

LAMPOR T AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
held via Skype
Wednesday 15 July 2020 at 7 pm

1. ATTENDANCE, apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllrs C. Harris (in the Chair), J. Farr, P. May, M. Philpott, R. Flavell-While, B. Ward

Apologies for absence: Cllrs. B. Cox and K. Parker

Declarations of interest: none

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council AGM 20 May 2020 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS arising from the MINUTES

3.1 Community Notice Board, Hanging Houghton

Cllr Ward said that the notice board has been built and is ready for installation. It was agreed that he would meet the Chairman on site to agree where to fix it. The Village Green was one option proposed.

3.2 Signage: 'no parking on grass verges'

Having circulated a draft design by email, an order was placed for 4 signs at a cost of £55.00 plus vat to include delivery to Cllr Ward. It was agreed that once the signs have been delivered, again a site visit would be arranged in order to place them, possibly with one fixed to the new community notice board.

3.3 Broken drain cover: Manor Road, Hanging Houghton

The Chairman said that this matter has now been satisfactorily resolved.

4 HIGHWAYS

4.1 Speeding and traffic issues: Lamport High Street:

The Clerk read out an email received from Tracey Simoniti-Stocker stating that good progress was being made with Steve Barber, Kier with regard to the loan of electric signs with a view to obtaining a grant to cover the cost of purchase. The Clerk pointed out that although a grant may pay for the equipment it might not cover the cost of the required NCC Licence which presently amounts to £330.00. When the grant application is under way she will ask if it could include the Licence too.

4.2 Speeding vehicles A508

The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to the relevant authority.

5 PLANNING

5.1 DA/2020/0144 (amended): Land to the west of Mercedes Avenue, Brixworth

Outline application with main point of access included for development to provide commercial floor space for Class B1b, B1c, B2 and B8 employment uses.

The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to DDC in accordance with the letter approved by Councillors via email on 12 June 2020. Councillors received a copy of a response to this planning application by CPRE Northamptonshire which outlined the reasons that they too could not support the application and recommended refusal. Their response specified that it did not conform to Local Plan Policy relating to Primary Service Villages and is also contrary to Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan contained in the NPPF.

5.2 DA/2020/0371: The Old Rectory, 5 High Street, Lamport NN6 9HB

Conversion of loft space above stables to be used as a separate residence and other associated building alterations and DA/2020/0372: listed building consent.

Having examined the documents and plans on the DDC website, whilst Councillors had no specific objections to raise with regard to the conversion in general, they were extremely concerned about the fact that there would be no provision at all for vehicles belonging to the residents of the new conversion and that they would have to park on the already congested and dangerous High Street. The Clerk would draft a suitable response and let the Chairman approve it before forwarding it onto Planning

6 FINANCE

6.1 Balance at Bank: accounts and budget circulated by email.

Balances at bank 15 July 2020: current account £2,660.68 and £3,328.55 in reserve account. When payments totalling £1,362.50 are made at this meeting the true total balance will be £4,626.73. £603.80 of the credit balance is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and the defibrillator.

6.2 Items for payment:

Chq No. 553	F.R. Allbury: Clerk's Wages/Expenses and reimbursement for Verges signage paid with her bank card	£478.70
Chq No. 554	HMRC: Clerk's PAYE	£90.00
Chq No. 555	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd Village grass cutting May and June	£768.00
Chq. No 556	P. May Reimbursement for copy of Open Register	£25.80

6.3 Provision of a laptop for the use of the Parish Clerk

The Clerk said that it is common practice for Parish Councils to purchase the equipment for the sole use of the Parish Clerk so that council business is not loaded onto a personal home computer. It was agreed that Cllr Flavell-While would recommend a suitable product for the Parish Council to consider.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME

Cllr Philpott said that he had personally thanked the outgoing Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Tony Boullemier for all his work over the last few years. It was agreed to purchase a copy of the Open Register from DDC at a cost of £25.80 and it was hoped that the majority of future newsletters could be distributed by email rather than by delivery through each door. The Clerk commented that it was important at every stage to adhere to General Data Protection Regulations and that specific permission is required to use a personal email address. It was agreed that Cllrs Flavell-While, May and Philpott would get together for an informal meeting in order to formulate a process to take this matter forward.

Comment was made regarding some recent incidents in Hanging Houghton but no specific information has been received.

8 REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL POLICY AND GDPR DOCUMENTS

- GDPR documents signed off for another year unaltered.
- Financial Regulations: the Clerk said that she has been issued with an updated document dated September 2019 by NALC and proposed that the Council adopt it to replace the existing Policy.
- Standing Orders: re-adopted unaltered
- Asset Register: in anticipation of receiving the grass verges signage from the manufacturer, the cost has been added to the asset register.
- Financial and Risk Management Assessment: reviewed by the Clerk who recommended no amendments.

All documents will be signed off by the Chairman and uploaded onto the Parish Council website.

9 LITTER PICK

It was agreed to leave a litter pick until the autumn as usual. Cllr Ward commented that the villages were largely free of litter, but the laybys needed attention.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Defibrillator

Cllr Cox reported via a written report circulated by email that the box had been fitted with a new aerial and booster but it had not provided the correct connection. BT will be installing a new telephone line at no further cost. He would monitor progress with this matter.

11.2 Cycle routes in Northamptonshire

Cllr Cox said that he had responded to a recent questionnaire circulated by the Clerk about cycle routes pointing out that the path between Brixworth was in very poor condition and that it was capable of being made into a better pedestrian pathway and cycle route along the busy A508.

11.3 Village Grass Cutting

Cllr Ward said that due to the warm and wet weather conditions the grass had been growing very quickly and was presently being cut every two weeks. If this continued throughout the growing season then it would amount to far more than the 10 cuts provisionally budgeted for. It was agreed that he would contact the grass cutters asking for a three week cut rather than two weeks.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16 September 2020 at 7.00 pm.

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C. Harris, Chairman

Date:.....2020