

# LAMPOR AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 7 pm  
at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire

### **1. ATTENDANCE, apologies and Declarations of Interest.**

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

Apologies for absence: Cllr P. May, WNC Cllr K. Parker

Declarations of interest: none

### **2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 21 July 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.

### **3 MATTERS arising from the MINUTES**

#### 3.1 Litter Pick: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Cllr Dugmore said that a number of parishioners had joined a successful litter pick. The Clerk had arranged for the filled bags to be collected by WNC litter picking service. Cllr Dugmore has possession of the six viz jackets which will be stored for future use. The Clerk said that Lidl were selling 'reaching aid' sticks in their store at £4.99 each. It was agreed to purchase 8 sticks for use at future litter picks.

#### 3.2 Grit Bin, Hanging Houghton:

Work in progress, no further update

#### 3.3 Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

Lamport Hall are organising a celebration weekend including lighting a beacon as part of the national initiative. Further details to follow nearer the time. The Parish Council are still keen to plant a parish council tree to mark the event.

### **4 HIGHWAYS**

#### 4.1 Footpaths Manor Road/Brixworth and Lamport/Manor Road

a) Lamport/Manor Road: work has been completed on clearing this footpath including some pipework and a drain cover. Councillors were pleased with the end result.

b) Manor Road/Brixworth: still awaiting information from Highways. Cllr Cox said that external funding may be available to cover the cost: the Clerk will investigate.

#### 4.2 Speeding and traffic issues: Lamport High Street

Mark Stocker has advised that following an incident with his own vehicle, temporary ANPR speed signage has now been installed which may also help with the overweight lorries.

#### 4.3 Road signage in Hanging Houghton

It was reported that two road signs 'Give Way' and 'dead end' had faded and were illegible. The Clerk will report the issue to WNC Highways. With regard to the Hanging Houghton village sign, this is also in very poor condition. Cllr Gasson will make enquiries regarding repair/renewal. External funding may be available to cover the cost.

#### 4.4 Manor Farm parking issues: report from Cllr May circulated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Manor Farm has now been relet. No further information to report regarding future parking arrangements nor the hedge adjacent to Manor Walk.

### **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Nothing to report.

## **6. PLANNING**

No new applications and no further update on Mercedes Avenue Appeal. The Clerk will check with Planning that the website is still being updated.

## **7. FINANCE**

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

Balances at bank 15 September 2021: current account £2121.20 and £1,728.85 in reserve account. When payments totalling £1552.90 are made at this meeting the true total balance will be £2297.15 £603.80 of the credit balance is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and the defibrillator.

7.2 Items for payment to be made by bank transfer:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| F.R. Allbury: salary and expenses                        | £432.30 |
| HMRC: Clerk's PAYE                                       | £94.60  |
| Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd:                     | £576.00 |
| Village grass cutting July/August                        |         |
| Lampport Hall: churchyard grass cutting 2020/2021 season | £450.00 |

Cllr Farr proposed that the payments should be made, seconded by Cllr Flavell While. The Chairman will access the Bank account online after the meeting to verify that the payments have been made in accordance with those listed in the minutes.

7.3 Renewal of Microsoft 365 Licence for the Parish Council laptop. The licence is due to expire in early October. Cllr Flavell While said that it should be renewed to maintain the integrity of the equipment. The Clerk said that from Microsoft the cost would be £59.99, but the same package was £44.99 from Amazon.

## **8. GRASS CUTTING 2022 SEASON**

The Clerk said that the current village grass cutters Countrywide Grounds Maintenance have confirmed that their cost per cut will rise from £160 to £170 for the 2022 season. Currently we have between 10 and 12 cuts per year depending on weather conditions. Councillors agreed to award the grass cutting contract to the current company at the revised cost. Cllr Flavell While commented that the cost of grass cutting during the season was relatively high as a percentage of the parish council's income and reserves. It was agreed to take this into account when debating the budget and precept for next year at the November meeting.

## **9. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME**

Peter Dugmore's report had been circulated with the agenda. No incidents to report. Met with PCSO Kevin Lumbis who is keen to provide a visible presence and be accessible to the parish. Kevin would review traffic using Lampport High Street using mobile radar checks to add to traffic calming measures. Peter raised the issue of the danger of vehicles turning right from A508 into Lampport High Street opposite The Swan and also vehicles leaving The Swan car park onto A508. The section of road remains at 60mph. A new Knowledge Hub is being developed with National Lottery funding which will be an online platform for neighbourhood watch volunteers. It will offer induction, training and support. A positive feedback so far.

## **10. DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr Cox said that an order for a new battery still needed to be done. The Clerk would deal with this as quickly as possible. Due to the ongoing restrictions relating to Covid 19, it was agreed to postpone training/retraining in the use of the equipment to the summer of 2022, hopefully with the trainer who carried out the original session when the equipment was installed.

## **11. ACRE: GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME**

Cllr Dugmore said that she had read through the information obtained by the Clerk from ACRE with interest. The scheme would be fully funded and supported by ACRE staff. Initially it was recommended that parishioners receive a questionnaire provided by ACRE to gauge interest in receiving and providing assistance under the scheme, which would be circulated via the community link.

**12 CLIMATE CHANGE AND RECYCLING**

Councillors debated the document prepared by Cllr Cox. Councillors fully supported the content of this document and unanimously agreed that the most important aspect was to ensure that all parishioners were aware of the implications caused by climate change and global warming and to encourage everyone to do their best to reduce carbon emissions and recycle as much as possible. Councillors felt that parishioners could make a difference however small. It was agreed that Cllr Cox would add in some further suggestions that everyone could consider to reduce emissions: electric vehicles, solar panels etc. The Clerk would write a cover sheet setting out the aims and objectives of the Parish Council which would be checked by the Chairman, and it would then be circulated via the Community Link. It was decided that this process would be more productive than declaring a Climate Emergency.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 13.1 Advertising flyers on notice boards: agreed to take each flyer on its merits.
- 13.2 Rural Services Network: delete and do not circulate.
- 13.3 NALC emails: delete and do not circulate.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17 November 2021 at 7.00 pm. Venue to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.

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C. Harris, Chairman

Date:.....2021