

LAMPOR AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 25 May 2022
at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire at 7pm

1. Attendance and apologies Councillors:
Bob Cox
Cathy Dugmore
Jonathan Farr
Colin Harris (Chairman)
Percy May
Richard Flavell While

In attendance: Peter Dugmore, Neighbourhood Watch/Police Liaison
Representative and 3 parishioners

Apologies were received from Cllr Dale Gasson, WNC Cllr K. Parker, Mary and Tim Parker, and Christine Ingram.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting 26 May 2022
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Financial Report and Accounts
Audited Financial Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 2022 are available to view on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council closed the financial year with a balance of £3,540.82 against an opening balance of £3,194.23 brought forward from the previous financial year. The increase in cash at bank was due to fewer village grass cuts down from 13 to 10, and a grant of £200.19 from NcALC to cover the asset mapping project.

4 Chairman's Report
The Chairman said that this was the 88th Annual Parish Meeting which brought the 2021-22 year to a close. A turbulent year for us all, the after- effect of Brexit, Covid 19, energy prices and the horrific situation in Ukraine to name but a few but the spirit of goodwill and friendship was being maintained within the Parish as we pressed on into 2022.

The Council had been as busy as ever, even more so some might say, and he thanked his Parish Councillors and WNC Councillor Kevin Parker for their diligence and good works in the process of carrying out their many duties. In particular he thanked Councillor Jonathan Farr, a supportive vice-chairman who stood up to the mark and taken the Chair in several meetings. He gave a special thanks to Frances Allbury the Clerk whose workload increased year on year. Never failing in attention to detail, and always making a supreme effort to keep us all on the straight and narrow. Police Liaison Officer and Neighbourhood Watch Administrator Peter Dugmore continues to provide an excellent service that is appreciated by all the residents.

The Hanging Houghton grit bin was replaced with a new one and the grit bin on the Lamport triangle had been cleaned out and refilled by Lamport Hall. Whilst on the subject of bins, the dog waste bin in Hanging Houghton became a casualty of a road traffic accident, knocking the structure completely out of the ground. Mysteriously the bin disappeared so a new one will need to be purchased and the whole thing re-erected.

Hanging Houghton acquired a new 'dead-end' sign, erected in Manor Road which may deter some of the traffic travelling into the village. Grass cutting in both villages was awarded to last year's contractor and an increase of £10 per mowing allowed for. Lamport Hall continues to maintain the churchyard. The Lamport bus shelter was suffering from a damaging invasion of ivy which will be removed by WNC. Invasive growth also presents a problem over the footpath alongside the Grange in HH where the path becomes virtually impassable in places. Attempts are in progress to establish ownership and to initiate clearance. Clearance manifests itself again in the form of a twice-yearly litter pick, organised by Councillor Cathy Dugmore which now boasts its own equipment, purchased as a cost-effective addition to our assets. A resounding sigh of relief echoed around Hanging Houghton as the mobile home was finally removed from the grounds of the Grange. Jubilee celebration arrangements are well under way. A Jubilee Trail, look around the open Gardens and chat to your neighbours on Thursday 02 June and a Street Party with fun for all, on Sunday 05 June. A final vote of thanks went to Lamport Hall for providing the accommodation for all our Parish Council meetings and once again hosting drinks in the garden following this meeting.

5. Social Events Report

Cllr Dugmore said that due to the pandemic, no social events had been held during the year.

6. Neighbourhood Watch Report presented by Peter Dugmore

Overview

- NW Co-ordinator since April 2021, also became PLR, a new role initiated by the police to improve communication
- HH&L part of West Local Policing Area of Northants
- Divided into 18 Local Police Beats – HH&L based out of Brixworth & Moulton
 - PCSO's Kevin Lummis and PC Jo Wright, based out of Brixworth
- NW 40 year anniversary in 2022 – the concept now aims to go beyond just fighting crime as its primary purpose to one that is focused on supporting the neighbourhood as a whole to bring communities together
- NW potential does depend on the size, make up, demographics; and existing local social and support schemes in place

Activity since May 2021

- Dedicated Facebook Page and Twitter Account for HH&L set up
- Newsletter circulated to all residents June 2021
- Bi-monthly Parish Council Reports
- Building relationship with local PCSOs
- Central neighbourhood Watch broadening their scope with
- Crime Prevention advice delivered through **webinar series**

Incidents since May 2021

- Few incidents across the Parish during the past year.
 - July - Removal of unroadworthy car from Manor Road
 - November – Rave Party on the Lamport Estate in the barn at the bottom of the BVW
 - December – damage to street signage by an unidentified vehicle
- Representation has been made to both the Police and Daventry to give consideration to introducing more warnings and reduce the speed limit on the A508 through The Lamport Swan and Lamport High Street junction. At this point there is little optimism for change

Actions for 2022/3

- 2nd Newsletter to be issued in July to focus on:
- Use Parish Council email list to support the other communication methods and release bi-monthly Parish Council report

7. Open Question time

Peter Dugmore asked if the Council had noticed any change in the delivery of services since the split of Northamptonshire County Council. The Clerk commented that everything was largely unchanged except for different personnel.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20 pm and all present were invited to join Mark Herrod in the walled garden for refreshments.

Signed:

Date: