

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF CULWORTH PARISH
Held on Thursday 11th April 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall**

Present:	Andrew Wilby (AW)	Chairman
	Stuart Rolt (SR)	Vice Chair
	David Mumford (DM)	Councillor
	Catherine Ruffley (CR)	Councillor
	Gary Denby (GD)	Parish Clerk
Public:	Jenny Howse	St Mary's church
	John Duggan	CHFT
	Andrew Field	
	(9 total) Margaret Watts	

Welcome from the Parish Council Chairman Andrew Wilby

1. **Apologies** – Cllrs Martin and Jose Rowling (funeral)
Cllr Alison Eastwood (WNC)
Julie Tinn (JT)
2. **Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting summary from 18th April 2023**
These were received by those present as a record at the meeting.
3. **Reports received from village organisations**
3. Receive reports from the following village organisations:-
- 3.1 **Culworth Parish Council – AW**

The Parish Council has had a busy year, spending significant sums on behalf of the Culworth Hill Field Trust (CHFT) with its improvements to the cricket field and its pavilion (funded through a Sports England grant). The Phase one of this project will shortly conclude with the installation of tarmac over the Highways verges, also the dispersal and removal of the remaining spoil heaps.

Thanks to the Activate group, its fundraising activities and an HS/2 grant through the Parish Council, the Play Park and Adult Gym equipment have been installed on the margins of the playing field. This project has been concluded and wrapped up, with responsibilities for safety fencing, signage and maintenance now passing to the Parish Council. It is hoped that the fencing will prevent the Play Park's use during adult cricket matches, with installation this month (wet weather permitting).

The Parish Council's finances are sound, with reserves being accumulated to support the next phase of the Village Hall project. There has been a turnover of Councillors over the past year and we have welcomed Cllr Catherine Ruffley Cllr Jose Rowling into our midst. There is one current Parish Councillor vacancy being advertised.

3.2 **Culworth Charity - MR**

At Christmas 2023, residents of 19 households within the Parish received a cash benefit from Culworth Charity. After the deduction of Agent's fees the nett rental income amounted to £2124.

There is a small sum from Wayleaves for an electricity pole and a broadband cable.

Trustees are the current Churchwardens:

Martin Rowling

Jennifer Howse

This is funded from the lease of land held in trust at Wappenham and Silverstone, through an agent. Jenny has requested a clarification of these legacies (perhaps from as early as the 1700's), as might affect the dispersal of funds.

3.3 **Culworth Village Hall - JT**

Culworth Village Hall continues to be used for regular fixtures such as Coffee and Chat, the monthly Village Café, Hot Shots, Film Nights and for one off bookings. We have lost Snappers and the Sign Language Courses and need more regular bookings.

Jenny Howse organised a Shrove Tuesday quiz last March and again this March, both well attended and the takings being shared by the Village Hall and the Church. She also organised two Lent frugal lunches in the Hall, proceeds going to Water Aid and The Red Cross.

We can now access the Village Hall page on the village website and this has now been updated. There will shortly be a link to a calendar so that prospective hirers can see when the Hall is free.

Joan Gottowik kindly donated a hearing loop for the Village Hall in memory of her daughter.

At our AGM in November Julie Tinn (Chair), Mark Izzett (Treasurer) and Darryl Timmins (bookings clerk) agreed to continue in their roles and were re-elected unanimously. Sarah Powell tendered her resignation as Secretary and was thanked by all for her hard work and loyalty. Linda Reynolds was welcomed and opted onto the Committee as the new Secretary. All the other Trustees agreed to continue on the Committee. The Trustees decided not to increase the hire rates for the Hall. John Mullins Blyth resigned as representative for the Parish Council on the VH committee in January due to pressures of work and family.

The film nights continue to be popular. Filmbank Media have changed the way they issue licences for film shows and as a result the cost of hiring has gone up. However, we are still making a small profit. Over the last year we have shown:-

- The Lost King (Apr 2023),
- What's Love Got To Do With It (May)
- Where the Crawdads Sing (Sep)
- The Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (Oct)
- Chevalier (Nov)
- A Haunting in Venice (Dec)
- The Miracle Club (Jan 2024)
- The Great Escaper (Feb),
- Past Lives (March).

The Red Lion has prepared the suppers for most of the film nights.

Phase One of the project to build a new Community Centre on the cricket field is almost complete. It has taken over twelve months to get the Local Authority to agree to the design of the crossovers across the verges. The CHFT are getting quotes for this work. The car park provides much needed parking for the Village.

The Trustees agreed that there was much tidying up and repair to be done to the Hall especially as the provision of a new community centre was not imminent. John Emmett drew up a list of jobs, many of which have been completed, the rest when the weather permits. Several roof tiles have been blown off in the recent high winds and have allowed rain to come through. The rear flat roof is in bad need of repair. These repairs are now in hand.

The Hall remains a valuable space in the village community.
Julie Tinn, Chair – Culworth Village Hall Trustees

3.4 **St Mary's Church – JH** See APPENDIX A.

3.5 **Culworth CofE Primary School** - none received this year, perhaps due to the short notice resultant from the Clerk being away on a short break at the start of April?

3.6 **Culworth Cricket Club – Jim Powell** See APPENDIX B.

3.7 **Culworth Snappers Camera Club – John Emmett**

Culworth Snappers is now in its 10th year. The membership has grown steadily over the last year and we have an active membership of 20 with varying skill levels from beginners to keen amateurs, using various levels of equipment from mobile phones to mirror-less cameras.

We meet once a month in Culworth Forge Coffee, usually the 4th Thursday of the month at 19.00hrs. Each month there is a topic which has been selected by members, these are then discussed on the club nights. As well as discussing images, members will discuss any new ideas or queries they might have. At our club nights we also include regular technical sessions where members share knowledge and experience on a wide range of topics such as image composition, know your camera and astro-photography.

Most months we will have outdoor photo-shoots which are popular with the members. Amongst last year's photo shoots were a visit to a Bell Foundry, watch a starling murmuration at RSPB Otmoor, a visit to the Oxford bus museum and a fantastic morning at Woburn being driven around the park to watch the deer rut.

We have some interesting locations planned for the future which include the Cotswold Safari Park, an evening to shoot star trails and a visit to Batsford Arboretum in the Autumn.

Members enjoyed an annual dinner at the Red Lion in Culworth with 21 people attending .

You can also follow us on Facebook under "Culworth Snappers" where you can find images taken by members. Topics this year includes:- Nature, water, wheels, clocks/time. autumn, every day moments

Future Club Nights this year:- 25th April; 23rd May; 27th June; 25th July; 29th August; 26th September; 24th October; 28th November.

Later this year we will be hosting a presentation/talk by Mary McIntyre on photographing Star Trails .

This is a very friendly local club, why not come and join us. Membership is only £25/annum, to cover things like the hiring of the club night venue and guest speakers etc.

John Emmett 31st March 2024.

3.8 Update on local HS/2 development issues - SR

The new B4525 link road has now opened after any delays and is appreciated by those using it. The roads around Thorpe Mandeville continue to be open, but this will change as drivers are obliged to drive over the cut-n-cover tunnel. The viaduct building at Lower Thorpe continues apace.

The noise and light issues reported early-on have diminished somewhat, though the high level lighting on the cement unit at Thorpe Mandeville continue to illuminate this eye sore. The car park security lighting will become less prominent.

The HS/2 road in parallel to the line has been the focus of building to date. Since now completed, it will be used by much of the materials construction traffic, thus reducing the burden on local roads.

3.9 Culworth Community Play Park and Adult Gym – Karen Mullins-Blyth

See APPENDIX C.

3.10 Culworth Hill Field Project – John Duggan see APPENDIX D.

Phase 1 works to implement the current planning permission for a new Community and Recreation Centre for the village is expected to be completed this year. This will establish the principle of development on the Cricket Field (Hill Field). Sports England, does not expect further monies to be spent upon the pavilion, now serviceable.

The funding environment for capital projects has significantly deteriorated in the last five years. Consequently the new facility is unlikely to be built in its current form.

A new opportunity has arisen. The Church Wardens, concerned about the future viability of our historic church, have approached CHFT to carry out an initial feasibility study on the conversion of the church for community use, enabling it to continue with its normal functions.

John stressed that discussions are at a very early stage. An architect has been asked to provide an initial assessment (free of charge). The CHFT is to discuss how best to proceed at its next meeting. It seems sensible to complete a more detailed feasibility study before considering options for a smaller facility. Some money may be available for a more detailed feasibility study, from the expected surplus from the Phase 1 Works when completed, subject to the agreement of the major donors.

The CHFT's constitution is quite broad, and it is expected to cover the above, and this will be confirmed in due course. It will need to be checked for suitability for such a revised Phase 2 project.

3.11 **Report from our WNC Unitary Councillor Alison Eastwood**

See APPENDIX E.

4. **Any Other Business**

- 4.1 AW mentioned that consideration is being given as to whether a reinstated Village Fete might coincide with a public BBQ on the village green? This could attract more interest and villager support.

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

APPENDIX A: St Mary's church report 2023/4 by Jennifer Howse

Culworth church report changes little over the years. This timeless building has withstood the savages of progress that surround us. In many ways that's the way I think the village wants it to be; a reliable institution that is always there when they need it, for prayer, baptisms, weddings and funerals and also as a symbol of our village. Therefore the church report changes little over the years. So please excuse the fact that this report is very much the same as last year's and the year before.

Culworth Church continues to maintain its position as the centre of the village. There are regular services and we continue to have a service every Sunday. The church is well maintained and always looks splendid. As usual Martin Rowling takes care of all the day to day maintenance but the churchyard is maintained by a group of willing mowers in the summer and a working party which clears the conservation area in August, which has resulted in the past few years in an absolutely magnificent display of snowdrops and primroses in the Spring. The boundary wall by the pavement was repaired last year but apart from that there have been no major expenses so far this year.

The PCC purchased a loud speaker system and we now have a card reading machine for collections.

The flower arrangements in the church continue to be expertly organised by Diana Langdale and she manages to bring in many others to help with the magnificent Christmas, Easter and Harvest displays.

Christine and John Emmett continue to maintain the ever increasing number of books in the library at the back of the church. We have a rota of cleaners for the year. Thanks to everyone who helps.

We did not have the overhead heaters installed that were mentioned in the last report and the PCC will rethink their position on that.

We started 2023 as a parish in yet another interregnum. Rev. Karen Jongman was appointed as our new house of duty rector and her service of induction was at the end of July 2023.

May saw King Charles crowned and Gerald Cadogan took the service of commemoration on 7th May. A group of bell ringers rang for the Coronation.

3 children were baptised, there has been 1 wedding, 7 funerals and 3 internment of ashes since January 2023.

In 2023 we sadly lost Peter Houghton Brown, who worshipped regularly in our church and who supported us in so many ways.

Several regular events have continued to take place organised by members of the church community, including the Lent Quiz, Lent lunches, village cafes and plant sales. We have continued to raise money for various good causes, including Water Aid, The Red Cross, The Children's Society, the British Legion and Macmillan Nurses.

Our big fund raiser this year was an evening last October, Tales from the Auction Room, organised by Tricia Donati. A packed village hall were entertained with a talk by Steven Bruce about his life as an auctioneer. During an included supper he also valued our guests' treasures. Over £1,200 was raised.

The church is a place where villagers turn to in times of need, for weddings and funerals. The building is a Grade 2 listed building in a most beautiful setting overlooking the cricket field.

The church belongs to the village and as such is much loved but with the congregation dwindling year by year, we desperately need the support of people from the village, not necessarily regular church attenders, but people who feel that can give just a little time to help maintain it for future generations. Without this the future looks bleak!

APPENDIX B: Culworth Cricket Club Annual Parish report 2024

In 2023 we welcomed a number of new members, to further consolidate our squads. Our under 9s competed in two kwik cricket tournaments, the first one we hosted and although there was a cold wind, was sunny and very well attended with three visiting teams joining our team in a round robin tournament.

Our under 11's continued to improve during the season and beat big cricketing clubs such as Brackley and Middleton Cheney. They also won against Spencer Bruerne which they lost by 50 runs at the start of the season, winning by 70 runs which goes to show the improvement the team has made.

Our mens team have had some good matches against Blakesley and Eydon and we had a very nice afternoon playing against a Presidents X1.

The new wicket, after a lot of very hard work from John Pritchett, Justin Thurgood, Joe Cox, my son and myself has played very well. The nets have also been a good addition and have been the reason for at least half a dozen new members to the club. It is just a shame about the amount of rubbish we are having to clear up from the nets before we can use them each time. Rubbish includes broken glass beer bottles, cigarettes and vodka bottles. It is also a real shame that dog owners are not adhering to the rules of the field and keeping their dogs on a lead and clearing up their dog mess.

We had our awards evening where we gave out awards for the best batters and bowlers in the individual age groups. We also acknowledged the help the club has received during the year including sponsorship of the team shirts from Jeremy at Culworth Garage, David & Sally Mumford for sausages and help from Vernon and Lizzie Phipps.

In the autumn we reseeded the outfield of the cricket field to improve the playability of the surface, and also to reduce the maintenance requirements.

I would like to say a big thank you to Marcus Boniface and Charles Buckley of Culworth Grounds Farm for the use of their machinery and a very big thank you to Vernon and Lizzie Phipps of Westhill Farm for their use of machinery and help with spraying off the grass, levelling the ground, sowing the seed and rolling the field. Without these people it would have been an impossible task to do.

For 2024 we will be fielding three junior teams in the South Northants Junior Cricket League. These will be Under 9s, Under 11s and Under 13s. We also have more matches for our adult Culworth Casuals team. All fixtures can be found on our website <https://culworth.play-cricket.com/home>

APPENDIX C: Community Play Park – Karen Mullins-Blyth



Wow, how time flies when the community has fun!

It's coming up to a year since the park installation in July 2023, and so heart-warming still to see our local residents and surrounding visitors benefit from the facilities at our Community Park. Thank you to everyone who has shared your kind comments, positive feedback, gifts and cards. Seeing the children laugh, interact and play really has made it all worthwhile. Here is a reflection of events since the last Parish Assembly:-

CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN RAISES £3686.00 - February 2023 - With a total of £75,000 needed to pay for the equipment - and a slight shortfall of funds from HS2, Activate Culworth Community Group launched its Crowdfunding Campaign, and with over 48 donors (Culworth and surrounding residents and local businesses), we raised funds well exceeding our initial goal!

LOCAL SUPPORT and EVENTS RAISES OVER £4000 MORE - A really fun quiz night at Forge Coffee in March, and a fully booked and very lively Culworth Bingo night in April raised over £1000, and a further £3000 individual donations by residents and other members of the public helped us complete the project and install the equipment in July 2023.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL BENEFITS EVERYDAY - FOR ALL AGES! - Since then, ACCG volunteers regularly monitored park visitors who have settled into more of a rhythm after school during term-time, and at weekends. Young and old come together, and also spend money in local businesses too. Culworth School, staff, parents and carers have also been overwhelmingly positive. We understand that there have been issues with some visitors and local residents, and recognise its a work in progress to make sure everyone is happy with the park.

SIGNAGE - A sign was designed in July 2023 with the rules and safety advice for the park, but as it has not been made yet, we do ask everyone to respect the park, equipment, and keep noise to a minimum for the local residents on Banbury Lane.

Andrew Wilby, the Clerk and the Parish Councillors are fully responsible for the facility moving forwards, and we encourage you to contact them with your feedback, ideas and volunteer your time to help them maintain the park and surrounding facilities in the village. Any concerns around equipment etc can be emailed across to Culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com

SPECIAL THANKS - None of this would be possible without the many volunteers who gave their time for free to attend parish council meetings, liaise with local councillors, write proposals, mow the grass, empty litter bins, and so on.

Thanks goes to Maddy Green for her help and commitment to make this project a reality. She has moved onto pastures new, but still wishes to propose a gift of additional bench seating for the community, and looks forward to another summer of visits with her son.

Michelle Koster has provided guidance and unwavering persistence to achieve this much needed facility for our village, so sincere thanks to her. As she has taken a step back from her role as Parish Councillor this will be the final update from the Activate Culworth Community Group.

A final thanks of course to HS2, and to our Parish Council, who we hope you will join in thanking for their help and support of our Community Park and beautiful village!

APPENDIX D: Culworth Hill Field Project Briefing Note– John Duggan

1. Overview:

- a. Culworth Parish Council (PC) now own the land for the new Community and Recreation Facility and they have a long leasehold interest on the remainder of cricket field (Hill Field). The cricket field and the pavilion are let on license to the Cricket Club during the cricket season. A children's play area has been established on Hill Field adjacent to the existing cricket pavilion.
- b. The cricket club are getting ready for the new season and looking forward to getting full use out of the their much improved facilities.
- c. The extra 'off road' parking, with the improved entrance and new exit, is getting more use from people attending the church, village hall events and visiting the play area. This is helping to relieve traffic congestion and we would encourage all to use the car parking facility as much as possible.
- d. It has taken over twelve months to get the Local Authority to agree to the design of the crossovers (across the verges) to the entrance and exit to the car park. Our builder is getting quotes for the work to be carried out.
- e. The PC have decided not to install bollards at the entrance and exit of the new car park. They are implementing a tree planting scheme on the Western and Eastern boundaries of Hill Field, in line with the church, and have appointed a contractor to fence off the play area for safety reasons. The cost will be their responsibility.
- f. The estimated Final Cost Complete (FCC) for the Phase 1 works, including the improvement to the cricket facilities is £133,573. The potential surplus is £25,427 compared with the original budget of £159,000. When all the work is completed, we expect there to be further cost savings.
- g. When all the work is complete we will apply to the planning authority for a 'Certificate of Lawful Development', which, when granted, will give us confirmation that the existing planning permission has been implemented and will establish the principle of development of this site.

2. What next?

- a. The outlook for funding of capital projects has changed radically in the last five years with the worsening economic outlook, following Covid, Brexit and now the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. It is no longer realistic to expect funding from the same sources as earlier successful projects, such as the new community facility at Westbury and the refurbishment of Brackley Town Hall.
- b. The estimate cost of the proposed new facility has increased to £1.3m from the £974k when we started this project over five years ago. We have secured a commitment towards construction costs of the new facility, from HS2 of £75k and it is likely, subject to planning permission, that the existing Village Hall site

will realise circa £175k. In addition, it is estimated that we could raise another £100k from fund raising initiatives and events. This still leaves a significant shortfall and realistically the new facility is unlikely to get constructed in its current form.

- c. A new opportunity has arisen. As church attendance continues to fall many churches are being forced to close. The Church of England is encouraging the conversion of churches for community use on the basis that it also continues to be used for church activities. The Church Wardens have been increasingly concerned about the viability of our ancient Parish church and approached me to see if the CHFT could carry out a feasibility study on the church as a viable alternative community facility, rather than build a new one. There are many examples, where this has been done successfully, across the country. The Parish Council are supportive of investigating this proposal. It seems sensible to do this before considering other options. If this was to proceed we could construct a new cricket pavilion adjacent to the car park on the cricket field on the site where we have implemented the planning permission for the new Community and Recreation Facility. The cost of converting the church to be able to be used as a community facility is likely to be significantly lower than building a new facility and despite the difficult funding market, it is thought that there may be more sources of funds available for this type of project. It seems sensible to consider
- d. The Churchwardens have asked the CHFT if it would agree to manage the investigation and delivery of this new project, if we were to proceed. I have agreed to defer my retirement as Chair of CHFT until next May to help with the feasibility stage. We need some new trustees with the relevant fundraising, business and marketing skills to take this project onto the next stage. We plan to hold an event at Forge Coffee in due course for all those who may be interested in helping. I would like to thank my fellow trustees, supporters and donors for the hard work in getting this far. This project can only be successfully completed with your continued help and support.

John Duggan

Chair Culworth Hill Field Trust (CHFT) - 8th April, 2024.

APPENDIX E: WNC report from our WNC Councillor Alison Eastwood

Budget

On Thursday 22nd February, West Northamptonshire Council set the Council Tax budget for 2024/2025. This will protect frontline services and tackle significant financial challenges and I am very pleased to say that it is a balanced budget.

In common with local authorities across the country, the Council is facing severe financial pressures due to the current economic climate, high inflation rates driving up running costs and an increase in demand for services, particularly around supporting children in care and vulnerable adults. This area is the most challenging because we have to provide care come what may and that means budgeting as such is impossible because we just don't know what each year will bring.

Despite these pressures, the authority has set a balanced revenue budget for 2024/2025 of £889.5m (£414.5m excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant).

The budget includes a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, which is in line with the Government's threshold, generating extra funding of around £13.1m – with 2% of the increase going towards funding adult social care and representing an average increase on a Band D property of £84.52 a year, the equivalent of £1.63 a week.

The approved budget follows a strong commitment to making services as efficient as possible and reviewing income streams in order to maintain and protect services, with £24.1m of productivity proposals put forward.

The 2024/2025 budget will see WNC invest over £164m in its capital programme, to improve local infrastructure and assets such as land, buildings and equipment.

The Council is also set to spend an estimated £20m in public health support, which is funding from the Government in the year ahead to progress a range of schemes aimed at improving residents' wellbeing, reducing health inequalities and continuing to support communities.

Within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) WNC plans to invest £59m of capital funds in social housing during the next financial year. This investment forms part of a total five-year capital programme, which amounts to £287m. Also built into the plans is investment in decarbonisation, which is estimated to impact on 500 homes.

Your precept arrangements should have been agreed within your individual Parishes and increased accordingly

£162 million worth of Government funding

Announced on 26th February, £162 million worth of Government funding will be allocated to West Northamptonshire Council from 2025/26 to increase local transport connections over a 7 years.

The announcement from the Government's Local Transport Fund, means that £4.7 billion worth of investment, reallocated from HS2 funding, will, from April 2025, be invested in Midlands and the North to improve local transport connections particularly across smaller cities, towns, and rural areas

"It is fantastic news that from 2025 West Northamptonshire will benefit from over £162 million worth of funding which we can inject into the local transport network to make a tangible impact for our residents.

Over the coming months, WNC will work with the Department for Transport to consider how to best utilise this funding to ensure it makes a real difference for West Northamptonshire. The Government will provide guidance to enable investment in transformative and ambitious transport improvements focussing on better connectivity within our towns and villages and improve everyday local journeys.

WNC is currently in the process of developing the Local Transport Plan and bus strategy for West Northamptonshire which will play a key role in shaping how this funding can be best utilised. You can follow the progress of the Local Transport Plan via: www.westnorthants.gov.uk.

Local plan progress

First Rural Settlement Hierarchy – the WNC planning policy team has been in touch with you about a key part of the local plan – the Rural Settlement Hierarchy. To collect evidence via a questionnaire which you have already received.

Secondly, the next local plan is going out to consultation very soon and there will be a lot of information going around and it's important to keep track of this because it will affect the whole domestic and commercial development plans for several years to come. The new version will be one plan rather than the four that exist and the pages reduce from more than 900 to near 400.

Local Planning updates

Briefing received from senior planning officer Dan Callis very recently - The applicant for **Shacks Barn** on the Silverstone/Whittlebury border submitted updated traffic modelling information the about three weeks ago and this was forwarded to National Highways and WNC Highways the same week. The information is on the website.

The earliest the application could come to committee is April.

Regarding the other main AL sites, **DHL** is still receiving objections from National Highways and WNC Highways has not completed its report following the latest traffic information submitted. **Bell Plantation** is still working on its traffic modelling.

HS2 continues to cause havoc in our lives and as you are aware the line has been curtailed and now runs between Birmingham, and Royal Oak (London) There is an on-going ruckus on the B 4525 between Helmdon and Crowfield with Highways investigating as we speak. There are further problems at Boddington-The Wormleighton Road will not be closed in the immediate future whilst Bridge issues are being resolved. The Greatworth T has finally re-opened with a speed limit of 40 MPH

Regeneration is going on in Northampton around Market Square, Abingdon Park, the Cultural Quarter, De La Pre Abbey and Fish Street

The National Museum has been re-arranged to include the Museum of Leather; and the exciting Vivienne Westwood exhibition has opened. I would encourage you to visit the Mackintosh house at Derngate 78, the wonderful new glass extension has been completed, and the Restaurant re-vamped serving delicious afternoon teas.

A Choir fest convenes this month, followed by a full programme of concerts including James Arthur who will be performing in June "A Perfect Day" arts and culture@news.eesthants.gov.uk

Sport; WNC will be one of eight hosts for the Women's Rugby World Cup 3 Weekend matches are to take place at Franklin Gardens the Council continues to partnership with British Cycling OFF road coaching will be delivered at Northants Bike Park. Don't forget the marvellous bike facility for children at Lower Boddington. WNC are in the process of on- boarding volunteers for a new "well-being" walks programme.

On May 2nd we go to the polls to elect our new Commissioner of Police, fire and Ambulance Stephen Mold will not now be standing. You will shortly be received your election papers

A new school @ Tiffeld near Towcester has opened , catering for children who are on the Autistic Spectrum.

Worldclass sports has announced that we will be hosting the GRAND PRIX until 2035 A feather in our cap, This now takes Silverstone Racetrack into its 9th decade.

Grants of up to £10,000 have been awarded to the voluntary and community sector for the project to alleviate youth and knife crime in our local communities

Here endeth the annual report; May I wish you all a productive and safe 2024-2025

Alison Eastwood