

**Minutes of the Caldecott Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in
Caldecott Village Hall**

Present 2026/01 Cllrs MacDermott, Lawrie, McCole, Clark and Hook, Mrs J Medwell (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Welcome 2026/02 The Chair welcomed the Parishioners.

Chair's Report 2026/03 The Chair presented his annual report:

As Chair of Caldecott Parish Council, I am pleased to present this annual report and reflect on the work of the Council over the past year.

It has been another busy and productive year for the Parish Council, with much of our focus continuing to centre on highways safety, traffic issues, planning matters, and the ongoing care and improvement of parish assets.

The most significant issue facing the village remains traffic through Caldecott, particularly vehicle speeds and the continued volume of heavy goods vehicles using the A6003. Over the last year we have worked hard to reinvigorate efforts to push for meaningful change on this issue. We have continued discussions with Rutland County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, our MP, neighbouring authorities, and local partners to ensure Caldecott's concerns remain firmly on the agenda.

I was particularly pleased to welcome Rutland County Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways, Cllr Christine Wise, to our meeting in January to discuss these issues directly with the Council and residents. Conversations have included options ranging from additional signage and traffic calming measures through to returning to discussions on the longer-term aspiration of a bypass solution linked to wider infrastructure planning.

Whilst progress in highways matters can often feel frustratingly slow, I believe the Parish Council has become much more proactive and coordinated in pressing the case for the village. Importantly, we are also now looking ahead to practical community-led action. Plans are being developed for fundraising towards traffic calming initiatives, and we are aiming to again take part in a Community Speed Watch programme in October 2026, subject to volunteer support. This is an area where community involvement will make a real difference and the attendance at a meeting held earlier this year specifically about highways issues was very positive.

I am also particularly pleased this year to welcome three new councillors to the Parish Council — Kelly Lawrie, Polly Clark and David Young. Their enthusiasm, ideas and willingness to get involved have already brought fresh energy and perspective to the Council, and I would like to thank them for stepping forward to support the village in this way. Parish councils rely entirely on local people being willing to contribute their time and effort, and it is very encouraging to see the Council strengthening again.

Alongside highways matters, the Council has continued to deal with a wide range of day-to-day parish business. Parish assets have been inspected and maintained throughout the year, including replacement and repair works to the village green posts, ongoing maintenance of the Pinfold Wall,

and management of the play area following its annual inspection. We have also continued to monitor and care for the allotments and wider village environment.

The Council has considered a number of planning applications during the year and has continued to take a balanced but robust approach where developments raise concerns around highway safety, infrastructure pressures, or the character of the village. In several cases the Council submitted detailed objections reflecting the concerns of residents, particularly where proposals were considered inappropriate or potentially harmful to the village.

Financially, the Parish Council remains in a stable position. Earlier this year the Council agreed a modest precept increase of 2.72%, helping ensure we can continue maintaining village assets and supporting improvements whilst remaining mindful of pressures on residents.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all councillors for their continued work and support over the year. In particular, I want to thank Bob Hook and Lesley McCole for their continued commitment, practical support and willingness to get involved across a huge range of issues and projects. Much of the work of a parish council happens quietly behind the scenes, and their contribution is greatly appreciated.

Thanks are also due to County Councillor Andrew Brown for his regular attendance and support, and to Cllr Christine Wise for engaging positively with the village's highways concerns. As local government arrangements change, we may soon look back with even more gratitude for the time they have given to support us.

Finally, I would particularly like to thank our Clerk, Justina Medwell, whose professionalism, knowledge and steady guidance continue to be invaluable to the Council. Her experience and support ensure the Council continues to operate effectively and properly.

And lastly, thank you to all residents who attend meetings, raise issues, volunteer their time, and contribute ideas. A strong parish council only works when it stays connected to the community it serves, and that involvement is greatly appreciated.

Financial
Report
2026/04

The Clerk presented the financial position for the last financial year. The balance of reserves was up from the previous year at a figure of £7,028.52. A full breakdown of all financial matters can be found on the website at www.caldecott-pc.gov.uk

Open
Forum
2026/05

There was nothing raised at this point.

The meeting closed at 7.37 pm