

LITTLE ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Saint Mary the Virgin Church, High Street, Little Addington on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: L Brown (Chair), S Beckett, T Brown, J Cocks, M Keech, J Powell.
A Sheppard
25 members of the public.

Clerk: Claire Waring (clerk)

24/AM1	Apologies for absence None received.
24/AM2	To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 16 May 2023. These were approved..
24/AM3	To receive the Chairperson's report Cllr L Brown presented her report (attached).
24/AM4	To receive a report from LA Bloomers Cllr T Brown outlined the formation of the group with a view to further enhancing the village. He thanked all those who have been involved, especially Cllrs Keech and Sheppard. The Spring Fair had raised over £700 with the total raised so far just under £1000. Ken Evans from Plants2Gardens had given much appreciated advice and support, especially with the trial wild flower area on the High Street. Funding had also been received from the charity, New Gap Funding. The group would appreciate any support from villagers, especially with some of the manual tasks.
24/AM5	Questions from the floor None.
24/AM6	To close the meeting The meeting closed at 19.15 pm..

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Kevin Binley on the current situation regarding the proposed Kettering Energy Park.

Signed:

Dated:

Little Addington Parish Council

Chairperson's Annual Statement – Year ending May 2023

Before my annual statement, I must mention a most historic event experienced by the nation when Queen Elizabeth II sadly died 8th September 2022. Feelings of loss were felt around the world. Many in our village were, and indeed still are saddened by her passing. She was recognised as a fine example of dedication to her role and as a life lived to the benefit of many peoples..

My thanks must go to Joe Powell for helping us quickly to put in place the steps demanded by protocol. A wreath was duly laid and a book of remembrance opened in our church.

Since taking over as chairperson in December 2022, I am pleased to say we have increased the number of councillors to 7, making us more resilient and improving our capacity to deliver a good service to the village community. The number of members also helps Little Addington retain its own identity, hopefully securing the parish council for the long term.

I welcome and give a big thank you to Angela Shephard, Maureen Keech and Tom Brown for agreeing to join the council, freely giving time and effort for the community. I look forward to working with them in the future; For the record, I should point out that Tom Brown is my husband – though this will not influence me in my thoughts and actions within the council.

I must give a massive thank you to Claire Waring. Claire took on the challenge of being our parish clerk in February. She had no handover from anyone experienced in council processes, record keeping and the legal regulations we must follow. Her considerable experience of other organisations, knowledge base and tenacity has already brought us much needed help. Upon her arrival we were faced with our annual audit, and it has been impressive how Claire has been able sort out the requirements of the process, resolve various problems, and deliver the appropriate financial and other documents ready for the audit.

We held our first coffee morning of the year on 22nd April at the Bell. A flyer was delivered to all homes in the village inviting residents to come along and meet councillors and neighbours. The turnout was rather disappointing, but those who came were keen to discuss their views on what the council's priorities should be and to raise issues of concern. We presented various ideas for council action in the future. The most popular ones are stated below – not in any order of importance:

1. Refurbishment of the village war memorial. The stonework is very weathered and the names of those to be remembered are difficult to read.
2. Establishment of a neighbourhood plan to advise the planning authority of the community's view on planning policy and requirements for our village.
3. Provision of a secure access power supply on the village green for community functions.
4. Improvements to verges – planting of bulbs, small shrubs, other perennials and wildflowers.
5. Undefined way to prevent vehicles damaging village green.

The last year saw the Addington village communities take part in celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and King Charles III's Coronation. Both Parish Councils and many residents contributed to planning and

organising the activities. Volunteers assisted on the day in running stalls and giving general support, The Bell, the Hare and Hounds and both churches were all involved. Much help was provided by Nela and Radu of The Bell and Michelle Drinkall and Paul Coughlin of The Hare and Hounds. John Bilson must also be mentioned for his customary and valued support of Little Addington community events, providing his time, land and advice.

Earlier I welcomed our new councillors and parish clerk. It would be remiss of me to fail to sincerely thank our other council members; Michelle Drinkall for being deputy chairperson and organiser of our managed grass areas and trees. I also extend my gratitude to the support of James Cocks in managing the finances for the jubilee event, while also being the village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and member of the playing field committee. Our council is certainly fortunate to have the IT skills of Joe Powell, a key member of the team, creating a new website for us, and doing other IT stuff I don't understand. He also provides help in support of our other activities.

I must also thank Dorothy Maxwell, a Councillor for North Northamptonshire Council, for attending our meetings and providing much valued feedback on North Northamptonshire Council activities.

I end by repeating a big thank you for all those mentioned above and all the other contributors to our village community. We do need more parish councillors so please try and be like a football scout, recognise the talents all the villagers have and "make them an offer they can't"

Lorraine Brown

LA Parish Council Chair