

LAMPOR AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 27 May 2020

Via Skype at 7 pm.

1. Attendance and apologies

Councillors: Bob Cox
Jonathan Farr
Colin Harris (Chairman)
Percy May
Mike Philpott
Richard Flavell While

Parishioner: Mrs Hilary Cox

In attendance: Cllr Kevin Parker (DDC)

Apologies were received Cllr. Bruce Ward

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the very first virtual Annual Parish Meeting – the 86th, but in the present covid-19 lockdown, virtual meetings will be the norm.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2019

The Minutes were approved by the Chairman and would be signed at a later date.

3. Financial Report and Accounts

Audited Financial Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 2020 are available to view on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council closed the financial year with a balance of £4,540.64 against an opening balance of £4,146.27. Included in the total is £603.80 is the balance remaining after the purchase of the defibrillator equipment and other expenses, funds having been received via a National Lottery Grant, Northamptonshire County Council Grant and local fundraising.

4 Chairman's Report

As always Cllr Harris began with a huge thank you to the Parish Clerk, Frances Allbury without whose detailed attention to the many required duties would not enable the council to manage the operation of the business as smoothly and professionally as it does now. The seven office bearers that represent the Parish Council were also due a round of applause for their dedication, attendance at meetings and their willingness to uphold the purpose of the Parish Council. The Chairman was pleased to report that at the beginning the virtual Annual General Meeting, all members of the council were re-elected, so the council remains unchanged for another year.

This year had been relatively quiet, requiring no more than the statutory number of meetings but there had still been much to discuss and many decisions to be made, with the last quarter seeing a considerable increase in business conducted via email due to the lockdown. Only four planning applications were made and although there are one or two issues yet to be resolved, most of the agenda items have been successfully dealt with.

One unresolved issue is the traffic problem in Lamport but progress towards a solution, like the traffic is gathering speed and the Parish Council recognises all the work carried out by Tracey and Mark Simoniti-Stocker to alleviate the danger of overweight lorries and fast moving vehicles.

The summer of 2020 saw the retirement of Lamport Hall's director, Mr George Drye. His successor, Mr Mark Herrod has already established a neighbourly rapport with the villages and is kindly allowing our meetings to continue in The Old Laundry at Lamport Hall (post lockdown) for which we thank him. We wish Mark and his Family a warm welcome to the Parish.

As of 31 May this year, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Mr Tony Boullemier has decided to step down after three or more years of excellent service to the Parish. The Parish Council gave Tony a big vote of thanks and note our concern that he will be greatly missed. Hopefully by the time this report is published, a suitable replacement candidate will have been found.

The Parish website is the place to visit to find information regarding parish activity. This is an especially useful tool for everyone but does not seem to be used as much as originally expected. The Community Link is a valuable asset where opinion and views can be aired so we urge people to sign up and experience the benefits.

The spread of Covid19 has alarmed and upset us all to greater or lesser degrees but the kindness and generosity that has prevailed in our parish has been and still is quite overwhelming. We have demonstrated that the parish has a great heart that beats for the good of all so long may it continue to do so.

Unfortunately, we will not be enjoying the usual after-meeting refreshments this year, but I would raise a glass, wish you all good health and hope that we may return to normality soon.

Stay safe.

5. Social Events Report

Cllr Philpott said that a BBQ had been held in the summer of 2019 and also carols on the green before Christmas. Both events were very well attended and commented that it was an excellent way for newcomers to both villages to get to know their fellow parishioners.

£565.69 is held in a Business Reserve Account and £8.02 in a Current Account for social events in the future.

6. Defibrillator

Cllr Cox was pleased to report that the defibrillator has not been called on to be used in a serious incident this year. It was deployed, for a single situation but was not needed. The defibrillator has recently had a problem with the mobile connection to the 999 emergency services. It is necessary to inform the emergency services if the defibrillator is going to be used and so it is essential that the phone in the telephone box is working. Community Heartbeat Trust has recommended that an aerial and booster be fitted to the phone system and this should be carried out on 28th May. Chest pads have a finite shelf life and are due for renewal and replacements are on order. The signage around the top of the phone box has also been changed recently to comply with Daventry District Council regulations.

7. Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman said that Tony Boullemier would be stepping down as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator at the end of the month, having given both villages excellent service for over three years.

Cllr Philpott said that he would be prepared to take over the role for a period of 12 months and has already received paperwork and contact information from Tony.

8. Open Question time

8.1 Newspaper deliveries

Cllr Cox said that the villages would be losing house newspaper deliveries and wondered if the defibrillator box could be used as a facility for bulk delivery. Councillors felt that it would not be advisable to agree to this as the box was probably damp and therefore unsuitable.

8.2 Hope Centre

Hilary Cox said that the Hope Centre situated in Dallington, Northampton has been unable to fulfil a need for 150 food parcels for local people requiring help. A collection had taken place last week to support the valuable work of the Centre, but she would like to arrange the collection of further donations on a regular basis to help those in need. The Chairman said that this was an excellent initiative from parishioners.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

Signed:

Date: