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### MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm in Holcot Village Hall, Back Lane, Main St, Holcot, Northampton

**Public Present:** 12 including Councillors - Cllr D Walker, Cllr C Bailey, Cllr T Hewitt, Cllr P Matthews, Cllr M Dunkley

**Northants Police:** Sergeant Lewis Judd

**West Northants Council:** Moulton Ward Cllr Mike Warren

**Kier Highways:** Leon Jolly, Yvonne Pogson

Meeting Chaired by Cllr David Walker  
Minutes taken & prepared by Clerk

- Cllr Walker introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting, confirming this was a meeting for the electorate of Holcot to have their say with any views/concerns.
- The minutes from Annual Parish Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were accepted and signed by Chair.
- Apologies received from David Ashworth, Sheila Ashworth

### Sergeant Lewis Judd

Sgt Judd introduced himself. He took over responsibility of the Brixworth office and surrounding areas in October last year. There are two full time police officers and two full time PCSO's and PC vacancy. Total 5 member of staff.

The majority of the crime recorded for the past year was domestic related. He reported that crime in Holcot is very low. 20 recorded crimes in holcot parish from April 23 to now. Majority

domestic related. 6 recorded thefts. Repeat issues, pick pocketing at car boot. 1 burglary at car boot. 1 theft at reservoir.

There is a trend in the Northants area of keyless car thefts, where entering the house is not required. Thieves only need to be within a few metres of the car key to capture the signal, clone, unlock, start and steal the car. Overstone, Brixworth & Moulton in particular have been targeted. He recommended a faraday pouch to put car key in overnight as this blocks the signal, which cost a few pounds on Amazon.

He highlighted an increase in online fraud, phone and email scams.

He flagged that he was aware of the speeding, A43 and parish HGV weight limit flouting.

Priorities for next 4 months were discussed - road safety and traffic offences are always top. They have to plan every quarter on how to tackle these issues. Sgt Judd is trying to gain support from the safer roads team here.

He stated that he is aware of concerns around vehicles contravening weight limits, speeding and general traffic nuisance within the parish as a particular area of concern. He has a team of three staff and will arrange to monitor breaches during the period of 8.00am - 9.00am in Back Lane (drivers not driving to road condition), and 10am-12pm (for HGVs) on Sywell Road, where the breaches tend to occur most according to Parishioners.

He also stated that there is an agreement in place with Highways that the police can use the existing matrix signs on the A43 to put further notices in place.

He took questions from the floor and responded. Parishioners were pleased at how their questions were handled. They were also pleased to hear that road safety is being prioritised by the Police, which fits in with parishioners and the parish council road safety priority.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Judd for attending, and for everything he and his colleagues have been doing. The meeting applauded.

*Report from Daventry & Rural Policing Team - Appendix 5*

### **Leon Jolly, Yvonne Pogson**

Leon is responsible for the operation and delivery on the network for all highways matters. Yvonne is the newly recruited customer experience manager.

Leon introduced himself and Yvonne, and started by accepting that communication between themselves and public has been poor.

Leon reported that they are working on a new dashboard on the website where all reports are synced eg Fixmystreet, drainage, vegetation etc. September is the planned launch. At present there are lots of different systems in place and they hoping to bring amalgamate them all via the new dashboard. This will make everything transparent.

The winter period has been challenging for flooding, potholes etc due to the continuous rain.

The VASID post was installed a week ago.

The HGV weight restriction signs are due to be placed this week.

The Chicane on Sywell Road, was awaiting contractor confirmation for the power supply for illuminated sign. This was originally scheduled for March, but syncing with the contractors proved to be a problem. Road space has to be booked - now booked for 20th May. The company who is doing the illuminating sign cannot come in until 28<sup>th</sup> May. He confirmed that the work is booked to commence 20<sup>th</sup> May, with the contractor doing the sign illumination 28<sup>th</sup> May. The road will be closed for up to two weeks, although it may not take that amount of time.

Potholes also mentioned. They have to say up to 6 months for repair and order of works depends priority. They now have new equipment to repair these more efficiently. For efficiency, Kier would prefer to deal with all issues in an area on a visit where reports overlap, and are discussing proposals with WNC.

It was mentioned by public that more men are seen to be present at a job but not actually working. Leon responded that this may be because one job on a day needs a large team, but other jobs need fewer people, but they are in the same area doing different calls.

They are working on traffic management as required under the approved code of practice.

The reduction in speed limit to 40mph or 50mph along Sywell Road to the A43 roundabout is due to be heard by the speed review panel on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

He took questions from the floor. Parishioners were pleased at how well he dealt with their questions.

Sywell Road flooding by the duck pond. This has been reported on Fixmystreet. However the gully is still blocked. This is still a problem and the area is now becoming quite muddy. Leon said he would address this. There is a dedicated drainage team and it is possible that this particular gully is not marked on their asset list.

The parishioners also pointed out that Highways have not attended this meeting and credit was given to Kier for doing so.

Chair thanked both Leon and Yvonne for attending, and for everything he and his colleagues have been doing. The meeting applauded.

### **Chair Report**

Chair gave a brief summary from his report.

He thanked all councillors for everything they do and departing councillors Caroline Ferguson and Phil Scordellis, for their hard work and service to the Council and welcomed Marie Dunkley onto Council.

He explained about the priorities regarding the road safety and traffic management. Road safety being the number one priority.

The chicane work on Sywell Road is imminent.

ANPR HGV monitoring. 5 pilot areas around Northampton. Cllr Larratt, the cabinet member for Highways, is to ask that monitoring on our east-west route is prioritized.

Cllr Walker outlined why the Parish Council are trying to approach road safety infrastructure differently – we cannot move forward because we don't have a design, but can't get a design because we don't have funding. We can't organize funding because we don't have a design.... We cannot wait for S106 money of £100k from the Overstone Leys development.

A chicane on Brixworth Road is proposed on the prioritized list of works, but is dependent on various things eg funding, 30 mph limit to move, but will cost around £50k.

The 20mph 'zone' in the village will be requested once designs are available.

Hospital bungalows area. The police suggested make it similar to railway cottages in Church Brampton allowing a reduction in the speed limit.

£10k earmarked by parish council towards this road safety management as part of the S106 monies.

Cycling & Walking strategy. Holcot are outside their scope, but data suggest we should be inside their scope. It is in the benefit of the parish to be in their scope as it attracts strategic focus on road safety for all road users and possibly improved infrastructure.

Local Plan. 2k houses being built to the north of Moulton. As a parish council we should respond. Meetings are being held. One is due this week to discuss local plan with the Chair is attending.

Chair thanked everyone who responded to the recent questionnaire concerning the draft Holcot Parish Plan.

Green Hill Solar Farm. This is a private build by Island Green power. Chair explained the significant proposal for a 500MW solar farm based on a hub at Grendon covering 2400 acres. There is an opposition group forming outside of Holcot because so much land is being taken out of agricultural production. The council/parish need to decide whether to oppose, or support. It was suggested by a parishioner that a group within the parish may wish to be formed to keep updated and oppose the principles of the development. Holcot parish will be affected if plans go ahead. At the moment the Parish Council have not reached a conclusion on the specific impacts within the parish.

A question was asked of parish council accessing grant funding. Cllr Warren confirmed that parish council are able to have access to grants that become available. WNC would consider a capital grant if match funding is obtained. Lots of other grants become available throughout the year.

Chair thanked everyone and he himself was thanked by parishioner for all that he had done throughout his time on the Council especially as Chair.

*Full report from Chair - Appendix 1*

### **Moulton Ward Councillor Mike Warren**

Cllr Warren gave a brief summary on key points throughout the year.

West Northants Unitary Authority are now into their third year. They have been spending money wisely into 3<sup>rd</sup> year of becoming west Northants.

The planning department are getting there. They are still in the process of merging four departments.

The council is reducing from 93 members to 77 which comes into effect from May 25. Holcot will be moving into new ward which will be called Rural North East and represented by just one member. *Map of new ward area - Appendix 4*

Other points from the floor:

Highways lack of communication. He couldn't defend them and agreed.

The question of holding WNC to account in the reduction of councillor members was raised. The is all to do with the Boundary Commission and holding WNC to account is not possible.

Cllr Warren was applauded and was thanked.

*Full report from Cllr Warren - Appendix 3*

*Year End Accounts - Appendix 2*

*Planning Notices/Decisions - Appendix 6*

Meeting closed at 8.57pm

## **REPORTS FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOLLOW**

*Chair - Appendix 1. Finance - Appendix 2. Cllr Mike Warren – Appendix 3. Ward Area Map - Appendix 4. Daventry & Rural Neighbourhood Teams - Appendix 5. Planning - Appendix 6*

***ALSO AVAILABLE FROM HOLCOT PARISH WEBSITE OR THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL***

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## Appendix 1



### Chair's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting – 30 April 2024

Thank you everyone for coming along this evening – if you don't know me, I am David Walker and I'm the current Chair of the Parish Council.

Today's meeting is important for the Parish Council as it allows us to meet and discuss with parishioners the work of the Parish Council and to celebrate our lives in Holcot. In the next few minutes I will outline what has happened in Holcot since the last Annual Parish Meeting, some of our successes and challenges, as well as provide a summary of what else has happened in Holcot that is outside the Parish Council's direct control but contributes to the quality of life that we hopefully all enjoy.

I will also endeavour to dust down my crystal ball again and suggest what I expect to be the top challenges over the next 12 months. There is a written report which will be available on the parish website, so I will talk to the main points rather than read verbatim. I have kept the format as previous years.

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At this point I would like to introduce the Parish Councillors to the meeting;

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Sector responsibility</b>
Peter Matthews	Main St/Farm Close/Walgarth Court
David Walker	Back Lane/Brittens View
Marie Dunkley	Moulton Rd/Tithe Close
Chris Bailey	Sywell Rd/Ivy Farm/Sunny Bank
Charlie Heasman	All outlying properties
Vacancy	Rectory Lane/Beelhook/Walgrave Rd
Tony Hewitt	Brixworth Rd/Glebe Close
James Bonsor	Poplars Lane/Winsland Court

Each of the Councillors has a "sector responsibility" for part of the Parish, with the Councillor for your sector being your principal point of contact. As far as possible the sectors are aligned to the Councillor's own home. Contact details for Councillors are on the Parish Council page on the website.

Councillors also have a portfolio responsibility for taking the lead on a number of subjects – for instance Pete leads on parish maintenance, Chris for Police Matters, Tony on footpaths and so on. The full list of portfolio responsibilities is on the [Parish Council page](#) on the website.

I would like to thank Caroline Ferguson and Phil Scordellis, both of whom have resigned recently, for their service, and of course all Councillors for everything they do on behalf of the Parish. We have welcomed Marie Dunkley as a Councillor just a few weeks ago, and have a vacant seat that we hope to co-opt in May. Details of how to put yourself forward will be on the website after 7 May.

The last person to mention in relation to the Parish Council is our Parish Clerk, Ruby Cole. Ruby's job is to manage the activities of the Parish Council on a day-to-day basis. During the year we congratulated Ruby on completion of her CiLCA qualification, which means she is now a fully-qualified clerk. The clerk's role is far beyond that of an employee as I am sure that you appreciate. Thank you, Ruby, for your service over the last year. If you ever want to get in touch with the Parish Council, Ruby is first point of contact [clerk@holcotvillage.co.uk](mailto:clerk@holcotvillage.co.uk).

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When we look at the activities over the last year, I will draw a distinction between the activities of the Parish Council itself and of the Parish as a whole. I haven't listed everything, but here goes. ***Some key activities***

- **Road safety** – I make no apology for dwelling on road safety in this report. We continue to hold road safety as our number 1 priority and it is a continual focus of the Parish Council, appearing on every agenda. Phil Scordellis has led on this activity, and I and the Parish Council are hugely grateful for his diligence and the massive effort that we know this has taken.

Of tangible activity, over the last year we have;

- Procured a third VASID, grant-funded by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. This will be semi-permanently installed on the Brixworth Road.

- Had repaired/reinstated various footpaths and white lines.
- Had ditches, grips etc cleared.
- Put up advisory 20mph signs.
- Set-up a road safety working group from the Parish Council.
- Undertaken 2023 speedwatch campaign.
- Earmarked £10k as a contribution to funding of road safety activity.

- **Road safety - where are we now?**

The dualling of the A43 to the Holcot roundabout was announced a year ago – we are still to be consulted, but have found a copy of a plan and raised a number of issues with the WNC Executive Director responsible for Highways. We are yet to receive a response to our comments, and we will need to chase I suspect.

The transit of HGVs exceeding 7.5t through Holcot continues. One of the tasks for WNC Highways is better signage – alas, that has not been completed. Following a recent meeting (more on this below), WNC Cabinet Member Cllr Larratt has been tasked to get the signs, which are available, installed. At the same time, he is requesting acceleration of the ANPR HGV monitoring installation on Brixworth and Sywell Roads. This has awaited installation of pilot technologies around Northampton, but we need action now. Additionally, the Parish Council will be running a project, supported by the Police, to write to local hauliers and similar organisations reminding them of the 7.5t restriction and pointing out the impacts of overweight vehicles. The Police will then contact vehicle owners where contraventions are suspected.



Overview - VASID results

Road	Location, facing	Direction	Dates	V85	Speed violations%	Max speed	
Brixworth Road	Opposite Glebe Close, facing crossroads	Arriving	7/9-18/10/23	30	11	74	
		Departing		30	13	67	
		Arriving	13/4-23/5/23	30	14	76	
		Departing		30	13	97	
Brixworth Road	Opposite Glebe Close, facing causeway	Arriving	4-14/10/22	35	35	78	
		Departing		41	81	85	
		Arriving	21/9-26/9/22	35	33	79	
		Departing		40	77	86	
Main Street	Outside Church Room, facing crossroads	Arriving	21/10-6/12/22	22	0.2	41	
		Departing		24	0.7	43	
		Arriving	1-15/11/23	22	0.3	52	
		Departing		24	1	55	
Moulton Road	Next to footpath, facing MOULTON	Arriving	18-25/10/23	30	15	76	
		Departing		40	47	78	
		Arriving	25/10-1/11/23	31	17	73	
		Departing		40	50	76	
Moulton Road	Next to footpath, facing CROSSROADS	Arriving	6/2-9/3/20	28	4	48	
		Departing		27	4	55	
		Arriving	31/5/21-26/8/21	28	5	57	
		Departing		28	5	59	
Moulton Road (new VASID)	Opposite allotments facing Moulton	Arriving	25/1-11/3/24	42	61	79	
		Departing		45	89	91	
		Arriving	9/4-23/5/23	43	65	80	
		Departing		48	91	95	
Sywell Road	Opposite Back Lane, facing Sywell	Arriving	22/1-11/3/24	31	18	55	Pre-chicane
		Departing		34	45	87	
		Arriving	11/3-3/4/24	31	18	54	Pre-chicane
		Departing		35	48	63	
Walgrave Road	Half-way along on northern side, facing Walgrave	Arriving	6/12/2022-9/1/2023	24	0	38	
		Departing		24	1	38	
		Arriving	15-29/11/23	25	0.6	40	
		Departing		24	0.6	43	

V85 = 85% of traffic is travelling under/at this speed

Arriving = heading toward front of VASID

Departing = heading away from VASID

Driver behaviour in terms of driving to road conditions and speeding is poor through Holcot - to give an indication of the scale of the speeding problem we use the VASIDs. They record data as vehicles approach (and the message is displayed) but also as vehicles travel away from the display. The table above is the summary of the most recent results at each location.

You will notice that there are some roads where there are severe speed violations. This information is a major contributor to the focus of our road safety and speed-related decisions. The VASID results show that the advisory 20 mph signs made no apparent difference to driver behaviour.

- **Road safety – where is the chicane?**

In my report last year I wrote that we had escalated Highways inactivity within WNC in respect of the Sywell Road chicane and a number of smaller initiatives. I won't go into the story of why there was no progress on the chicane build or HGV signage improvements, but needless to say the Parish Council has been immensely frustrated by the continuing lack of progress and poor communication from Highways. In March 2024, the Parish Council passed a symbolic motion of "no confidence in the Highways Service" and wrote to Ward Councillor Mike Warren to reiterate why and ask for his help making progress. Even allowing for the pandemic, it should not take 5 years to install a small road safety feature.

The chicane build is now scheduled to commence 7 May. We will see.

- **Road safety – doing something different**

You will appreciate that the Parish Council has had road safety as top priority for many years, driven by the very apparent road safety issues, and the views of Parishioners at every Annual Parish Meeting and other events. We have striven to make changes, always constrained by funding and Highways

resourcing. Late last year we decided that we need to do something differently, as waiting for 'Section 106' funding (a financial contribution from the developers along the A43) before any design and implementation work can commence is not a tenable position when we know that the problems are here now.

To address this we set up a working group of the Parish Council to look at how we can break out of the loop of funding and Highways work constraining one another. The Working Group is required to develop a plan to address this conundrum, looking at funding opportunities – including grants and treasury loans – as well as dealing with the constraints within the remit of WNC and helping build advocacy and support from the myriad of stakeholders that might help us.

We have a very long list of possible actions we could take to improve road safety if we can remove the funding/Highways constraints, though realistically we have to prioritise the list. I have attached the full approved list of proposals at Attachment A – we are focusing on the 'Must' priority items in the immediate term, viz;

- The ANPR HGV monitoring referred to above.
- A chicane for Brixworth Road
- 20mph limit for the centre of the village
- A 'Holcot Cottages' zone on Moulton Road near the Hospital Bungalows allowing reduction in speed limits and behaviour-influencing infrastructure.

They will require in the region of £100k of funding based on estimates, which is in-line with the next tranche of Section 106 funding expected. As proposals they need detailed engineering design before firm financial estimates can be made, and all of the implications of the proposals assessed. Improving road safety is not a short-term undertaking, so priorities will change over the lifetimes of successive Parish Councils.

I am pleased to report that the working group recently held a meeting with WNC Cabinet Member for Highways Cllr Phil Larratt and Ward Councillor Mike Warren. At the meeting Cllrs Larratt and Warren took away several actions around funding and Highways design activity in order to help us move forward. We need to collaborate with WNC to improve our road safety and this was a good first step. We made the point to WNC that they have to be accountable for road safety, and that they should be 'pushing' for action, rather than relying on us and other Parish Council's to do the pushing. Currently there is no apparent proactivity, nor do WNC have a formal road safety strategy.

We will report in future newsletters and website posts how progress is being made. We will not fail to continue to apply pressure to WNC where there are issues requiring an extra push.

To financially support this activity the Parish Council have earmarked £10k, funded by the precept and the remnants of historic fundraising.

- **Road safety – it is for everyone** – an interesting project that WNC are running is the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan). Whilst Northampton-centric, the strategy development does take in the surrounding rural parishes. We have always focused on road safety being for all road users, not just powered vehicles, and this project sets out to address the strategic need for safe cycling and walking routes and related infrastructure. Data shows that Holcot is a hotspot for cycling activities – we have all seen the pelotons – the Parish Council have made representations to get routes around Holcot included in the strategy. The benefit would be that the strategy can help drive focus and funding on road safety in particular.
- **Holcot Parish Plan** – thank you everyone that responded to the recent questionnaire concerning the draft Holcot Parish Plan – we had an 8%+ response rate which is apparently good for a survey of this type. Taking comments into account, the now approved Parish Plan will help guide the priorities and activities of the Parish Council over the next few years. We will review it occasionally.

#### ***Some of the routine but important stuff***

- **The website** – we continue to promote the use of the website as the best source of information about what is happening in the Parish. It is updated regularly so **please** subscribe to the site to receive email notifications of news items, and don't forget to email [editor@holcotvillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@holcotvillage.co.uk) your news items or ideas of how the site could be improved or extended.
- **The newsletter** – Jenny Davis is Editor - please continue to use it.
- **Parish maintenance** – groups of parishioners, "The friends of Holcot", continue to help with Parish maintenance activities. If you would like to get involved with the gardening or other maintenance activities on an occasional basis contact Ruby who will direct you to the organisers.
- **Lighting** – we have recently finished upgrading our lighting to LED – as well as being environmentally friendly an LED lighting stock is considerably cheaper to run and is more reliable. This will become increasingly important next year when our long-term cheap electricity contract comes to an end.

### ***Some of the less routine, but no less important***

- **WNC local plan through to 2041** – this is just going through consultation of the draft. In my view it is probably the most important strategic activity that WNC are undertaking, and the impacts will be felt for the next couple of decades and beyond. For instance, the draft local plan includes, subject to some controls, another 2000 house zone to the north of Moulton on the A43 (similar to what we knew as ‘Moulton Heights’). It also includes the resurrection of a northern ‘ring-road’ from the west through to the A43.

The Parish Council will have to spend time understanding the draft plan and consider its implications for the Parish. Please see the website for details, and let us and/or WNC have your ideas and opinions.

- **Green Hill Solar Farm** – you will have seen [via the website](#) the nationally-significant proposal for a 500MW solar farm based on a hub at Grendon fed by solar arrays around the county totalling nearly 2400 acres (950 hectares). One array is proposed to be on fields to the south of the Parish. It is early days, with the developer providing little concrete information whilst seeking early opinions from Parishes and elsewhere. A group to oppose the solar farm is currently forming locally.

The statutory consultation is due to be in the autumn 2024, with build towards the end of the decade. The Parish Council will have to form an opinion on the proposals when they come forward, or perhaps sooner.

### ***Governance and Financial Performance***

I can report that the Parish Council have met formally 10 times since the last Annual Parish Meeting. Our governance conforms to the statutory requirements, and transparency is achieved through every meeting being a public forum, and in particular items being posted on the Parish website and Parish noticeboard.

Ruby will show to this meeting a summary of the financial performance of the Council for Financial Year 2023/24 – this information is on the Parish Council page on the website. For those that follow the budgetary and reforecast process on the website, you will have noticed that the financial result for the year was a surplus of £1.1k versus a budgeted deficit of £5.2k. This is due to the budget process being one of “best estimates”, some savings/non-spends, additional grant/donation-funded expenditure, and the earmarked reserve for road safety carried forward to this financial year.

Of note last year, major unplanned items of expenditure were the final lighting upgrade, a grant-funded 3<sup>rd</sup> VASID and an additional bench funded by a donation which has recently been installed on the Old School site. A warm wet summer led to £1k of additional mowing.

Having held the precept constant at £17.5k for 6 years, the last two years have seen increases of £2k to fund inflation and build an earmarked reserve of £10k for road safety. Last year I reported that we expected to have to increase our contribution to the Sywell Road chicane – the good news is that WNC have funded the shortfall above the remainder of our original Overstone Leys section 106 funds.

Key budget items for 2024/25, excepting inflationary pressures and road safety, include £500 to repair or replace the Christmas tree lights, £500 to clean the war memorial and £360 to fund the first-year village hall fees of the Holcot Hotspot. We have also earmarked £600 as a c50% contribution to next year’s Parish Council election.

## Financial year 2023/24

Balance brought forward from 31 March 2023 **£18,225**

*(rounded £)*

### Income

Precept	£19,500
Other income- grant and donation	£7,065
VAT reclaimed	£2,866
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£29,431</b>

### Expenditure (excl VAT)

Admin and communications ( <i>Website/Newsletter/Audit/ Memberships/Training/General Admin</i> )	£2,360
Maintenance ( <i>Mowing/Maintenance</i> )	£7,049
Projects ( <i>VASID #3</i> )	£4,343
Lighting ( <i>including LED upgrade</i> )	£2,262
Grants & Contributions ( <i>Church/Village Hall/Holcot Hub</i> )	£2,750
Other ( <i>Insurance/Allotment/Clerk Salary/Bench</i> )	£6,597
VAT paid	£2,883
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(£28,244)</b>
<b>Total Balances and reserves at 31 March 2024</b>	<b><u>£19,412</u></b>

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## Other Community activity

I promised that I would mention some of the other things that are not within the control of the Parish Council, but have contributed massively to the community. It was pleasing to note in the forms returned from the Holcot Parish Plan survey that people value their community, local activities and friendships.

- The Village Hall and Church Room are fantastic facilities – we are very lucky, and a huge amount of effort goes into looking after these amenities for the Parish;
- A group of Parishioners look after the defibrillators;
- The various clubs and societies that use the village hall and church room and local facilities.
- We are also fortunate to have the allotments which are used by many parishioners, and the Flower and Vegetable Show organised by the Village Hall is an important event, maintaining fantastic traditions;
- The Church organises events through the year, ranging from services to the annual carol singing.
- The annual Christmas dinner for our more senior citizens;

- The White Swan as a social hub, with music, open mics, quiz nights and other events; as well as charity and entertainment events organised by other groups.

Thank you again to everyone that has in any way supported these and of course all the other activities not mentioned.

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### **Back to the Parish Council - What are some of the likely priorities of Parish Council over the next year or so?**

This is guided by the Parish as a whole and the Holcot Parish Plan, but I suggest...

- We will continue to work through the various **road safety issues**. This is perennial. We will need to maintain our resolve to accelerate the road safety infrastructure.
- **WNC local plan** through to 2041 – in my view it is probably the most important strategic activity that WNC are undertaking, and the impacts must be considered in detail and representations made.
- **Green Hill Solar Farm** – what are the impacts and opportunities with this project? This is a substantial regional project and we will need to take an active part.
- **Devolution** of services from WNC may come forward. I said that last year, and we still have no concept of what this might be.
- **May 2025 elections for the next Parish Council** – would you like to represent your community as a Parish Councillor?

There are lots of other things that the Parish Council will have to deal with of course – most of which we can't foresee. Parishioners are invited to every Parish Council meeting, so if you have ideas please don't hesitate to come along. It is positive that, over the last year similarly to the previous years, more people are attending meetings, making use of their '3 minutes' to speak to the Council and express opinions.

### **And finally...some last thank you's**

As I've talked I have thanked a lot of people, and there are loads more I probably should have thanked including officers and members at West Northamptonshire Council, the emergency services and community organisations that support the Parish as well as other individuals and organisations. There are too many to mention specifically, and some we probably don't realise how much they do for us!

Thank you everyone for listening.

David Walker

24 April 2024

Attachment A – Prioritised road safety measures – approved February 2024

List of possible road safety measures identified for Holcot Parish. Updated February 2024 -					
Location	Zone	Measure	MoSCoW Rating#	Rationale	Forecast* (Feb 24) cost £k
Sywell Road, Brixworth Road	60mph	Use ANPR to monitor HGV traffic - implementation by WNC.	M	HGVs flout the regulations.	0
Brixworth Road	30mph	Add chicane priority-working feature NB may need to relocate speedlimit-change - so requiring a traffic order, unless linkable to next item	M	VASID data shows substantial violations of the 30mph limit, with maximum speeds of up to 85mph	50
Areas selected by mtg with Matt O'C	30mph	20mph limit or zone	M	Change driver behaviour. Traffic order £6k, Signs £10k	16
Moulton Rd	60mph	Implementation of the 'Holcot Cottages' signage with 40/50mph speed limit & fixed solar-VASID proposed by Matt O'C	M	Traffic order £6k (if not combined with above), Signs £5k, VASID £6k	17
<b>Sub-total "Must"</b>					<b>83</b>
Junction of Poplars Lane & Walgrave Rd	30mph	Realign junction (design already created, and approved, by HW)	S	Reduce entry and exit speeds of rat-runners using Poplars Lane to avoid crossroad congestion	27
Junction of Back Lane & Moulton Rd	30mph	Realign junction (design already created, and approved, by HW)	S	Reduce entry and exit speeds of rat-runners using Back Lane to avoid crossroad congestion	27
Hannington Road	60mph	Narrow road signs on bridge	S	Insufficient width for 2 large vehicles	2
<b>Sub-total "Should"</b>					<b>55</b>
Sywell Road	30mph	Construct c100m of footway from Sunny Bank to Wychwood	C	Residents of 4 houses - and visitors to the carboot sale and riding school - currently have to walk in the carriageway on a blind bend, due to muddy surface of grass verge caused by a dip	36
Walgrave Road	60mph	Construct c170m of footway from village gateway to start of new right-of-way; cost includes £10k for construction of wooden pedestrian bridge over stream	C	New right-of-way was intended to give Holcot residents and ramblers safer access to the wider footpath system north of Holcot, but current pedestrian access to its start is a verge surfaced with coarse grass with hidden trip-hazards, and requires walking in the carriageway to cross the only bridge	110
Sywell Road	30mph	Permanent solar-powered VASID (MUST if no chicane)	W	VASID data has shown a reduction in speeds when VASID is switched on to show a message to drivers, compared with speeds in 'stealth mode'	6
Moulton Road	30mph	Replace existing pinch-point priority-working feature with chicane priority-working feature	W	Existing feature is earlier technology which only slows traffic when vehicles simultaneously approach from both directions	40
Moulton Road	60mph	Extend footway by c450m to reach junction with lane accessing cricket and tennis facilities	W	Current pedestrian access to these facilities <b>and the several adjacent homes</b> is a verge surfaced with coarse grass with hidden trip-hazard deep gulleys	160
<b>Sub-total "Could" and "Would"</b>					<b>352</b>
Total of above list for illustrative purposes only (now excl Sywell Rd chicane)					<b>490</b>
*Values updated from 2020 Overstone Green submission (which was based on Ian Boyes' estimates at that time) to reflect recent extreme inflation in construction costs					
#MoSCoW Ratings: Must, Should, Could, Would (if unlimited budget, no constraints)					
					Totals
M					83
S					55
C					146
W					206
<b>Grand Total</b>					<b>490</b>

**Appendix 2**

**Year End Account Summary 31/03/2024**

**Bank Current Account (Unity Trust Bank)**

**Bank Savings Account (Barclays Bank)**

	2022/23		2023/24	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Precept	17,500		19,500	
Mowing Grant	0		744	
OPFCC Grant	0		4,260	
Allotments	221		281	
VAT Reclaimed	2,152		2,866	
Donation	457		1,683	
Bank Interest - Savings Account	18		97	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>20,347</b>		<b>29,431</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Administration/Communications	2,278		2,360	
Maintenance incl mowing	4,292		7,049	
Projects	2,725		4,343	
Lighting	2,668		2,262	
Other	783		2,405	
Clerk Salary	3,863		4,169	
S137 (Grants, Poppy Wreath)	2,523		2,773	
VAT	1,889		2,883	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>21,021</b>		<b>28,244</b>
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year		<b>-674</b>		1,187
<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>				
Balance b/f 31.03.2022		10,857	Balance b/f 31.03.2023	10,166
Balance b/f 31.03.2022		8,041	Balance b/f 31.03.2023	8,059
Add Receipts		20,347		29,431



	<u>39,246</u>		<u>47,656</u>
Less Payments	<u>21,021</u>		<u>28,244</u>
Balance of Receipts & Payments	<u>18,225</u>		<u>19,412</u>
Unpresented Cheques	0		0
Balance b/f Current Acc 31.03.2023	10,166	Balance b/f Current Acc 31.03.2024	11,256
Balance b/f Savings Acc 31.03.2023	8,059	Balance b/f Savings Acc 31.03.2024	8,156
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>18,225</u></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>19,412</u></b>

DRAFT

## **Appendix 3**

### **COUNCILLOR MIKE WARREN – WEST NORTHANTS COUNCIL – MOULTON WARD**

Spending your money and the Government's money wisely, is one of our philosophy's. How we spend this money, the budget, has a huge effect on much of our daily lives, bin collections, children's services, adult social care, leisure centres, parks, libraries, carparks and road maintenance, and dozens of other areas which are being constantly reviewed and updated.

The approach we're taking locally is paying dividends. We have one of the most financially stable councils in the country; we were supposed to have delivered £83m of savings at this point in our reorganisation programme, instead we've delivered **£90m** and we'll deliver more before the end of the term. In common with many local authorities across the country, the authority has set a balanced revenue budget for 2024/2025 of £889.5m

The approved budget follows a strong commitment to making services as efficient as possible.

We have a well performing adult social care service and an improving children's service, elements of which are already rated good, and which many in this parish may have engaged with at some point. We also, support and enable many local community organisations and local groups and put in place additional support for rough sleepers and overhauled our homelessness support services.

We've prosecuted an increasing proportion of fly tippers and rogue landlords, whilst stabilising our staffing levels to reduce reliance on expensive agency staff. Further to this, we've reduced the number of highly paid senior officers and reduced the number of large and expensive council buildings.

One of the greatest challenges has been the fusing together of four professionally independent planning departments, and although the planning service is not yet operating as we would wish, it is very much heading in the right direction.

Our financial performance in amalgamating the various balances of the four predecessor authorities has exceeded our expectations, and recently, the WNC finance team was recognised nationally as being one of the best in the country.

The single largest challenge remains is the contribution to the Children's Trust, a body set up at the same time as WNC, to administer children's services across the county. The budget allocation is £83.3m, some 22% of the whole. The second challenge is funding adult social care, specifically identified on the council tax statements we all receive.

Various strategic meetings have taken place to future proof GP provision in the ward and there will be more news to come on this in the future.

#### **Some highlights have been:**

Active trading standards prosecution involving seizure of 200,000 cigarettes and 35kg hand rolled tobacco.  
Public health prosecution of a restaurant resulting in a fine of £33k  
£5m distributed in the form of household support, for 12,500 families.  
Delivery of a 250-pupil special school for SEND pupils in Towcester  
Opening of a new night shelter in Northampton

Commencement of work on the Northampton North Relief Road (NNRR) Democratically, the council is reducing from 93 members to 77 with effect from the May 2025, Holcot will moving into a new Ward, Rural North East and represented 1 Member.

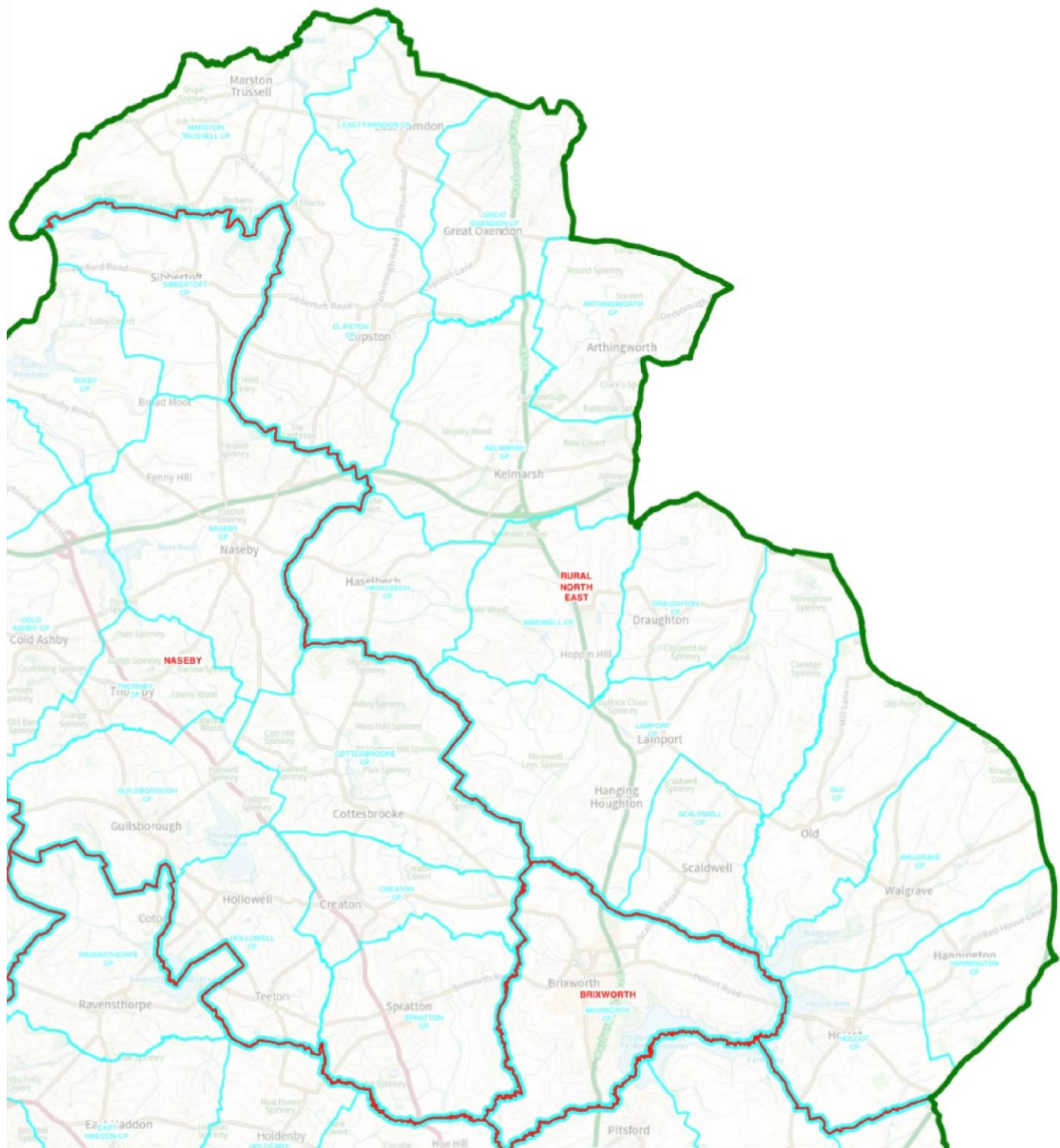
Democratically, the council is reducing from 93 members to 77 with effect from the May 2025, Holcot will moving into a new Ward, Rural North East and represented 1 Member.

**In conclusion**, West Northamptonshire Council is working really hard to achieve the goals and aims of the Corporate Plan, and the Council's strategic plan, which reflects our 2021 Manifesto.

Much of the work goes on behind the scenes which is not seen or reported on by our local media, but I can assure you, you have a most diligent and hardworking professional group of councillors working on your behalf.

Map below showing boundary allocation

**Appendix 4**



## **Annual Report 2024 for Daventry & Rural**

The Daventry Neighbourhood policing team remains at the heart of all policing activities across the district. We continue to be based primarily from Daventry Police Station in the centre of our largest town with a smaller team working from Brixworth, covering the more rural communities in the north of West Northamptonshire.

2023 has seen a number of changes within the Daventry neighbourhood team at both supervisor level as well as amongst the team. In April we said a fond farewell to Police Sergeant (PS) Matt Moore, who left to join Norfolk police. We welcomed PS Lewis Judd to the team as his replacement; Lewis is responsible for the rural areas at both the north and south of the district. This includes Brixworth, Moulton, Welford, Naseby, Weedon, Woodford Halse and Byfield. PS Judd manages a number of PCs and PCSOs' based at both the Brixworth office and Daventry Police station. PS Greg Harrison remains the sergeant responsible for Daventry Town, Crick, Kilsby, West Haddon and Long Buckby areas with his team based at Daventry Police Station, along with numerous response officers on duty 24/7 across the district.

We have also welcomed PS Josh Ellard to the neighbourhood policing team, running Operation Fragment, which is Northamptonshire police's response to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and associated issues on the Southbrook estate within Daventry Town. The team are trialing a number of initiatives to reduce the rates of crime and ASB on the estate; he is supported by three PCs on this operation.

The Team continues to benefit from having sponsored PCSOs who are dedicated to parishes around the area. Les Conopo and Duncan Cumming cover the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT) and Crick providing a high visibility presence and maintaining good partnerships with the largest business estate on our district. This helps deter crime and reduce ASB as well as providing the village with points of contact for any emerging issues. PCSO Paul Miller has taken over the sponsored role in Woodford Halse. He has spent several weeks ensuring he is a familiar face around the village, making effective partnerships with the schools and local business and targeting the issues raised by the village around anti-social parking and shoplifting. If any parishes would like to seek further information on the sponsorship scheme or are interested in joining, please contact one of the supervisor team. PCSO Emma Teagles has been dedicated to Daventry Town for the past year bringing with her a wealth of local knowledge and contacts that have proved invaluable.

All of this has meant we have a larger team and are able to dedicate more time and resources in tackling the issues that mean the most to you, our residents. Whilst our officers and PCSOs have defined beat areas in which they spend the majority of their time, we are able to be flexible in order to respond to emerging issues and areas of risk if needed. We also now benefit in having staff trained in a variety of skills including off-road motorcycling, response and pursuit driving, drug testing, method of entry, as well as Taser equipped officers. This allows us to provide a suitable response to every situation we attend.

The team endeavour to remain as visible in the community as much we possibly can, utilising several locations to hold community surgeries and drop in events so that you can speak to us in person. We are also continuing to utilise the force's Beat Bus to visit villages and areas where it has been traditionally hard to base ourselves and be visible.

As well as responding to reported incidents as they occur, officers take on crime allocations for offences that have taken place in our policing area. The main focus of our team is driven by locally identified priorities, which are updated quarterly throughout the year.

2023 has seen these alternate between Rural Crime, Drug Dealing & Misuse, Burglary, Auto Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition, Road Safety and Traffic Offences consistently feature as a priority. Sadly, we have once again seen a number of fatal and serious injury road traffic collisions on the roads of the district and the team remain committed to working to reduce and prevent these in any way we can. We provide a high visibility presence on the roads with a fleet of marked police vehicles and have been able to carry out speed enforcement using our handheld devices to both deter and detect offences. Also working with other teams from across the force as well as the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), we have been able to establish a number of pop-up check sites where cars are pulled over for document and defect checks at the roadside.

This has led to numerous vehicle recoveries and offences being detected on each occasion. However, it should be noted that the vast majority of cars on the road are being driven legally in accordance with all legislation.

Residents may have seen a number of high-profile enforcement days that have taken place in Daventry Town and surrounding villages as part of our ongoing efforts to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in our community. Over this year, the neighbourhood team have executed numerous warrants in the early hours of the morning, as well as during the day to best target when offenders are in possession of drugs. This helps to disrupt the supply of drugs into the community. Currently, we have a number of ongoing investigations and court cases that are due to report on sentencing in the near future. These warrants are based and secured on the intelligence we receive from the community. It is the key factor in assisting with building a wider picture of everyone linked to drug supply and giving us the foundation to apply for and execute warrants to reduce the harm that drugs inflict on our community. A key example of the direct effect this enforcement has had is the link to a reduction in violence in our weekend night-time economy.

At present we are finding that a lot of our time is consumed in dealing with crimes perpetrated via social media. The vast majority of this involves children of school age but is not exclusive to them. Children may not be aware that sending of malicious communications – nasty, abusive messages on platforms such as Instagram, WhatsApp, Snap Chat etc. are criminal offences. The same principal applies to the sending of intimate images between children. We urge parents to take an overview of the chat groups that children join or just who they are communicating with online. There is a wealth of support available for these situations which parents can find via West Northamptonshire Council and organisations such as Service Six. We also work closely with schools to try and disrupt and deter this sort of behaviour as it often stems from relationships developed within a school environment.

We strongly recommend that all living and working within our communities sign up to Northamptonshire Talking. This is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can join. In registering your email address, you will receive up-to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity, crime prevention advice and much more. This system is a two-way process and offers you a chance to respond to information provided as appropriate. If the majority of the community sign up then we can create a virtual network of additional eyes and ears, watching out for suspicious activity, looking out for vulnerable friends, family and neighbours and receiving information about local events and activities that can help alleviate fear of crime and promote a safe and secure lifestyle.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that even the simplest home safety measures can prevent you becoming the victim of crime, we have seen a number of opportunistic offences being committed across the district that could be prevented if cars and houses are left locked overnight.

**Appendix 6**

**Planning Applications/Decisions Holcot Parish Council 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024**

<p>Application No: 2024/1363/FULL 07 March 2023 Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>The Old Barn Back Lane Holcot NN6 9SL Construction of two storey extension at rear No Objection 20/03/2024</p>
<p>Application No: 2024/1220/SCRN 14 February 2024  Holcot Parish Council Decision  West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>A43 Phase 3 Scheme - Overstone Leys Access Roundabout to Holcot Roundabout Proposed dualling to the eastern section of the existing A43 Letter sent to Stuart Timmiss, Executive Director Place, Economy and Environment, 21st March 2024</p>
<p>Application No: 2024/1309/FULL 05 February 2024  Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Windrush Sywell Road Holcot NN6 9SN Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling and associated works, including refuse and cycle storage and landscaping No Objection 20/03/2024</p>
<p>Application No: 2023/7256/COND 12 October 2023  Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land Adj 42 Moulton Road Holcot Northamptonshire NN6 9SH Condition 5 of WND/2021/0891 [Landscaping] Application for approval of details submitted pursuant to Condition 5 of Planning Permission WND/2021/0891 [Construction of detached dwelling, landscape enhancements and associated works]  Approved 24/01/2024</p>
<p>Application No: 2023/7257/COND 12 October 2023  Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land Adj 42 Moulton Road Holcot Northamptonshire NN6 9SH Condition 9 of WND/2021/0891 [Gate] Application for approval of details submitted pursuant to Condition 9 of Planning Permission WND/2021/0891 [Construction of detached dwelling, landscape enhancements and associated works]  Approved 24/01/2024</p>

<p>Application No: 2023/7301/NMA 20 September 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land adjacent 42 Moulton Road Holcot NN6 9SH Non-material amendment to WND/2021/0891 Construction of detached dwelling, landscape enhancements and associated works to amend the roof of the link building to remove the roof glazing only and to continue the roof tiles over the link.</p> <p>Approved 02/11/2023</p>
<p>Application No: WND/2023/7498 18 September 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Swan Cottage, Main Street, Holcot, NN6 9SP Proposed Single Storey Front extension to existing garage to provide guest accommodation for the main dwelling No Objection – with Comment Nov 2023 Approved 21/12/2023</p>
<p>Application No: 2023/6907/NMA 23 August 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>42A Moulton Road Holcot NN6 9SH Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission WND/2021/0891 (Construction of detached dwelling, landscape enhancements and associated works) to relocating the road access and entrance gate Approved 06/10/2023</p>
<p>Application No: 2023/6223/FULL 26 July 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Home Farm Back Lane Holcot West Northamptonshire NN6 9SL Construction of detached 2-bedroom dwelling house, formation of vehicular access and associated works including demolition of existing buildings Objection 23/08/2023, Revised 12/02/24 No objection – with comments</p>
<p>Application No: WND/2023/0197 5 July 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land opposite Hillcrest Back Lane Holcot Northamptonshire NN6 9SL Full Planning. Construction of two detached dwellings with parking No Objection 23/07/2023</p>

<p>Application No: 2023/5640/COND 23 May 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land Adj 42 Moulton Road Holcot Northamptonshire NN6 9SH</p> <p>Conditions Discharge. Condition 3 of WND/2021/0891 [Materials] Application for approval of details submitted pursuant to Condition 3 of Planning Permission WND/2021/0891 [Construction of detached dwelling, landscape enhancements and associated works.]</p> <p>Approved 17/08/2023</p>
<p>Application No: 2023/5642/COND 23 May 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land Adj 42 Moulton Road Holcot Northamptonshire NN6 9SH</p> <p>Conditions Discharge. Condition 4 of WND/2021/0891 [Tree Protection] Application for approval of details submitted pursuant to Condition 4 of Planning Permission WND/2021/0891 [Construction of detached dwelling, landscape enhancements and associated works.]</p> <p>Approved 17/08/2023</p>
<p>Application No: 2023/5643/COND 23 May 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land Adj 42 Moulton Road Holcot Northamptonshire NN6 9SH</p> <p>Conditions Discharge. Condition 6 of WND/2021/0891 [Ecology] Application for approval of details submitted pursuant to Condition 6 of Planning Permission WND/2021/0891 [Construction of detached dwelling, landscape enhancements and associated works.]</p> <p>Approved 17/08/2023</p>
<p>Application No: 2023/5644/COND 23 May 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land Adj 42 Moulton Road Holcot Northamptonshire NN6 9SH</p> <p>Conditions Discharge. Condition 7 of WND/2021/0891 [Traffic Management] Application for approval of details submitted pursuant to Condition 7 of Planning Permission WND/2021/0891 [Construction of detached dwelling, landscape enhancements and associated works.]</p> <p>Approved 17/08/2023</p>



<p>Application No: WND/2023/0005</p> <p>25 January 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Moulton Lodge, Moulton Road, Holcot, Northamptonshire, NN6 9SH</p> <p>Full Planning. Installation of 70 ground mounted solar panels to produce 26.25kw solar panel array</p> <p>Support March 2023</p> <p>Approved April 2023</p>
<p>Application No: WND/2023/0092</p> <p>20 February 2023</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Moulton Lodge, Moulton Road, Holcot, Northamptonshire, NN6 9SH</p> <p>Full Planning. Construction of agricultural building</p> <p>No Objection March 2023</p> <p>Approved April 2023</p>
<p>Application No: 2022/5081/COND</p> <p>5 October 2022</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p>	<p>Land at North Farm, Holcot Road, Moulton, Northamptonshire, NN3 7QN</p> <p>Conditions Discharge. Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DA/2020/0487 (Construction of detached dwelling with garage &amp; stables together with formation of access drive, hard &amp; soft landscaping), to omit the stable block &amp; reposition the garage, add two additional bedrooms within the previous garage area, addition of a gym &amp; plant room, revision to the drive &amp; repositioning of the garden area- Discharge of condition 8</p> <p>Approved August 2023</p>
<p>Application No: WND/2022/0270</p> <p>19 April 2022</p> <p>Holcot Parish Council Decision</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council Decision</p> <p>Appeal – March 2023</p> <p>APP/W2845/W/22/3312683</p> <p>Planning Inspectorate</p>	<p>Holcot Showground, Sywell Road, Holcot, Northamptonshire</p> <p>Use of land for car boot sales and associated parking on Sundays between 1st April and 31 October each year, in addition to the already consented days (Thursdays, Saturdays and Bank Holidays) (resubmission).</p> <p>Objection &amp; Comments May 2022</p> <p>Refusal - With reasons June 2022</p> <p>Appeal Dismissed July 2023</p>