

## OLD WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Ms E Gotts

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ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026 7.00PM, VILLAGE HALL

**1. Parish Council Chairs Welcome**

**2. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Fussell, Cllr Johnathon Gray, RAF Molesworth, Old Weston Village Hall, Church of St Swithins, Parson Latham hospital, Poor lands /recreation ground charities.

**3. Acceptance forms of new councillors -**

Cllr Costura, Cllr Mckenzie, Cllr Patrick and Cllr Harding , Cllr Penniall arrived 7.15pm and **SIGNED**

**4. To approve, for signing by the chairman, the minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – APPROVED– assembly signed**

**5. Annual Report of Old Weston Parish Council by the chairman –**

Chairmans Annual Report

The last year has gone by very quickly, and we've had quite a bit to do over the last 12 months. We've had a few changes on the Parish Council, with Andrew joining us in July and Emma, our new clerk joining us in January. We do still have one vacancy on the Parish Council and continue to look for volunteers to help us. We would particularly like to have more help to investigate areas for us to invest in the community as we have a healthy balance sheet, which is also why we kept the precept flat for yet another year. We did investigate another LHI bid this year to look at improving the pavement on main street, unfortunately it wasn't financially or logistically viable as the road is quite narrow already.

I would once again like to say 'Thank you' to all of you, the volunteers who make up the Parish Council. I'd also like to thank Emma, who has already started to make an impact.

The last year was very much like previous years with a significant amount of effort required responding to planning applications, with extraordinary meetings required. These continue to be an opportunity to engage with a broad range of people in the parish in order to help us express their interests and shape our community.

As a Parish Council we have arranged 2 village clean-ups which have been very successful and well attended, maintaining that tradition and opportunity to come together as a community. As in previous years, we've provided a Christmas tree outside the village hall, laid a wreath on Remembrance Sunday, but we also made a substantial donation to the Village Hall to assist with the renovation work. We've also maintained our Defibrillator and MVAS units, although one of them needs a bit of attention at the moment and unfortunately one of our gates has been damaged and is in need of repair.

We have taken a number of opportunities to increase engagement further with RAF Molesworth and the broader community with Councillors' travelling to share our thoughts with our MP. Additionally, we've had more discussions with the Village Hall Committee which we hope to see continue to grow more sustainable as a key feature in our community. Finally, as we did last year, we arranged to have free compost delivered to the Village Hall for all parishioners to use.

As I look forward to the next year, we need to continue to improve our governance, expand engagement and search for opportunities to invest for the benefit of the parish.

Regards

David Costura  
Chair Old Weston Parish Council

## **6. Invitation for the County Council Councillor and District Councillor to address the meeting**

My apologies for not being able to join you in person this evening.

I was delighted to be returned as the District Councillor for the Kimbolton Ward last week, with 61% of the vote in a '5 horse race'. With a turnout of 52.4% - it shows that people care about local services - and this came up repeatedly whilst I was campaigning. Pot holes, and charging for the green bin were the two most common complaints!

At HDC we are now in a position where the anti-Conservative coalition (who held 32 seats) has gone backwards. The new makeup of the Council is as follows:

LibDem - 20  
Conservative - 15  
Reform - 10  
Independent - 4  
Green - 2  
Labour - 1

If you assume that the anti-Conservative coalition would also be an anti-Reform Coalition, this would require every other Councillor to agree to have a majority of 1. We already know the Labour member will not join any coalition - so it will be an interesting first meeting of the Council a week on Thursday.

The most recent HDC Budget in February imposed another above-inflation increase on local residents of £5 per year for a Band D property. Conservative amendments to the Budget which would have funded 1 hour free parking in market towns, a reduction to £20 of the Green Bin Tax and increased Planning Enforcement staffing, whilst freezing Council Tax - was predictably rejected by the Joint Administration. It would have been funded by reducing a forecast

increase in staff costs that was higher than any other Cambridgeshire authority, despite us all being subject to the same pay agreement.

Despite the recent elections a new budget is unlikely.

I have been dealing with a number of large planning applications in the Kimbolton area. Since the Government increased housing targets for Huntingdonshire, we have been in a condition called 'tilted balance' - which favours developers. This has led to a number of speculative sites being put forward.

Work continues with the Local Plan, which does not propose significant changes to Old Weston, however - as mentioned above, there is nothing to stop speculative developers applying on parcels of land.

I opposed the East Park Solar Farm proposed south of Kimbolton, by writing to the Planning Inspector.

Planning enforcement continues to take up a considerable amount of time - at any one time almost 1,000 active cases are being looked at. One recent success was Enforcement action being upheld at appeal over an unauthorised Lorry Park between Brington and Catworth. We need to see more results like this!

New food waste bins were launched last month. This was necessary due to government requirements to try and remove food waste from the black bin waste stream. Had the current Council NOT decided to charge for the green bin, then the food waste could have been collected through that (it is not legal to charge to collect food waste) - reducing the number of new plastic bins by around 40,000! I did warn the Joint Administration of this, although they a) ignored me and b) said it was quite possible collecting food waste would not be implemented!

This was likely to be the last set of elections to Huntingdonshire District Council - first held in 1973. We expect the Government to announce the new Councils for Cambridgeshire in July, and whilst I hope that it is possible that Huntingdonshire becomes a Unitary Authority (Option E), this is one of 4 remaining options on the table. All of the others see us merged with Peterborough City, Fenland and East Cambs - very large and diverse proposed Councils where Old Weston would be a long way from the centre of power or understanding.

Finally, I am happy to attend any events that you would like me to be at if I am available - please do contact me.

Regards,

Jonathan

**7. Annual report RAF Alconbury/RAF Molesworth**

No report received

**8. Annual Report of Old Weston Village Hall Committee**

No report received

**9. Annual Report Church of St Swithin**

No report received

**10. Annual report Parson Lathams Hospital, Barnwell**

**Parson Lathams Hospital in Barnwell**

My apologies for not being able to attend your May meeting as I'm away, but I'd be very happy to come to another meeting so that I can explain more about the charity and the community of 8 residents there.

Over the last year there have been some new residents due to others moving on or, sadly, passing away.

I visited the resident who was formerly from Old Weston last week, and asked him if there was anything that he wanted me to tell you. He said that he was very happy there, having just completed 25 years there.

As Trustees we work together to get the best for our residents and support the community. My father, Frank Langley, was a Trustee for many years and called it 'The Latham's Family'. I am honoured to be part of it and I thank you for supporting me to be a Trustee there.

Diane Langley

May 2026

**Annual report of Poor's Land / recreation Ground Charities**

Charity Chairmans Annual Report As we review the last year, we've had a fairly stable board of trustees, with Andrew joining us when he joined the Parish Council last year. Both charities have completed the required financial submissions for the previous year and will be submitting the latest as required. The sustainability of the charities continues to be a concern as we continue to investigate the registration of the properties formally and the expense that may incur. As mentioned last year, documents have been collected and a solicitor

engaged to scope out the work required, however progress has been slow. After several significant contributions to the community in previous years on Golden Tickets and Old Weston history books for residents, we have just about reached the point where we need to consider further contributions to the community, and will be discussing that through this financial year. The Recreation Ground has continued to be rented, however, that appears to be reaching it's end later this year so we need to determine a path forward for that property specifically as it's our main source of income. The Poors land may have reached a turning point as new residents to the village have expressed an interest in renting the land, and potentially purchasing it in the future should that be viable and mutually beneficial. Overall, the Charities have kept marching on with a few challenges to tackle but thank you to the Trustees for their continued support. Regards David Costura Chair Old Weston Charity Trusts

- 11. Parish Council Accounts 2025/26 Audited** – The clerk confirmed that the internal auditor had signed off the accounts with nothing to note.
- 12. Questions to Parish Councillors, Village Clubs or organisations and Open Forum of items not on the agenda which residents wish to debate with the Parish Council** – no questions were put forward
- 13. Close of Annual Parish Council Meeting** – closed 7.25pm