

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COLLINGTREE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN COLLINGTREE VILLAGE ROOM ON WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY 2022 AT 7:30PM HELD
AT THE SPORTS PAVILION, WATERING LANE, COLLINGTREE.**

PRESENT:

Councillor Penny Steel (Chairman)
Councillor Andrea McFadyen

Councillor Sharon Collins
Mrs S Wong, Parish Clerk

In Attendance : Malcolm Brice – Collingtree Allotments, Rob Flight – Collingtree Cricket Club, John Green – Collingtree Conservation Area Group, Geoff Kershaw and Wendy Herdman – Collingtree Tennis Club and Sergeant Nick Paul

1. APOLOGIES were received from Parish Councillors A Minney, D Mobley and E Sinfield, Collingtree Primary School, The Women’s Institute and the Glebe Farm Management group.

2. MINUTES of previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2021 having been circulated, were taken as read and were signed as an accurate record by Parish Chairman Penny Steel.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT - Presented by Penny Steel – Parish Council Chairman.

This is Penny’s 2nd year as the Parish Council Chair, taking over from Owen Coop as Chair in May 2021.

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Annual meeting of the Parish. After the last 2 years it’s great that we can now meet again in person and in our lovely new clubhouse.

Although this meeting is held by the PC it is not our meeting but a meeting held for residents of the parish to receive reports from their local community groups.

I’d like to start off the meeting with an overview of the parish council’s year and start with a thank you. Being a parish councillor is a voluntary role and I would like to thank the Parish councillors both present and past for their commitment and dedication to the role and the parish.

During this year and due to career commitment 3 councillors have resigned Gurge, Stuart and Paul who all brought skills and dedication to the council and I’d like to thank them for their involvement. A special word of thanks must go to Stuart who remade the remembrance soldiers which were displayed in the parish.

I’d also like to thank Sharon and Danny for their continued support and contributions through a challenging year. We have now welcomed 3 new members - Alison, Emma and Andrea and with the wealth of skills and enthusiasm that we have we are looking forward to a revitalised parish council.

The councillors would like to take the opportunity to thank 2 other people - Shirley our parish clerk who has been invaluable providing support and guidance throughout a very busy year.

We’d also like to thank Rob Flight for all the work he does for us - at the clubhouse, recreation ground and all around the parish keeping everything in great shape. we know he takes great pride in keeping the place in tip top condition.

Moving on to an overview of our year

This has been a challenging year for the Parish Council with a number of issues that have arisen and which have been time consuming in resolving but on a positive vein there is also a lot of milestones which have been achieved.

We are delighted that the clubhouse was completed and handed over to the parish council last October. This project started some 3 years ago when we received monies for the siting of the mast on the recreation ground and agreed that we should use those funds to enhance the area. A lot of hours were put in designing, funding and starting the project. Unfortunately, COVID impacted on the project but it

was eventually completed. Again, we need to thank everyone involved from the start to the end of the project.

We held a successful open day in October and we are starting to see increased interest and use of the clubhouse. Currently, used by sports clubs we hope to see other residents using this for clubs/parties/meetings. We are very proud of the clubhouse and I'm sure you'll all agree that it is a lovely building.

This year has also seen a lot of increased work on the new housing development on Collingtree Park. This has not been without its issues - most recently regarding the tree felling on the site. This was within the planning requirements already approved some years ago but nevertheless still a shock to everyone. The parish council requested the enforcement officer at WNC to check that all was done in line with the consents - which has been confirmed but that does not lessen the impact on the countryside.

As part of the development funds will be provided by Vistry to the WNC to make good the pathways and also improve the Black Walk bridle path. We are aware that residents would like to have some input to this. The parish council is in discussion with WNC to see where the responsibilities for this work lies - either themselves or the PC and this will be shared with the residents when we have further information.

The parish council have for some time held regular meetings with the project manager on the Vistry site but as a result of ongoing issues we now meet monthly (together with EHPA). Residents of both PC's are encouraged to email the parish council with any concerns and these are then raised at the meeting with Vistry's response shared with the residents. This seems to be working satisfactorily.

Work on the area will continue for many years but much of the new development is now in East Hunsbury parish although CPC will continue the close communication with them and Vistry.

In respect of the flooding in 2020 we continue to liaise with our councillors & MP. There was a meeting held in the library last year & we are hoping to hear how the funding will be allocated. We do know that Vistry are planning to redirect the drainage from the M1 away from Turnberry and Belfry. As Parish Council we are limited to what we can do but if you have any issues or queries please let us know and we will take it forward.

The rail freight/warehousing continues to develop really quickly and we meet with SERGO on a quarterly basis who provide updates on the progress of the development. Any concerns should continue to be directed to us.

On a happier note, we have now received part of the CILS money in respect of the Vistry development and following input from residents over the next few months we will be installing Kissing Gates in the servants one field, a new VAS sign for Collingtree park and a defibrillator for the clubhouse. Residents will be asked for any further suggestions regarding use of the money.

We had to make the decision not to proceed with the Christmas trees that were mentioned in last year's review - we felt the cost of doing this was too prohibitive for the PC to justify and we will review the position again this year. The Christmas wreaths did bring a touch of the festivities to the parish.

Before the onset of COVID the parish council made use of the monthly newsletter to publicise information to all residents. Unfortunately, it appears that the newsletter is unlikely to be restarted and we are aware that without that outlet our ability to communicate with the residents is somewhat limited to social media. We have reconsidered how we can address this and consequently we will be providing a monthly update on what has been happening which will be available on our website, through social media and with copies posted on our notice boards and hopefully with copies in other outlets.

We are in the process of sending welcome newsletters to the new residents in Collingtree Park development.

As part of a wider project on communication we will be looking at producing a regular newsletter to all residents and having a revamp of our website. So please watch this space for updates.

We have received a number of trees from the woodland trust in celebration of the queen's jubilee. I'm delighted to say that so far we have shared 3 trees with the Collingtree park care home, 3 Glebe Farm close and 3 with the school & will be planting 3 in the recreation ground. We have 3 left so if anyone knows of somewhere that would be suitable please let us know.

Whilst I know that it's not ethnically in the previous year but with the queen's jubilee celebrations in a couple of weeks' time we are delighted to be hosting an over 70's afternoon tea in the village rooms on Sunday 5th June. We've had a good response but still have some spaces and if you know of someone who may like to come but can't because of limited mobility please let us know and we may be able to deliver a tea to them.

Lastly I'd like to thank all the residents for their continued support and where residents have any issues of concern to advise us so we can continue to make Collingtree a great place to live.

4. RECEIVE REPORT FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS

No Unitary Councillors were in attendance and no reports were received.

5. RECEIVE POLICE REPORT – SARGEANT NICK PAUL

No Police were in attendance, the following Police report was read out.

Delapre and Northampton South Neighbourhood Policing Team Annual Update

This is written as we move back to a life of fewer Covid related restrictions. A time to catch up following a 2-year period, with our communities and re-engage so we can understand what is important to you, and what your priorities are for us and our partners.

As part of the Governments uplift of police officers, an additional 20,000 nationally of which Northamptonshire Police's target is to reach 1500 police officers by April 2023, has added the initial uplift numbers to its Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county.

This led to an operational reorganisation, coinciding with the Unitary Boundaries, aligning Neighbourhood policing teams to these boundaries.

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team now cover the following Unitary Boundaries, Sixfields, East Hunsbury and Shelfleys, Nene Valley, Delapre and Rushmere, collectively known as the Delapre and South Northampton Neighbourhood Policing Team. With identified Single Points of Contact for each Parish and Community Council within those areas, the movement of the team between each beat is fluid to meet the demands we face, with a view to provide the best service we possibly can.

The team continues to be led by me, Sergeant Nick Paul, with PC Chris Bates, PC Gaby Elliott, PC David Okere, PCSO Becky Evans, PCSO Lucy Hopper-Hall, PCSO Lee Shelton, PCSO Kerry Parris and PCSO Paul Hurst who is sponsored by Brackmills BID.

You will see more opportunities to engage with us over the coming months, I would encourage you to come along to these events, we are aware of many Social Media comments that the police are rarely seen, these events give you the opportunity to meet your team and tell them what issues you and your communities are facing. Should you feel, we would be better changing the time or location of the engagement to reach a wider audience please do feed this back to us.

We are increasing our use of Neighbourhood Alert, as a way of sharing information of crimes within your local area, crime prevention advice, good news stories and forthcoming events.

As always, we value the support afforded to us by the council and look forward to this continuing to develop over the coming months.

6. RECEIVE AN UPDATE REPORT FROM THE BARCHESTER CARE HOME

Unfortunately, no one from the Barchester Care Home was in attendance. After the meeting took place, apologies were received for the no show of Barchester representatives. Unfortunately, their representatives got lost trying to find our new venue.

7. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM ROB FLIGHT – COLLINGTREE CRICKET CLUB

Rob Flight, President of the Collingtree Cricket Team gave a brief update report on their last season. Collingtree Cricket Club continue to play their home games from the cricket pitch at the Collingtree Playing Field. Half of their games are played at home and the other half are played away. Their last season continued to thrive, most of their team have an affiliation with Collingtree.

8. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM GLK SOCCER

The GLK Soccer team use the playing field pitch at weekends and on Thursday evenings. Unfortunately, no representatives from GLK were in attendance to give an update report.

9. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM JOHN GREEN – CONSERVATION AREA GROUP

Mr. John Green from the Collingtree Conservation Area Group gave the following report. They group has received 6 enquiries on planning applications in the last year.

N/2020/0888 – 59 High Street - Garage to be replaced by living accommodation, alterations were at the rear of the property, this was agreed as the alterations were at the rear of the property

N/2021/1021 – 2 Applebarn Close (N/2021/0412) - Erection of two dwellings and associated garages. This was objected to but subsequently allowed.

N/2021/0369 – 3 Applebarn Close – Ground floor rear extension. This was agreed as the alterations were at the rear.

N/2021/0132 – 34 High Street– Ground floor rear extension with roof lights. This was agreed as the alterations were at the rear.

N/2022/0228 – 1 Applebarn Close – Ground floor rear extension. This was agreed as the alterations were at the rear.

Enquiry from 22 High Street – tree removal – This was referred to the Arboreal Officer regarding Tree preservation orders. The application was Agreed.

There are some important trees in the village conservation area that have tree preservation orders (TPO) attached to them. Section 8 of the Town and County Act 1974 requires six weeks' notice to be given to the local authority of any intentions to fell, top, uproot or willfully damage any such tree. The person to contact is Mr. Jonathan Hazell.

The east churchyard wall bordering Spinney Drive has been refurbished.

Again, a reminder to those residents living in the conservation area that they need to seek planning permission for any work on the exterior of their properties.

We have lost the services of Mr. M Grosse to the committee due to him leaving the village. And it would be good if we could get another person who might like to join Mrs. Brice and myself.

10. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM GLEBE FARM MANAGEMENT

A report from the Glebe Farm Management was received and read out:

Report from APW Leasehold Management on behalf of Lakeside Residents Association Ltd in connection with the open space on Glebe Farm Close

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide a brief update on the open space on Glebe Farm Close although at present there is not a lot to report on.

Recently we have planted the 3 trees donated by the Parish Council to commemorate the upcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Lakeside Resident's Association would like to express thanks to the Parish

Council for the trees which have been planted and, in the future, will enhance the area that is used by all those using the area.

Maintenance of the area is continuing in line with previous years and any ongoing maintenance to the pond is under review. You will be aware in early 2020 that works were successfully completed to remove the large build-up of Bulrushes in the pond area the contractor and we are reviewing with contractor to ascertain if there are any further works required.

There are no other major works planned to be undertaken at present.

I am aware there have been a couple of occasions over the winter where the dog bins have been full. This is generally an issue during that period which is due to the gardener attending less frequently and is generally sorted quickly by the contractor making a specific visit when reported through to me. Any issues with the bins or with the area generally can be reported through to me.

Kind regards
Andrew Wheeler

11. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MILTON MALSOR / COLLINGTREE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A report from the Milton Malsor / Collingtree Women's Institute was received and read out:

Milton Malsor & Collingtree WI for Collingtree Parish Council APM 18th May 2022

Our meetings are held in Milton Malsor Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month with the exception of August. Thankfully we are now back to our normal monthly meeting schedule.

We are a sociable group of ladies of all ages who enjoy crafts and interesting speakers. Involvement with our local communities is high on our agenda too.

We already have a number of members from Collingtree Village and would welcome more. Visitors are most welcome to see what WI has to offer, for more information please contact the President:

Brenda Jenks 01604 858866

12. RECEIVE ANY OTHER COMMUNITY REPORTS FROM THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Geoff Kershaw gave a report on behalf of Collingtree Tennis Club:

Collingtree Tennis Club 2022 - 2021/22 report to Collingtree Parish Council

2022 will be a moment of change for the club as we say goodbye to the covid restrictions. Since the last Tennis Club AGM in 2019 the committee has taken the view that it would continue on a 'care-taking' basis until restrictions are removed and we can return to some sort of normality.

We are now free of restrictions and it's time to re-energise the club and its activities with a new team. I am standing down from the committee for personal reasons, but several other members have offered their help, headed up by Wendy Herdman as Chair. I am greatly encouraged by this as I believe it will result in a stronger and more energetic club.

We currently (2021/22) have around 35 memberships, single and family. Open club playing sessions have continued on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, supplemented by junior coaching.

For 2021 we ran 2 teams in the men's doubles in the Northamptonshire Summer League. The A-team came 3rd in Division 4, narrowly missing promotion. The B-team came 3rd in Division 5 and gained promotion to Division 4.

For the 2021/22 winter season, we ran 1 team in the men's doubles, and 1 team in the VETS. The men's A team came top in Division 3 winning promotion to Division 2. The men's VETS finished 3rd in Division 2.

This is a very personal moment for me, having been either treasurer or chairman (or both) for the last 30 years. During that time, we have rescued the club from a situation where the surface was so bad as to be dangerous, with the club in danger of closing, and raised sufficient funding to re-surface it. We also raised funding for the installation of one of the best lighting systems in the county, despite considerable planning difficulties caused by the proximity of housing. This allowed us to enter the Northampton Leagues, with much enjoyment and considerable success.

One of the issues that will face the club in the next few years will be re-surfacing and raising sufficient funding. We are building a reserve from income and I'm sure that other funds can be found with a combined effort.

Some running costs have increased considerably over the years. Insurance in particular has increased from £50 p.a. to £650 p.a. With the need to accumulate funding for renewals, any cost increases are clearly unwelcome.

In the current climate of business plans and balance sheets, Collingtree Tennis Club has managed to maintain itself as a community facility with close connection to the village and villagers. It was this sense of community that recently enabled a major fence repair to be carried out at minimal cost.

Collingtree Tennis Club was formed in 1922, so celebrates 100 years this year! Not many clubs can claim such longevity – a great tribute to our village spirit. With enthusiasm and some hard work, we can pass it on to future generations to enjoy as much as we have.

I intend to continue playing, hopefully for many years yet, for health and enjoyment, and I will offer my total support to the new committee.

Geoff Kershaw

Malcolm Brice from the Collingtree Allotment Association read out the following report:

Public Meeting Report: 2022

Collingtree Allotment Association has the responsibility of looking after the allotment to the south of Watering Lane. The allotment is primarily for the residents of Collingtree but, if all plots are not required, other local folk can apply. At the moment all plots are taken, largely by Collingtree folk but with a few others as well. What has been pleasing is that some new residents from the Tom's Close housing have taken plots. Apart from the chance to grow crops to help feed yourself, the opportunity for some exercise in a peaceful space is very welcome. The lockdown, at least for me, illustrated how wonderful it was to have an allotment and to be able to stay safe but be outside and doing something useful. I say useful but the last two years have been odd growing years in terms of weather with hot dry spells at the wrong times and a fair amount of rain, also at the wrong times. As in past years, watering took quite a lot of time and water is provided on site thanks to installing taps a few years ago.

For the Association, it has been a slow time. During the Covid years, the Committee was only able to meet safely on one occasion on the allotment. The main issues were Martin's Grosse's need to resign after being an excellent Secretary for many years, the arrangements for the Summer BBQ and updates on plot holders and any cultivation issues. At the 2019 AGM there had been excitement at the thought of being able to plan to put a container, which included toilets, once redundant from the playing field, onto the allotment and a space was reserved for that. When it came to the time, however, a survey of members showed that the majority of those who replied were a lot less enthusiastic and generally preferred the enlarged car park to the idea of placing a container on much of it. At the time, members were reminded that there should be a toilet available on the playing field. The development of the new pavilion on the playing field removed that possibility for a time as toilet access was going to be from

inside a locked building. Current Parish Council plans thankfully include provision of a toilet accessible from the outside.

My thanks go to all the Committee members who really do the work to maintain the Association. A special mention is needed too for Sarah Fraser and her helpers for another extremely successful and enjoyable Summer BBQ which is an excellent social occasion. Current concerns include general upkeep and the trees that border Watering Lane to the north of the allotment that are beginning to lean towards the road. As roadside trees, they are the responsibility of the allotment and the Parish Council. A grant has been applied for to do the necessary work which the Parish Council has thankfully agreed in principle but despite many attempts we could only gain one quote so we still need two others. Apart from this concern, I am pleased to be able to report that the Allotment Association is proceeding successfully.

At the last minute the Head of Collingtree Primary School Lisa Witheyman found herself unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report in to be read out.

Report for Annual Meeting of Collingtree Parish.

Firstly, many thanks for the kind donation from the Parish to school last Summer. This enabled us to purchase IT equipment that has hugely benefited the whole school community and provided pupils with a larger number of devices to use in order to access high quality and engaging curriculum resources.

Since I joined the school team on a permanent basis, as Head of School, in September 2021 we have worked hard to rebuild a sense of community within school and with our local area, after the difficult two years through the worst of the pandemic. Whilst we maintained strong communication with parents, carers and families throughout the national lockdowns and restrictions, via remote and electronic systems, we are delighted to be once again welcoming visitors into school, fundraising and re-establishing more personal relationships with our families. We have held several fundraising events within school and during the school day pupils and staff can now freely mix, after several months of working in "bubbles". We managed to welcome visitors before Christmas to some of the planned events although this was, unfortunately, impacted by the ever-changing situation regarding Covid-19 at the time. We once again welcome parents and families to our weekly celebration assemblies to share in successes from the week, which is an important part of our week. This has strengthened and developed relationships within school and we have very much enjoyed spending time as a whole school again. We would like to thank our parents, carers, families and the wider community for their support through what was a very challenging time.

We have also begun, once again, to enjoy weekly visits to the church for collective worship. This is a time that the children enjoy and benefits their wellbeing, as well as develops their understanding of Christianity. We are looking forward to planting some trees tomorrow, kindly donated by the Parish, as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. This is being done by our newly appointed Eco group within school, who will be focusing on environmental issues over the coming months. We have a successful School Council group who have been involved in developing the school grounds for the enjoyment of children at break times, including our new reading tent which is very popular. We have further ongoing projects in place. We also have a Magnificent Minds group within school, who promote mental health and wellbeing, and delivered some superb activities during Children's Mental Health week in February.

We look forward to our own tea party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee next week. We have today begun to decorate several wreaths, supplied by the Parish, in Jubilee linked colours to use at our own celebrations and then to decorate the village. The children (and staff) are very much enjoying our preparations. We also have a residential visit to Wales for our Year 6 pupils booked for July, a Maths enrichment day for children in Year 5 at Wicksteed Park, a visit to Woburn Safari Park for one class and our school Sports Day later this term. We also welcome the children who will be joining us in Reception in September, for a teddy bear's picnic and some stay and play sessions to aid their transition to school and our Year 6 pupils are excited to visit their new secondary schools in July, in preparation for moving on to the next chapter of their education.

We are excited that our number on role continues to steadily rise and we have welcomed several pupils recently from local areas, as well as those who have recently moved to the UK from a range of places around the world. We anticipate that our numbers will continue to rise as more houses in the new development at Collingtree Park become occupied.

Two things that I would like to bring to your attention are the removal of the railings near the old Victorian building. We were not aware that this was going to happen until after the works had been done. The railings added to the safety measures we have in place, especially as our youngest children regularly move between the buildings each day for collective worship, lunch and PE lessons. This has also caused people to park on the road near there, which again, causes us concerns about safety for other families who may be walking to school or navigating the very busy road at drop off and collection times. We have reminded parents and carers about the need to park in a considerate and safe way, via our weekly newsletter.

Many thanks for the continued support of our local community. We will continue to build on the links between school and all members of the community as we move into the next academic year.

Lisa Witheyman
Head of School

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No further questions were raised by members of the public. All relevant questions were asked after each report was presented.

The meeting closed at **8.45pm**