

LAMPORF AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 16 November 2022 at 7 pm
in the Old Laundry, Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire

1. ATTENDANCE, apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllrs B. Cox, C. Dugmore, J. Farr (in the Chair), R. Flavell While, D. Gasson,, P. May, F. Allbury (Parish Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllrs C. Harris and WNC Cllr K. Parker

There were no declarations of interest

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 28 September 2022 were approved and signed.

3 MATTERS arising from the MINUTES

3.1 Plant a tree for the Queens Jubilee

Cllr Gasson now has the saplings in his possession and the Clerk handed him the plaque. The Clerk will contact Mark Herrod to make arrangements for planting. Cllr Gasson will fix the plaque to a wooden mount for installation near the trees. Cllr Farr said that he had a supply of tree supports if required.

3.2 Ivy growth on Lamport bus shelter

Following intervention by Cllr Parker, it is understood that Highways will only undertake work on bus shelters if there is a potential danger to users. The Clerk will contact Mark Herrod whose land abuts the rear of the bus shelter to see if he can offer any assistance with removing the ivy.

3.3 Dog waste bin

Now installed

3.4 Book of Condolence

Cllr Dugmore said that unfortunately Trevor Thomas is unable to bind single books. It was decided not to proceed with having the book professionally bound nor store it in the County archive, but ask Mark Herrod if he could either store the book safely in Lamport Hall, or put it on display.

3.5 Parish Online

They have offered to extend the free trial period rather than not take up a subscription.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would still not see the benefit of registering and would decline their offer of a further free subscription.

4 HIGHWAYS

4.1 Footpath along A508 between Hanging Houghton and Brixworth.

Clearance work will be undertaken within 28 days.

4.2 Verge grass signage

Ready for delivery: Cllr Gasson to organise.

4.3 A508 area for pedestrians crossing

Cllr Parker has intimated that due to severe financial constraints it is very unlikely that any work can be undertaken to instal solar hazard lights close to the Hanging Houghton bus shelter.

4.4 20 mph signage.

Still work in progress. The Parish Council will be advised of further information when it is available.

4.5 Inappropriate parking along Manor Road

Cllr May had been approached by a parishioner who said that vehicles were being parked on the corner of a road adjacent to Manor Road which was considered to be a hazard and potentially dangerous. Although the Parish Council couldn't intervene directly, it was agreed that a statement would be prepared for publication on the Parish Council website and the email contact list, asking parishioners to park courteously and not impede the view around corners.

4.6 Cllr Gasson said that grants were available under the Road Safety Community Fund up to the value of £5,000 to instal solar powered safety signage. He will make further enquiries with a view to applying for a grant to cover an installation in Lamport High Street.

5 PLANNING

5.1 WND/2022/0854: Land adjacent Blueberry Farm, Harborough Road Maidwell

This planning application was viewed online by Councillors who raised no objection to planning permission being given.

6 FINANCE

6.1 Balance at Bank: accounts and budget for the current financial year circulated by email.

Balances at bank 28 October 2022: current account £4,529.91 and £1,729.95 in reserve account. When payments totalling £1,578.48 are made at this meeting the true total balance will be £4,681.38. £483.80 of this balance is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and the defibrillator. The Clerk is still awaiting the grass cutting grant of £605.54 to be paid into the bank account.

6.2 Items for payment to be made by bank transfer

Nordis Signs: grass verge signage (paid 5.10.2022)	£66.00
CW Grounds Maintenance (August a/c paid 16.8.2022)	£204.00
F.R. Allbury: reimbursement for Microsoft Licence (paid 7.10.2022)	£59.99
F.R. Allbury: salary and expenses	£416.92
HMRC: Clerk's PAYE	£101.00
CW Grounds Maintenance Sept/October	£816.00
WN Norse Ltd – dog waste bin	£244.58

Cllr Flavell While proposed that the payments should be made, seconded by Cllr Cox. The vice-chairman will access the Bank Account after the meeting to verify that the payments have been made in accordance with those listed in the minutes.

6.3 Grass cutting contract, Village and Lamport churchyard.

The Clerk said that CW Grounds Maintenance have increased the cost per cut from £170 to £195 for 2023. A schedule of cuts undertaken in 2022 had been circulated with the agenda. The schedule showed that 14 cuts had been done -one more than the total budgeted for. Cllr Harris suggested that if the Parish Council wished to continue with this provider, then it should be stipulated that a total of 12 cuts would be sanctioned for 2023. This would have the effect of reducing the overall cost from £2730 to £2340.

The Clerk is still awaiting an invoice from Lamport Hall for the churchyard grass cutting 2022 and also a quote for the work in 2023.

6.4 To agree a budget 1.4.2023 – 31.3.2024

A draft budget had been circulated with the agenda. Known increases such as the Clerk's salary, and NcALC subscriptions are accurate figures. The Clerk said that a national pay award had been agreed increasing her salary from £11.66 per hour to £12.66 per hour. The vice-chair signed her amended Contract of Employment. However, insurance is an educated guess based on the current fee, 2022 being the last payment of a three year long term agreement and a projected increase when a renewal is due in June 2023. Looking at expenses incurred in the last financial year, two items were not budgeted for – the book of condolence and a replacement dog waste bin, which more than took up the increased precept received last year resulting in the Council carrying forward almost the same figure into 2023 as 2022.

6.5 To agree a Precept 1.4.2023 – 31.3.2024

Councillors discussed the need to have sufficient funding to cover known and projected increases for the financial year 1.4.2023 to 31.3.2024 and also keep a working balance to deal with any unexpected or unbudgeted for expenditure. Cllr Harris had recommended that Councillors consider an increase of £500 to bring bank balances close to the opening balances at the beginning of the current financial year. It was unanimously agreed to accept this recommendation and £500 will be added to the current precept of £7,300 making a total of £7,800.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME

Report from Peter Dugmore circulated by email 15th November 2022 commenting that he continued to keep parishioners up to date on security issues via Facebook and Twitter and that he had no specific incidents to report. His report reconfirmed general information relating to the Neighbourhood Policing Team and PCSO contact information. Finally Peter gave notice to the Parish Council that due to personal commitments, he would be unable to continue in this role in the future. Councillors agreed to give this matter some thought and it would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

8 DEFIBRILLATOR

All good – nothing to report.

9. CONSERVATION AREA

As agreed at the last meeting the Clerk contacted Alan Mayes regarding applying for conservation status, and she is still awaiting a promised draft application letter. She will remind Mr. Mayes.

10 MEETING DATES 2023

Full list circulated with agenda and confirmed with Lamport Hall. Various options for entertainment after the APM was discussed. Mark Herrod had suggested a cricket match, croquet or bowls. However Councillors felt that a better suggestion would be if Mark would agree to give a brief talk on the history of The Hall and the many paintings and artefacts held there. The Clerk will ask him if this was an option.

11. WEBSITE

Cllr Flavell While said that he would like to show the Clerk how to update the website in the future using a new and simpler format. It was agreed that they will meet within the next few weeks to take this forward.

12. COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL WORKING PARTY

Cllr Gasson said that he was getting a group of volunteers together. It was confirmed that this group has no working connection to the Parish Council, nor the funds held in the Lamport & Hanging Houghton Social Fund Account which is administered by the Clerk.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Age UK magazine
Received and distributed by Cllr. Dugmore

14. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting: 18 January 2023 at 7.00 pm in The Old Laundry, Lamport, Northamptonshire.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.55 pm.

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Date:.....2023