision. This is being defended by both the Secretary of State and DDC. Additional information will be posted on the parish council website in due course which is regularly updated by our Clerk and residents are encouraged to view it as a key communication tool for the village.

The residents at Boughton Rise will continue to be supported by the Parish Council who will remain opposed to this development.

An outline application for up to 41 dwellings, on land between Welford Road and Brampton Valley Way, was refused by DDC in March 2017 and a subsequent appeal was allowed. I attended the Hearing at DDC on behalf of the Parish Council. Two applications have subsequently been submitted – a reserved matters application for 32 dwellings, which the Parish Council considered in July 2017, and an application to vary one of the conditions on the outline permission (substituting a reference to a revised flood risk assessment). Both applications await determination.

A list of all current planning applications can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

Following a significant amount of work undertaken by the Parish Council to update the Boughton Village Design Statement the document was formally adopted by DDC on the 17th May 2017. This supplementary planning document is intended to provide a

clear framework and guidance for future development in Boughton Parish including Boughton Rise and Buckton Fields. A copy of the Village Design Statement can be viewed online via the [planning page](#) on the parish council website.

Members of the Parish Council have recently attended meetings with the District Council who are currently undertaking a review of the Boughton Conservation Area. An exhibition and drop in session was held in the Village Hall in January 2018. The Conservation Area was first designated in 1971 and the last review of Boughton was in 2003. As part of the review, DDC will assess whether the current boundary is fit-for-purpose and produce an up-to-date Appraisal and Management Plan. If adopted, this document will sit alongside the Boughton Village Design Statement as a Supplementary Planning Document and would be a material consideration in the determination of planning decisions in the parish.

In January this year the Parish Council were involved in an important planning consultation with DDC on the future of the area. The Parish Council undertook significant work on the Parish Annex of the emerging draft Settlements and Countryside Local Plan. This is a significant planning policy document, containing detailed guidance that will help shape local decision-making on future planning issues. The Parish Council worked closely with the Planning Officers at DDC and attended various roadshows which took place around the District. Important areas of local green spaces within the parish were identified and representations have now been submitted. Consultation on the next version of the Plan will take place later in the Summer. The areas of green spaces nominated were: -

- *Chestnut Tree Green and The Green opposite (at the top of Butchers Lane)*
- *Boughton Allotments*
- *The Green (corner of Spring Close)*
- *Boughton Green*
- *The old St John's Church*
- *The Obelisk Sports Centre*
- *Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park*
- *Boughton Pocket Park*
- *The open spaces at Boughton Rise*

This year the Parish Council made a successful application to secure money from our County Councillor's Empowerment Grant to fund a replacement oak noticeboard in Church Street and a new bench seat on The Green at the top of Butchers Lane was kindly donated by the family of Harry Lovell, a true friend of Boughton.

The Parish Council, itself, supports local community organisations in the parish and twice a year in January and July the Parish Council consider applications for grants up to a maximum of £500.

The Parish Council have purchased litter pick equipment this year and two litter picks have already taken place organised by the Parish Council. A community litter pick has

been arranged for Monday 30th April 2018 at 3.00 p.m. meeting at the village hall car park.

During the year the Parish Council initiated a meeting with residents from Boughton Rise, the Police, the local highway authority and representatives from All Saints Primary School to look at problems with on street parking which was causing a nuisance to house owners opposite the School.

Additionally, the Parish Council have worked with residents at Boughton Rise and the original house developers to install a new gate and fencing to the two large open spaces fronting Dixon Road/Holly Lodge Drive. The Parish Council regularly liaises and updates the residents regarding planning applications and the Clerk assists with matters such as grass cutting and litter bin emptying.

The key items to update on are;

Buckton Fields

Buckton Fields East (Phase 1 for 376 dwellings)

The development is fully consented in planning terms and being built out. DDC is not aware that the developers will be seeking approval for any scheme revisions. As at the 6th April 2018, we are advised that there have been the following occupations:

- Martin Grant Homes – 65 occupations (123 remaining)
- Bloor Homes – 171 occupations (17 remaining)

This confirms what has consistently been the case, that Bloor is building/selling at about twice the rate of Martin Grant Homes. Including affordable housing (20%), Buckton Fields East will total 376 dwellings, when complete.

Compliance with the obligations of the Section 106 agreement is being monitored by DDC and NCC, as necessary.

There has been no submission of reserved matters for the school site that was within the Buckton Fields East application site, as it is envisaged that this would be progressed in the context of the wider application, if approved.

At the invitation of the Parish Council, the Head Teacher and representatives of Preston Hedges Academy Trust attended the last Buckton Fields Liaison Forum meeting in October 2017 and presented a report at the Parish Council meeting in November. Preston Hedges Academy Trust will establish the new primary school at Buckton Fields which is scheduled to open in September 2019. A Buckton Fields Primary School website went “live” at the end of 2017.

The **Buckton Fields Liaison Forum**, which was set up as an initiative of the Parish Council, endeavours to meet quarterly for progress reports from the developers, highways and DDC.

Buckton Fields West

The revised application for the entirety of the site (DA/2011/0666) remains undetermined. This application includes Buckton Fields East and the remaining land in the Joint Core Strategy allocation (Policy N8). The remaining land is now generally referred to as Buckton Fields West.

The application was the subject of extensive re-consultation last year with neighbours and statutory consultees, including the Parish Council. Details were published on the Parish Council website and the Parish Council held a public meeting in the Village Hall on the 23rd October 2017 giving an opportunity for residents to view the plans. The Parish Council agreed to take professional advice from a planning consultant on its response to the application to DDC. A copy of the Parish Council's letter was published on our website.

The Parish Council raised objections to the application on the grounds of: -

- Phasing
- Transportation
- Land allocation and Layout

Annexed to that response was a Community List which the Parish Council had been working on for some considerable time prior to receipt of the application. A Working Party of the Parish Council have worked on your behalf in partnership with senior officers at DDC and the agents for the developers.

Further development in the parish will have a significant effect on existing facilities and to mitigate the impact the Parish Council have identified matters that it considers should be considered for inclusion in a Section 106 Agreement or addressed in other ways if DDC is minded to approve the application. In brief, matters that have been put forward to DDC by the Parish Council are the impacts on: -

- Traffic
- Health
- Education
- Community Spaces and Facilities

The agents for the developers, have now responded to the Parish Council's objection letter of the 14th November 2017 and our response, following further professional advice, was agreed earlier at our council meeting.

At this point there is no confirmed Planning Committee date for the revised application, as DDC still awaits the final, formal response of NCC, as the Local Highway Authority (LHA), in respect of highway and public transport matters. Currently, the modelling of the traffic impact of the development is still the subject of on-going discussion between the applicant and the Local Highway Authority. It is clear, that this aspect of the proposed development is the one of the greatest concern for local residents and it is important that DDC is satisfied that the matter has been assessed fully, before a report goes before the Planning Committee.

The revised application, if approved, would be subject to the Community Infrastructure Levy, as well as a Section 106 agreement.

Buckton Fields is one of our priority considerations and please be assured that members of the Parish Council are working tirelessly on your behalf to obtain the best outcome for both our new residents at Buckton Fields and the parish and wider community.

Central to the new development is the Northampton Northern Orbital Route, a new road which will relieve traffic from the north of Northampton and surrounding villages. There will a further consultation by Northamptonshire Highways on their options, but no date has yet been confirmed.

Police Community Support Officer

The Parish Council are currently considering the joint sponsorship of a PCSO with five other Spratton Ward parishes, which Councillors have agreed to in principle, however this will be discussed as a separate item later on the Agenda. The Parish Council have recently taken independent legal advice on the Agreement/Contract from Northamptonshire Police and following the Annual Parish Meeting this evening the Parish Council will make a final decision at its next meeting in May.

I am the Police Liaison Representative on the Council to act as a single point of contact with the Police.

Traffic

The Parish Council is aware that speeding and volume of traffic through the village is of concern to residents and the Council has recently commissioned a traffic survey to

monitor the volume and speed of traffic on Vyse Road, Moulton Lane and Howard Lane. The Police undertake regular speed enforcement at various locations in the parish and a Police speed enforcement operation on the 8th January 2018 recorded 15 speeding offences on Moulton Lane. Members of the Parish Council met with a representative from Northamptonshire Police Safer Roads Team last November and the Parish Council has recently agreed the purchase of a mobile activated speed camera, in addition to the vehicle activated signs on Vyse Road and Moulton Lane.

There have also been recent speed limit changes on Brampton Lane (40 mph) and Harborough Road (30 mph).

In addition, to prevent access to the village by HGV vehicles, the Parish Council has recently negotiated changes to highway signage on the Harborough Road and Vyse Road to delete references to Moulton and Moulton College. The signs will now read "Boughton Village Only". Our Clerk regularly reports vehicles to the Transport Managers of offending companies.

Improvements to the Holly Lodge Road junction caused great inconvenience at the time and the Parish Council dealt with lots of complaints. However, following completion of the work traffic flow now seems to have improved through the village.

Finally, our special thanks and appreciation goes to all the volunteers who so generously give their time and who contribute so positively to Boughton parish.

Charlotte Mackaness thanked the Parish Council for all the hard work undertaken on behalf of the parish.

Cllr Greatorex reported that Cllr Clarke would be standing down as Chair at the May Annual meeting of the Parish Council. On behalf of Councillors he thanked Cllr Clarke for his hard work and professionalism as Chair and it was unanimously agreed that he had done an outstanding job.

b) Boughton Parish Council Financial Report

Cllr Russell Wilson presented the following report:-

I am pleased to report that the financial affairs of Boughton Parish have been quite uneventful over the past year. With a 0% increase in parish precept per household but an increase in the number of houses the precept increased by 28% to £39,263. Recurring expenditure, for example, employment costs, insurance, electricity, grass cutting were generally contained within budget. We continue to encourage the hard work of the village hall committee and pocket park committee by providing them with a modest amount of financial donations, and grants are available to support other parish initiatives. The village design statement was completed and provisions continue to be made for any necessary replacement or refurbishment of footway lighting and further traffic calming initiatives. An amount of £4,800 was set aside for other village projects but remains available and will be carried forward to next year.

As a result, we finish the financial year with an increase in our bank balance which stands at £32,559 (2017 £28,143). There has been a corresponding increase in reserves which are currently uncommitted and available for new projects and initiatives.

In the new financial year, the parish precept increases by 11% to £43,586 as a consequence of the increase in the number of houses and we have again applied a policy of no increase in the parish precept per household. The budget for 2018/19 includes a provision of £5,000 to assist with any initiative within Boughton Parish to

develop a " Neighbourhood Plan ". However, such a project could require a heavy time commitment over a period of several years. The parish council does not intend to pursue this initiative alone and it will require residents in the parish to assume some of the responsibility should they wish it to proceed. Given where we are today it is possible that no expenditure will be incurred next year and, subject to council approval, some, or all of the £5,000 could be re-allocated. What does all this mean?

You have heard this evening about the proposal for our parish to participate in the sponsorship of a PCSO. For the first twelve months the cost to the parish will be £10,486. In the context of our total parish precept of £43,586 this is a significant commitment (24%). There is no provision for this spend in the coming year's budget. However, payment of this amount could be financed out of the bank balance and reserves which I have reported above, subject to parish council approval. In future years the financing of the cost of a PCSO will have to come out of the annual precept. With a continuation of the build of new houses in the parish, and with ongoing sound financial management, this should be achievable.

Finally, preparing this report for you this evening is the easy part of managing the parish financial affairs. All the hard work is carried out by Jayne Bunting throughout the year. On behalf of the council may I thank her for maintaining such accurate and reliable financial records.

Cllr Wilson reported that local organisations could apply to the Parish Council for grant funding from an annual £1,000 budget. There were uncommitted reserves of just over £12,000 and some of this money could be used to finance a PCSO which had not been budgeted for in the 2018/2019 financial year. The cost of paying for a PCSO would depend on an increase in the precept in future years. Cllr Wilson confirmed that the monthly financial statements were published on the parish website.

c) Report by County Councillor Mrs Judy Shephard

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

I have now been your County Councillor for the past 21 years and in all that time I have never had to write a report in such a challenging environment and of such a serious nature about recent Northamptonshire County Council activities. I have found this year to be completely without precedence.

I am sure you are all aware as the news has been dominated in recent weeks on the way that Northamptonshire County Council Cabinet has been operated financially which has led to Commissioners now in all probability being called in at the end of April. I will try to elaborate:

NCC, year on year, has historically faced a financial shortfall due to lack of appropriate and lessening funding from HM Government for Adult Social Care and Children's Services. HM Government has also imposed budget savings on Northamptonshire totalling £400m since 2010 despite us being a targeted housing growth area, having a large number of Looked After Children (including

'Unaccompanied asylum Seekers' which incidentally cost us £35k per child per annum but we only receive reimbursement of £23k by Government) and with a higher percentage of over 85 year olds due to advancing medical treatments increasing longevity. This has meant that this year we faced a £50m funding gap between what we have to provide by law and setting a viable budget. This has left Adult Social Care on the edge of intervention.

We were also capped this year on the maximum amount that Council Tax could be set at. (6% although we set ours at 5.98%). In the past we have prided ourselves on having the lowest council tax in England but that now, in hindsight, was too ambitious a call, as this decision added to our Social Care shortfall year on year.

As part of the NCC annual budget scrutiny process to find these savings, four areas came under particular focus: Libraries, Trading Standards, Bus Subsidies and Highways, especially Winter Gritting. It became apparent quite quickly following this January's public consultation on the 3 Library options (which elicited a huge response of over 5000 responses on Libraries alone) that this was a particularly unpopular set of spending efficiency proposals. It was agreed by Cabinet and the Conservative Group in February that we should amend these proposals by reinstating some of the proposed bus subsidies and going for a softer option on Libraries which would at least have saved some of our libraries under threat of closure. Throughout all this time I liaised and worked with the Friends of Moulton Library and Moulton Parish Council to try to retain Moulton Library.

Our Chief Finance Officer issued a Section 114 Notice in February which in short was due to the uncertainty of setting a balanced budget. In essence a spending curb was placed on all unnecessary NCC spending. This Notice is still in place. Further to that NCC's outgoing Accountants KMPG issued an Advisory Notice on the eve of our Full Council Budget Meeting stating that our proposed Budget was unlawful and that the savings we had hoped to reinstate following the consultation would have to be actioned in full. The Conservative Group were now obliged to make the unpalatable decision of having to reverse our latest proposals on Libraries and busses and to find even more savings on top, which included a staff pay freeze and a 10% cut in our own allowances. The popular Empowering Councillors Grant was also deleted. Throughout all of this time I continued to work with Friends of Moulton Library and Moulton Parish Council to achieve the best outcome for our cherished Library as a viable community asset.

Max Caller CBE, an Independent Inspector was called in by Secretary of State, Savid Javid MP, in January to prepare a report on Best Value in the delivery of NCC services to be completed by 16th of March. This Inspection would be a far reaching appraisal on how NCC was managing its financial affairs. Mr Caller interviewed MPs, outside bodies, staff and many Councillors, (District and Borough and County) including myself in his quest.

Max Caller's Report, sent to Savid Javid MP, was very hard hitting with two clear recommendations for the future, including his view that a new start was needed of

local government towards two unitary councils (one in the North and one in the West). This, he states, should be pursued to help protect vital services in the county. Max hopes this will be achieved by 2020 which will mean Northamptonshire County Council would then cease to exist. Mr Caller also made it very clear that it is not the fault of the hardworking and dedicated NCC staff that these problems exist.

His Recommendations are: (and I paraphrase)

- *That a new start is required which can deliver confidence and quality by the creation of two new unitary councils (North and West).*
- *That the Secretary of State should give serious consideration to whether Commissioners should take over the running of all services save planning.*

Max Caller criticized the overuse of capital receipts and also highlighted Budget Scrutiny shortcomings and lack of proper oversight of implementation of the Council's plans for Innovation. He highlighted that it was difficult for Backbenchers to know what was going on financially and that Backbenchers were 'snowballed' when seeking further relevant information.

Savid Javid MP has in his formal response, which was relayed to the House of Commons on the 27th of March in response to Max Caller's Report, said that he is minded to implement a package of interventions including two Commissioners, the lead Commissioner concentrating on Governance (or how the Council is run) and the other commissioner to work closely with our Authority on strategic financial planning and budgetary control. They could be in place by the end of April. In the meantime, Max Caller has invited considered views from NCC Members and Officers by 14th of April before finalizing his decision. Incidentally NCC have to pay the Commissioners salaries and expenses.

Within our own Conservative Group our Leader Cllr Heather Smith has decided to step down along with our Finance Portfolio Cllr Robin Brown. The Interim Chief Executive Damon Lawrenson has also left. We have reformed our Conservative Group with Matt Golby now our Leader and Cecile Irving-Swift as our deputy. A new Cabinet has been announced. This is just the beginning of some positive sweeping changes that will be made in the short time we have left as a County Council.

One Angel Square, the new Council Office Building which was in the process of being sold with a leaseback clause has been "paused" while we await a clear view from the incoming Commissioners on the correct process to follow as there are concerns relating to VAT and Stamp Duty.

This year's report is longer than normal - but I feel it is such a very important issue it is wholly warranted. This has not been an easy year for any elected member of the county council. It has not passed as I, your local member, would have wished.

There have been many recriminations, some true some not, and the new leader has apologized to residents of the county for the failings of the council. I feel it is right that

we now draw a line under the past and focus on the future. However long or short that may be.

d) District Councillor Report

District Councillor John Shephard stated that he would like to endorse the comments made by Councillors following the Chairman's announcement that he would not be seeking re-election in May. He reiterated that the Chairman's contribution to the Parish Council had been significant and his recent attendance at the Gladman appeal hearing had been significant and his contribution had been well received. The challenges facing Boughton were significant and he acknowledge the hard work and diligence of the Parish Council who he noted had an exemplary Chairman and Clerk. Cllr Shephard updated the meeting on the forthcoming changes to waste and recycling collections by Daventry NORSE. He welcomed the new Buckton Fields residents to the meeting and reported that a "village day" celebration was being organised on the 24th June 2018 and funding towards the event was being considered by the Parish Council.

e) Boughton Primary School

Mary James the Head Teacher at Boughton Primary School, who was attending on behalf of the board of trustees of the school, presented the following report:-

On behalf of the Board of Governors and Trustees, I am delighted to present this report to the Parish Council, outlining the work of the school during the past year.

Standards and Successes

Standards at Boughton Primary School continue to be well-above national outcomes, with 84% of pupils achieving the combined national standard in reading, writing and maths (national 61%).

This time last year we had been judged as Good by Ofsted, nine weeks after I began my headship! I am proud to say that we continue to strive for excellence. Although we will not undergo a further Ofsted inspection for a while, we have sought outside scrutiny by commissioning a Senior School Improvement Officer to work with the school; we have once again been judged as Good in all categories.

The staff consists of: seven full-time teachers, one full-time Higher Level teaching assistant, four full-time teaching assistants and two part-time; a Family Support Liaison Worker; a full-time School Business Manager and part-time administrative assistant; four lunchtime supervisors, two cooks (employed by Chartwells), two cleaners and a handyman.

There has been a small amount of staff mobility in the past year: our assistant headteacher left in July to pursue a chance in a lifetime to travel to Australia; we were fortunate to have three teachers ready for leadership, so were able to create a strong senior team with a deputy head and two phase-leaders.

We took on a newly qualified teacher for our Reception class, starting in September 2017. This could have been a risky move, but she has worked exceptionally hard,

been very well received by children and parents, and proved to be an asset to the staff team.

Our priorities during this academic year have been to improve our practice in writing and maths. Initiatives undertaken with writing during 2016-17 are now embedded and we have seen success across the school as a result. Maths mastery and reasoning remain priorities and we will carry on our work in these areas during the remainder of this year and within 2018-19.

The school maintains a keen focus on creativity. Two pupils won a competition last summer, resulting in class 5 taking part in a photo shoot to create a scene, which was displayed on a billboard in Kingsthorpe.

Demographic and Impact on the village

The demographic of the school changes year on year. We currently have approximately 10% of pupils coming from the village; the majority of other pupils travel from an NN2 postcode. During our new-intake events in November, I showed approximately 50 sets of parents around the school. We expect to be full in our September 2018 intake. In the event of the school being oversubscribed, our admissions' criteria requires priority to be given as follows:

Children in public care/previously looked after;

Children who live in the linked area (Boughton) with a sibling link

Children who live in the linked area

Children who live outside the linked area with a sibling link

Other children

Therefore, children living in the village will always have priority, should the school be oversubscribed. We will know our numbers for September within the next few days.

I am very aware of how the additional traffic to and from the school affects the village community. During the past year I have endeavoured to work with the Parish Council and Highways to seek solutions to this issue. For example, I have notified Boughton Village Matters of forthcoming events (such as our whole school trip to the pantomime) and arranged staggered pick up times in order to ease pressure on village traffic. This was well-received. Our two school cooks, who are not employees of the school but work here each day, have been enabled to park in our side car park. We were restricted in our use of this space by the agreement in place with the previous landowner. However, the strip of land at the side of the school, the field behind and access lane to it have been recently purchased. The Board is unsure of the potential impact of this but hope it will be positive.

The addition of the yellow lines either side of the school has helped in some ways, hindered in others. There is a balance to be struck; I am conscious of ensuring that our school is welcoming to parents and families, as well as viewed positively by local residents.

Along with the Board of Governors and Trustees, I thank local residents for their patience and support, especially those members of the community who have donned high visibility jackets and acted as marshals for events during the Christmas period. I understand that there have, at times, been heated exchanges between parents/carers and residents. I, too, have been on the receiving end of both parties' frustrations. The school's priority will always be the safety of the pupils, over and above any other considerations.

Marketing and Community Links

The Board now has a Marketing Committee, whose purpose is to ensure a full intake to the school year on year. Our aim is to promote the ethos and values of our village school, which we wish to see at the heart of our community.

To this end, we have begun to develop community links by involving the school choir in village events, which have included church services (the open-air service last June; a wedding in October; the Christingle service in December). We held a "Kindness Day" in November, during which pupils and staff visited local residents with home-made biscuits and cards.

More can be done to increase our links with our local community and I would welcome ideas or support from the Parish Council and villagers.

Challenges

The Parish Council will be aware that the school has suffered two break-ins during the past year, the second of which resulted in the safe being stolen. Both break-ins caused staff considerable inconvenience.

We were hugely grateful to the Parish Council for awarding us a grant of £500 towards security costs. This was used to expand our CCTV coverage around the back of the school and including areas which were previously hidden from view.

As with all schools, our biggest challenge is securing the funding to maintain our building and grounds, whilst also ensuring we are fully staffed with excellent practitioners.

In November we were very fortunate to secure a grant for £750 from the Richard Humfrey Foundation, for which we were most appreciative. This was put towards the costs of upgrading our IT provision in each classroom. Every class now has a "Clevertouch" screen, which can be used for interactive teaching, presentations to the children and group activities.

We are currently developing our outside space.

With the support of a group of parents, we have cleared our garden area. Class 5, with their teacher and teaching assistant, held a successful fundraising event which raised over £260. These funds will be used to purchase plants, seeds and equipment to develop an attractive and useable garden.

Help would be welcomed from the local community; if there are residents who enjoy gardening and would like to volunteer at school, with the support of our staff, we would love to host you!

Our long-term aim is to expand our playground, making use of part of the school field, so that we can fully accommodate all pupils during playtimes and lunchtimes. We have raised approximately half the funds we need for this project, via school activities (e.g. the Christmas fair) and one successful grant application. Along with my deputy head and school business manager, I have applied for several additional grants to try to enable this project to be completed as soon as possible.

Partnership working

Despite being a “stand-alone” academy, we have forged strong links with other local village schools (Moulton, Overstone, Sywell, Pitsford, Walgrave, The Bramptons, Brixworth and Harlestone); staff from all nine schools work together to develop best practice in each of our settings. This work has been invaluable in helping to improve what our school can offer for its youngsters.

This year we have been a part of a higher achievers’ group, hosted by Overstone Primary, for Year 6 pupils who are exceeding in English or Maths. Our pupils have loved being a part of this project, meeting their peers from other schools and rising to the challenges set by their teachers.

As part of the Daventry Sports Partnership, children from Boughton have participated in a range of tournaments and events, including hockey, cricket, tennis, rugby and cross-country. One of our Y3 girls (who lives in the village) came 3rd in the cross-country race, against competitors from 15 other local schools.

Finally...

I would like to make special mention of Jayne Bunting, clerk to the Parish Council, who has been a huge support to the school on behalf of the Parish Council; Jayne has signposted us to information, grants and sources of support.

I hope that the relationship between Boughton Primary School, Boughton Parish Council and our local community will continue to flourish during the coming year.

f) Report by Neighbourhood Watch

Michael Stead (Senior Co-ordinator) reported that the number of properties in the parish was increasing and that Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators had recently been appointed for Boughton Rise and Buckton Fields. Additional NW signage would be sited at both locations. He gave assurances that Boughton enjoyed a relatively low level of crime. Vandalism in the Pocket Park continued. He thanked Chrissy Boyce the Police Liaison Secretary and Treasurer for her hard work.

g) Boughton Village Hall

David Whalley (Chair) presented the following report:-

The Village Hall has enjoyed a further good year ended 31st January 2018 with lettings ahead £5,628 (£5,341 the previous year). Overheads were modestly reduced £8,377 (£8,796) providing an improved surplus of £1,297 (£774). Other fund raising via Quiz Nights (2), Tea Party and Jumble Sale raised £2,446 (£1,962). Overall, the general fund has improved to £16,404 (£15,107).

Maintenance undertaken during this period included sanding and re-varnishing of the main hall floor and stage. Additionally, the floor in the entrance hall, kitchen and toilets has been deep cleaned including repainting the entrance hall and toilets. Four new tables have been purchased along with refurbished entrance door, new mat and trims.

Activities held have included various formal meetings of the parish council, dances including local school prom, club organisations e.g. slimming world, garden club, spencer club, pilates, yoga and karate.

A busy year calling for a great deal of time and effort by all members of the village hall committee. I wish to record my sincere thanks to all members who have worked enthusiastically to make a success of this facility we all enjoy. My thanks also to Russell Wilson, auditor, for keeping us on track. Finally, by way of postscript and alert I should add a note of the challenge facing future operation of the village hall. Our long-standing bookings secretary intends to stand down at the AGM at the end of this month. To date, we have been unable to find a ready volunteer to take these duties on. In the absence of an effective bookings secretary then you will appreciate it will be difficult to continue operation of the hall.

h) Age Concern (Boughton Care for the Elderly)

On behalf of Sue Greatorex, the Chairman presented the following report:-

Not too much to say about the elderly in the village at this time, although Kate Sturgess and Brenda Davenport have died, both relatively recently. Very sad for friends and family.

Everyone else appears fine. Pam Wilson is frail and confused and the family are arranging a move for her to Richmond Care Village. She will have lots of people to talk to there. Joyce Harris, Pam Rapkin, Olive James and Audrey Phipps Walker are quite well and Barbara and I keep in touch with them at regular intervals.

Roy and Sandra Mynott cope well and have a good family supporting them. Good news was that they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in February!! Congratulations went to them.

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.

i) **Boughton Pocket Park**

Karen Fletcher reported that the bonfire event held in November 2017 had attracted 2,067 visitors which was a slight increase from 2016 which had been just under 2,000. Ticket sales had been strong. A profit of £5,375 had been made which was up £400 from the previous year. Sponsorship of £500 had recently been secured from a local business and a "Party in the Park" event was being explored. There was planned expenditure for park play equipment specifically aimed at teenagers and an initial quote had been received in the sum of £12,000. Disabled access was currently being reviewed. Hedge maintenance was on-going. A couple of committee members were retiring and new residents from Buckton Fields were encouraged to join the committee. Charlotte Mackaness was thanked for all her hard work.

j) **Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park**

Steve Campbell presented the following report:-

Thank you to the Chair for inviting us to attend.

We have continued our monthly work mornings on a Saturday, we would like to thank Alan (member of Boughton Parish Council) for his support. Volunteers are still sparse, but we have had a few new faces over the course of the year, but they are not consistent, but we appreciate the support we do receive.

We have completed the following activities over the year;

- *Cut down dead trees - in particular large rotten cherry stump near path at Boughton end*
- *Stripped ivy*
- *Raked paths*
- *Picked litter*
- *Received wildflower seeds from Daventry DC for the wildflower meadow - Flowers now starting to get established after 5yrs of sowing. Also, bluebells we planted a couple of years ago are coming up regularly.*

Our main aim for the coming year is to put together a plan to resurface some paths – we will be looking for grant opportunities. In addition to this our Website is in need of refurbishment so we are looking for someone to assist us with this.

Last but not least, thank you to the parish council for the £250 which was used as part of our running costs to pay for items like the insurance and website which enables us to continue to keep the spinney clear and relatively free from antisocial behaviour and vandalism.

The Chair thanked Mr Steve Broadbent and Mr Steve Campbell and the volunteers for all the work they undertake to maintain the Pocket Park as such a wonderful asset for the parish.

k) Richard Humfrey Charity

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

I have now completed my sixteenth year of Chairmanship of the Richard Humfrey Charity although I have been a member of this committee since 1990 - some 38 years! There are at present 10 highly valued Trustees (3 co-opted members, 2 ex-officio members, 2 members nominated by the parish council and 2 extra co-opted members). Mrs Norma Pearson has recently moved away after many years sterling service as a Trustee and we are delighted that Laura Trott has agreed to replace her. Laura and Roy Palmer are our 2 representatives on the Richard Humfrey Educational Committee. Rev Stephen Trott and 2 Churchwardens are also part of our committee.

There have been two meetings this last financial year. Traditionally held in March and November these meetings are always well attended by the trustees.

Application of Income was made to two beneficiaries residing in the parish totalling £600 at Christmas and a further £200 was distributed to them at Easter along with a Hamper to a further beneficiary totalling £100. In recent years we have lost some of our most well-loved and long lived residents so recipients are dwindling. Eurofoods based in Kimbell Mews generously made a gift of food items to all 3 individuals which was very well received. I would like to thank Mr Barlow of Eurofoods for making this possible and hope that his donations will continue in the future.

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

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 would also like to record my special thanks to Mrs Barbara Piggins and Mrs Sue Greatorex who are our "Age Concern" representatives. Their unflinching task of checking up on the elderly and infirm and those at risk within the parish is outstanding as they ensure that parishioners health, safety and general well-being is never compromised!

The Chiropody Service provided by Mrs Shirley Morgan is highly valued by those who use the service and I thank Shirley the Chiropodist for her much appreciated ministrations. There were 9 chiropody sessions during the last year costing £20 per session which the Richard Humfrey Charity supports financially. She is happy to see anyone in the parish by appointment so please feel free to contact her.

Mrs Jill Gist is our most valued secretary of both the Humfrey Charities. Her dedication and professional approach has made her a truly appreciated member of our team. We would be lost without her! I would also add on a personal note my special thanks for all the extra and invaluable assistance she so willingly and selflessly provides.

l) Richard Humfrey Education Foundation

Cllr Kevin Greatorex presented the following report:-

I have now completed my sixteenth year as Chair of this committee.

Following the decision in 2015 to consider applications only from applicants in difficult financial circumstances the Trustees did not receive any individual requests for financial grants in 2017.

At their autumn meeting although there were no individual students identified as being in particular financial hardship there was an application for funding from Boughton School for equipment and a grant of £700 was made to assist with the purchase of information technology equipment. The Foundation remains in a healthy state at the moment with the prospect of being able to substantially help any needy identified applicants in the future.

The Trustees resolved to explore ways of publicising the existence of the Foundation to residents of Buckton Fields through the Village web site and the local notice boards

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 2016 is attached for information.

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

4. Joint Sponsorship of a PCSO with the other Spratton Ward Parishes

The Chair reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the other Spratton Ward parishes at Northamptonshire Police Force headquarters in February. He stated that the Parish Council were keen to garner as many views as possible from parishioners. The Parish Council had agreed, in principle, to the project but councillors would make a final decision at the annual meeting of the Parish Council on 14th May 2018. This was a substantial commitment for Boughton parish who were being asked to fund the largest contribution (£10,800) towards the PCSO employment costs which were £37,245. The Parish Council were taking legal advice on the agreement/contract and inter-parish agreement as some concern had been expressed by the Parish Council with joint and several liabilities and employment risk with the agreement/contract. The initiative had been brokered by District Councillor John Shephard who updated the meeting on the project with Sergeant Sam Dobbs from Northamptonshire Police. Some concern was raised by a member of the public regarding Boughton's share of the costs which were thought to be high. Some assurance was sought to the allocation of the PCSO's time. A member of the public expressed concern that procurement of a service at £37,000 should be subject to a

proper public consultation. A member of the public raised concern that the parish would be paying for an optional extra.

The Chair reiterated that the Parish Council would make a final decision at the May council meeting but were fully exploring risk and financial commitment before moving forward with a decision.

5. The Chair gave a special vote of thanks to all the volunteers who give their time and make such a contribution to the village.
6. The Charity Accounts (Boughton Village Hall, Richard Humfrey and Richard Humfrey Education) were available for inspection and are annexed to these Minutes.
7. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for presenting reports.
8. **Matters for Report Only**
None.
9. **Date of Next Meeting**
The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 8th April 2019 in Boughton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed as a true record of the above meeting

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Chair

8th April 2019