

## **MINUTES OF THE BOUGHTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Held in the Village Hall, 11 Church Street, Boughton. NN2 8SF**

**on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 6.30pm**

**In attendance:** Cllr Simon Phipps (Chair of the meeting), Cllr Jonathan Sambrook, Cllr Helen Chappell, Cllr Lorraine McEllin, Cllr Tracey Redwood, Cllr Andy Gibson, Cllr Karen Fletcher, Cllr Rosie Jeczalik, Cllr Toyin Agunbiade & Cllr Stephen Trott and 1 parishioner

**1. Apologies for absences received:** Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park

**2. Approve the Report of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved by Chairman Simon Phipps.

**3. Receive the following annual reports from:-**

### **Boughton Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting**

This meeting provides an opportunity for the Parish Council to update residents on the work we have undertaken over the past year and to highlight some of the key developments and projects affecting Boughton.

Firstly, I would like to welcome Cllrs McEllin, Chappel and Agunbiade to the Parish Council. Lorraine and Helen joined at the beginning of last year and Toyin joined earlier this year. It is great to have a representative from Buckton Fields.

I would also like to thank Councillor Carolyn Penny for her support over the past year as Vice Chair and for the significant time and effort she has put into a number of projects on behalf of the parish. Carolyn has unfortunately had to step down due to personal commitments and we wish her all the best in the future.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Reverend Stephen Trott on his recovery, and we look forward to continuing to work with him in the coming year.

### **The North-West Relief Road (NNWRR)**

One of the most significant developments affecting Boughton this year has been the opening of the North-West Relief Road.

This has been a long-running issue for the parish council and residents. The council spent considerable time engaging with WNC and their highways partners to ensure that appropriate measures were in place to protect the village from increased traffic.

As part of this work, the parish council:

- Engaged directly with the WNC cabinet and officers as well as their highways consultants.
- Commissioned independent legal advice regarding planning conditions 23, 24 and 25 attached to the relief road permission.
- Established a working group to review proposals and represent the interests of parishioners. Following these discussions, a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed with WNC regarding traffic mitigation and monitoring.
- Within the memorandum of understanding it was agreed that traffic levels will be monitored for 18 months following the opening of the relief road, with data shared regularly with the parish council. If traffic volumes increase by more than 2.5% above the base line readings in September 2025 the parish will have the opportunity to re-open the negotiations regarding the form of mitigation required to reduce the volume of traffic in the village.

### **Traffic Calming and Road Safety**

A major focus of the council's work has been traffic management and road safety within the village. As the project was so large a working group was formed and I would like to thank cllrs Mcellin, Chappell and Mcdonell for all the work they have done over the last year on that working group, and especially cllr Mcellin for hosting the meetings at her home and generously providing refreshment.

- The first phase of the agreed traffic calming scheme has now been installed, which included the introduction of the 20mph zone and speed cushions.
- Phase 2 will include additional speed cushions, road resurfacing, installation of wooden bollards in the verge and potentially kerb realignment.
- Initial indications are that the volume and speed of traffic through the village has reduced following the introduction of the 20mph zone. A more detailed report will be provided when we have more data.

The parish council has also continued to support Community Speedwatch, and I would like to thank the volunteers who give their time to help monitor speeds in the village and in particular Malcolm Sanderson who was the main motivator to get the speed watch project completed.

### **Buckton Fields Community Centre**

Another major project has been the development of the Buckton Fields Community Centre.

This facility will provide an important community hub for residents of both Buckton Fields and the wider parish.

The building is expected to be handed over to the council in the summer this year, and the parish council has been working to ensure that the centre will be used in a way that benefits the whole community.

Following discussions and review of proposals, the council has agreed to lease the building to Born to Shine, a charity with experience delivering community programmes and youth services.

Their proposal includes:

- youth activities
- family support programmes
- community learning opportunities
- social outreach initiatives

We believe this partnership will help ensure the centre becomes a vibrant and inclusive space for residents.

### **Buckton Fields Estate and Management**

As Buckton Fields continues to grow, the parish council has also been working with residents and developers on issues relating to the management of the estate.

During the year:

- Resident directors were appointed to the Buckton Fields West management company, strengthening local representation.
- Discussions have taken place about the management of open spaces and how this may affect residents and the parish council.

The council will continue to engage with management companies and residents to ensure the estate develops as a successful and integrated part of the parish.

### **Pocket Park Improvements**

The parish council has also delivered New play equipment in the Pocket Park, funded through Community Infrastructure Levy contributions.

These improvements provide additional play opportunities for children and families and represent an important investment in community infrastructure.

To celebrate the new equipment the pocket park committee arranged a launch party last summer which was well attended and great fun.

## **Planning and the Draft Local Plan**

Planning continues to be a major area of work for the council.

This year WNC published the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan, which proposes significant future development across the area. Boughton parish will be impacted more than most as WNC are proposing a further 1500 houses north of Buckton Fields as well as an allocation of 42 new houses within the village confines.

The parish council has:

- engaged planning consultants to assist with our response
- reviewed potential development sites affecting Boughton
- considered options to protect important local green spaces
- explored the potential need for a Neighbourhood Plan in the future.

We submitted our response at the end of February, and it can be found on the parish website.

We will continue to represent the interests of residents as this process progresses and keep you updated.

## **Community Infrastructure and Local Projects**

Through the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, the parish council has supported several projects and in particular the pocket park play equipment. The council will also be working with the Village Hall and the Church on refurbishment projects to improve facilities available to residents. It is hoped that both projects will be completed in the next year. We will also be working with the residents of Buckton Fields to see how CIL funding can be used in the ~Buckton Fields area.

## **Environment and Local Improvements**

The council has also worked on a number of environmental and local maintenance issues, including:

- investigating the replacement of trees on Howard Lane
- managing verge damage and highways issues with WNC
- supporting Boughton in Bloom planting initiatives
- reporting potholes and local maintenance issues through the Lengthsman scheme.

These may seem small matters, but they are important in maintaining the character and appearance of the village.

## **Community Events**

The parish council continues to support community events that bring residents together.

The main event supported by the parish Council this year will be the Boughton Fayre, to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> June. The event will be based around the pub and church and will include the closing of Church street. I would like to pay special thanks to Cllr Mcellin and her volunteers for all the hard work they have put into the project to make it happen.

Events like this help strengthen community connections and celebrate the unique character of Boughton.

## **Closing Remarks**

In closing, I would like to thank:

- all parish councillors for their commitment and hard work
- our parish clerk for her professionalism and support
- the many residents who attend meetings, volunteer, or raise issues with the council

Local government works best when communities are involved, and we greatly value the contributions made by residents across the parish.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you over the coming year.

## **Report from Taylor Wimpey**

- all plots on phase 1 should be occupied by June and the play area should also be open to the public and useable around the same time.

## **Report from Buckton Fields Management Company**

- now in the control of resident directors.
- Since appointment, the directors have removed the grounds maintenance contractor due to fraudulent claims of work and high costs.
- In addition, they have negotiated a £12,000 a year reduction in FirstPort costs, a £2,000 re-imbusement from the grounds contractor and £4,000 re-imbusement from FirstPort for works not undertaken.
- The Management Company have a 5 year strategy which we are working closely with the parish council on to benefit all residents of the parish.

## Report from Richard Humfrey Charity

- The Charity is unique to Boughton, Richard Humfrey was believed to be a wealthy retired London merchant who lived locally and left land and tenements in his will, dated 1547, for the benefit of the people of Boughton. The finances were administered by the Rector and freeholders and distributed to the “ poor and needy “ of the village for several hundred years.
- Since 1866 the Charity has been regulated by the Charity Commission, and the Educational Foundation came into existence in 1919. Funds realised from the sale of the land and tenements were invested by the Trustees for future use.
- Today the two parts of the Charity are administered by Trustees who may be Church officials, nominees of the Parish Council or Northampton County Council and co-opted members of the community. They meet twice a year in the Church Rooms, once for the AGM in March to elect officers and approve accounts and again in November to allocate funds to the Church, the school and to senior citizens or students who reside in Boughton.
- In 2025 the Charities supported one local resident with a Christmas cash payment and one student who received a grant from the Education Foundation for text books and computer equipment. Boughton Primary School also received funding for transport coaches for the whole school to see the Christmas Panto at the Deco Theatre and assistance with transport for a residential trip.
- The Charity also contributed funds to repair the electrics in the Church Rooms which were in urgent need of replacement.
- The Trustees of the Richard Humfrey Charity are ever mindful of the needs of the residents, students, the School and the Church communities in the Parish of Boughton to continue in the spirit of the original aims of the Charity set up over five centuries ago.

## Report from WNC Ward Councillor John Slope

- **On finances**, our first Reform UK budget was approved by Full Council in February — a significant milestone. I won't pretend the current year has been easy: demand pressures in Adult and Children's Social Care have created an overspend, which stood at £9.5 million but has already been reduced to £8.4 million through tight spending controls. We're managing it, but it reflects a national picture we inherited and are working hard to address.
- **On town centre regeneration**, there's real momentum. The former M&S and BHS site on Abington Street is being cleared, with Capital & Centric set to deliver a £70 million mixed-use development with hundreds of new homes. The Greyfriars planning application is being prepared for submission this summer, and Market Walk's transformation into STACK Northampton — a food, bar and entertainment destination — is well underway internally.
- **Closer to home**, residents in the Moulton Ward will want to know that traffic calming measures on the North-West Relief Road are planned for our village this summer. The road opened in December and is already saving drivers around 15 minutes. The teen clinic

at the Moulton Family Hub has also recently launched, and the wellbeing book collections have arrived at Moulton Library.

- **On housing**, the Council is bringing Northamptonshire Partnership Homes back in-house, with the first phase transferring on 1st April. Temporary accommodation numbers are falling, which is positive news for the housing budget.
- **On waste and recycling**, the garden waste subscription service has reopened, with collections starting 1st April. The new recycling centre booking system has handled over 88,000 appointments in its first three months, and a new reuse shop at Sixfields has already sold over 2,700 preloved items.
- **Finally**, Northampton's night-time economy has earned Purple Flag accreditation for the seventh consecutive year — with the highest ever safety score — and the Women's Rugby World Cup generated £47.6 million of economic impact for the area, ranking us third nationally.

## Report from Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park



A Community Interest Company. Registered in England and Wales no 6082074. Directors: S Broadbent, R Faulder, A Moore  
Registered office: 3 Spinney Close, Boughton, Northamptonshire NN2 8SD

Report for year ended 31 March 2026

### Spinney maintenance

Following the felling of several mature but unsafe trees last year, we have continued to follow our programme of monitoring the condition of the trees in the spinney. We identified several smaller trees which were dead or safe and were able to fell these ourselves, leaving the felled timber in the Spinney to return nutrients to the soil and to create further habitats for wildlife. There are a few larger dead trees which we will need to engage professional help to fell however. Following advice from the Wildlife Trust, we have tried to remove sycamore seedlings to stop them becoming the dominant species, and we intend in the near future to commission a full professional survey of the trees to document their condition and make recommendations for their continuing care, which will require future funding

### Biodiversity

We continue to encourage and enhance the biodiversity of the Spinney. The wildflower meadow has recovered from Veolia's mistaken mowing last spring and we currently have

an excellent display of cowslips. Last autumn, we sowed some mixed wildflower seeds which we hope will add some colour once the cowslips have faded.

Bluebells are also doing well in several parts of the Spinney and we were pleased to see that the snowdrop bulbs we planted in 2023 made a much better showing this year. We supplemented these by purchasing 50 snowdrops ‘in the green’, bulbs with foliage which establish themselves much more quickly than dry bulbs.

Other spring plants include celandines, violets, anemones and wild garlic as well as a magnificent display of blossom from the crab apple, hawthorn, blackthorn and wild cherry trees. This spring has seen a flurry of bird activity – one local dog-walker recorded 15 different birds in a short walk including chiffchaffs, dunnocks, greenfinches, redpolls, skylarks, robins and wrens.

### **Public access**

We have continued with our woodland trails at Easter, Halloween and Christmas, aimed at younger children and their families. We also created a set of three printable ID posters featuring leaves, twigs and different types of seeds, nuts and fruit and plan to create a fourth – fungi - this autumn.

The Spinney has continued to be well used by walkers, dog walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders throughout the year and thankfully any vandalism or other antisocial activity is quite low-key. Our Facebook page has continued to be our public face, and our WhatsApp group keeps our volunteers informed. We regularly pick litter and generally keep the place neat and tidy, demonstrating to all that the place is loved and cared for by the community, and demands respect.

We’re extremely appreciative of the generous financial support from both Boughton and Kingsthorpe Parish Councils. And of course, we appreciate our caring and dedicated band of volunteers, who regularly turn up to give a few hours of their time every month and without whom none of this would be remotely possible.

Steve Broadbent

steve@obeliskspinney.org 19 April 2026

## Report from Born to Shine



### Community Engagement Report for Boughton Parish Council (April 2026)

#### Introduction

Born to Shine is committed to strengthening community engagement within Boughton Parish through inclusive, family-friendly activities and improved communication channels. This report provides an update on the work delivered to date, aligned with the commitments we made when taking on responsibility for supporting activity within the community centre.

#### Activities Delivered

During the February half term, Born to Shine delivered a programme of **free children's activities** designed to support families, reduce isolation, and provide accessible opportunities for play and creativity.

- **LEGO and Craft Sessions:** Two fully-funded sessions were delivered at the community centre, attended by **over 40 children**. These sessions offered a safe, welcoming environment for children of all ages and abilities, and were well-received by parents seeking low-cost holiday activities.



- **Children’s Silent Disco:** A free silent disco event was held during the same week, with **22 children** taking part. This provided a fun, active experience and helped build a sense of community among local families.



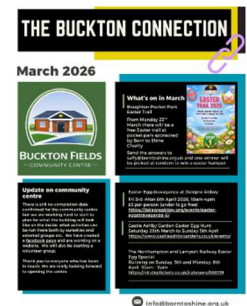
- **Easter Trail at Boughton Pocket Park:** Born to Shine organised a community Easter Trail with **18 entries**. Children completed the trail independently or with family support, and prizes were awarded for **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place**. This encouraged outdoor activity and engagement with local green spaces.



## Community Communication and Engagement

To improve communication and increase awareness of activities, Born to Shine has:

- Launched a **community newsletter** to share updates and promote upcoming events.
- Created a dedicated **Facebook page** for the community centre, which has already reached **115 followers**, demonstrating strong early engagement and interest from residents.



These channels are helping to build a more connected and informed community, ensuring residents are aware of opportunities available to them.

## Future Plans

Planning is underway for a programme of **May half-term activities**, continuing our commitment to providing inclusive, accessible opportunities for children and families within Boughton Parish. Further details will be shared through the newsletter and social media channels.

## Conclusion

Born to Shine has made significant progress in delivering high-quality, inclusive community activities within Boughton Parish. Attendance levels, positive feedback, and

growing online engagement demonstrate strong community interest and the value of continued investment in local provision. We remain committed to expanding opportunities, strengthening community cohesion, and ensuring the community centre becomes a vibrant, well-used asset for residents.

**Alignment with the MOU**

The work delivered to date demonstrates clear alignment with the Memorandum of Understanding:

- **Delivery of programmes meeting community needs:** Sessions have been free, inclusive, and well-attended.
- **Promotion of social inclusion:** Activities have supported families across Boughton and Buckton Fields, including those seeking low-cost opportunities.
- **Transparent communication:** Regular updates, social media engagement, and community newsletters have strengthened local awareness and involvement.

**4. Urgent matters for report only (notified to the Chair of the Council before the meeting)**

No urgent matters were raised.

**5. Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting is to be confirmed**

The time and date of the next meeting to be advised closer to the time.

The meeting ended by 6.55pm and was followed by the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed .....

Dated.....