

MINUTES OF THE NEWBOTTLE AND CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 APRIL 2026 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, CHARLTON AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillors Michael Loggin (Chairman) and Councillors Linda Baker, Jordan Bolton and Matthew Walsh.

Also in Attendance: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), West Northants Unity Authority Councillors Rebecca Bresse and Rosie Herring and three members of the public.

Apologies: Parish Councillor Kevin Ridge.

1/26 Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2/26 Matters Arising - There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2025.

3/26 Reports from the West Northants Unitary Authority Councillors – West Northants Unity Authority Councillors Rebecca Bresse and Rosie Herring both attended the meeting and provided an update on their work at West Northants Council.

The Councillors were thanked for attending the meeting.

4/26 Open Forum – There were two reports from village organisations: Victoria Beadle from the Playing Field Project and Della Wolfe from the Memorial Hall, respectively:

Playing Field Project Report 2026

We hope 2026 is going to be an exciting year for the Charlton Playing Field Project. Throughout the last three years we've been working hard to raise money, raise awareness and start to reinvest in the playing fields. We have installed the first stage of our perimeter path, picnic benches and seating benches and a football net for village residents.

Whilst we've not been able to move forward as quickly as we've hoped with some of our bigger projects, we have been in the background making plans. We have a planning permission application in progress, which has taken quite a bit of work (let's not discuss the bats!) and we're very grateful that Ian O'Brien, is supporting us by working pro bono providing Architectural services with plans for the new pavilion which incorporates changes to the car parking, a separate club house and changing rooms. This we hope will give us options to how we can use the space more effectively. We're excited to share with everyone the plans which we'll look to do so once our application has been submitted which we hope will be in the coming weeks.

It is our intent that once planning permission has been granted, we will be in a position to carry out work to the car park, we can, if timescales permit, demolish the existing pavilion and install a welfare unit that will house toilets and changing rooms to support our existing users which will be located on the edge of the playing field and into the car park. It is our hope that we will achieve this, this year.

This week we will be submitting a funding application with Sports England to convert the basketball court into a multi-sport court that could be used for sports like, cricket, basketball, football, netball and pickleball. We are also investing in portable cricket nets which we hope will be utilised alongside the football net over the summer months.

We are also exploring whether we can progress some of the perimeter path, this will be reviewed when we have machinery and materials on site when we make changes to the car park.

We are excited that usage at the playing field remains high. Brackley Athletic our main user continues to be happy with the quality of the pitches, and we continue to work with them, alongside the PC, to minimise disruption to the village on multiple match days. We hope that Trevor's Boot Camp will return on a Sunday morning during the summer months. Middleton Cheyney Men's Team are hoping to use the playing field for the 26-27 football season (replacing the Charlton Men's Team) and have also agreed that BP Coaching can use the bottom end of the playing field for 121 football coaching for November through to February in the evenings.

Newbottle and Charlton APM 20 April 2026

Finally, and definitely most important of course, is our very own Charlton Men's cricket team who will use the cricket pitch from June to August. This increase in usage will all help our funds, and hopefully further improvements can be made.

All of this wouldn't be possible without the ongoing fundraising, regular users of the fields and donations, with special thanks to the Townsend Charitable Trust who have made a recent, sizeable donation. A huge thank you to our residents who support our events no matter how weird and wonderful they turn out to be! These funds allow us to be able to make significant changes which we hope will benefit our villagers.

To date as a community we have raised £34,853.98, through our quizzes, bike rides, bingo, car washing, sky dives, auctions, donations and more! (special mention to our upcoming Silent Disco – tickets now available!) These events wouldn't be possible without our amazing group of volunteers. As you know we're always on the lookout for more people to help to enable us to do more, so we hope we might be able to cajole some more people to get involved.

We are also open to suggestions on other ideas that people may have to improve the facilities. The football net came about following a request from a village resident. The cricket nets via another. We want to encourage our residents to use the space so please do let us know of any other ideas. We've not forgotten about the pump park and it's still part of our plans...it's super expensive to install and so we're exploring our options.

Finally, a huge thank you to our group at HQ who tireless show up, make progress, share ideas and deliver on actions, we are very lucky to have you and through their hard work and commitment (and a healthy bank balance) we really feel like we have created some momentum!

Memorial Hall

Trustees - The Village Hall is maintained by a small group of trustees. We have been fortunate with the consistency of the committee, but as the building and grounds start to creak with age we are starting to struggle with upkeep.

This year we have had ongoing issues with the flat roof, water heating in the toilets, ladies toilet leaking, floor in the main hall and challenges with small maintenance items that seem to keep appearing. Also the ongoing issue with the jetty path has restricted the pre-school area.

Thanks this year to all the trustees, the key roles are filled by Deborah as treasurer and Julia as Secretary. It has been great to see Joanna add a stronger process to bookings and Victoria managing the relationship with Rospa for the play area. We also extend our thanks to Cliff Cousins who has been generous in completing some of the jobs for free, and Phil Wolfe and John Silver who help out with ad hoc repairs. Heather who cleans weekly is brilliant and is a real asset to the hall.

All for your delight - The village hall was host to a fun night where a touring company hosted a play, ticket prices included a dinner and a bar was provided. The event sold out. Any monies raised were given to the Parish Council to support the efforts they are making to repair the jetty wall. The team behind this were many, thanks to everyone who gave their time.

Carols in the car park - The village hall Committee once again organised and decorated the village Christmas tree and hosted carols in the car park. The tree is paid for out of village hall funds. All donations on the night were gifted to the Local Food Bank.

Areas for focus 2026/2027

- Replace roof lights above toilet
- Complete a serious cut back/removal of trees in the grounds
- Make good the ladies toilet
- Watching brief on the floor in the main hall

Note to Parish Council: It would be really helpful to receive appropriate updates on the Jetty path repair to help us to manage the hall users. This will enable us to inform them of any restrictions and to help us understand timings etc. We also flag that we don't have a PC representative on our committee.

The noticeboard outside the hall also needs replacing.

5/26 Chairman's Report 2025/2026 – As the Chairman of the Parish Council, Michael Loggin reported on the work of the Parish Council during 2025/2026. The report covered the jetty footpath and wall, traffic calming, donations, planning applications, defibrillators and the play equipment project.

There was a discussion about the jetty footpath and the fallen wall and Unity Authority Councillors Rebecca Breese and Rosie Herring agreed to follow this up with Sam Simons. **Action RB/RH**

There was a request for toad warning signs to be erected in the village. The Chairman and Alice Townsend agreed to investigate this further. **Action ML/AT**

Della Wolfe thanked the Parish Council for its work in the village.

The Chairman's full report would be available on the Parish Council web site. www.newbottleparishcouncil.gov.uk

6/26 Parish Council Accounts 2025/2026 - The Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council accounts for 2025/2026. The figures had been subject to internal audit and gave an accurate picture of the activities of the year.

It was noted by the meeting that the Parish Council gave an annual donation to the Memorial Hall of £350 to cover the cost of the grass cutting.

The accounts were available on the Parish Council's website.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 8.20pm)

Chairman – April 2027