

LAMPOR T AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
held via Skype
Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7 pm

1. ATTENDANCE, apologies and Declarations of Interest.

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

Apologies for absence: Cllr M. Philpott

In attendance: DDC Cllr K. Parker

Declarations of interest: none

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 15 July 2020 were approved and will be signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS arising from the MINUTES

3.1 Community Notice Board, Hanging Houghton
Now installed.

3.2 Signage: 'no parking on grass verges'.
Three of the signs have been placed, although it has been noted that vehicles are still parking on the grass verges. The situation will be monitored.

4 HIGHWAYS

Speeding and traffic issues: Lamport High Street

A report from Mark Stocker was circulated with the agenda explaining which equipment would be most appropriate for the site with costings. Mark Herrod, Director of Lamport Hall has offered to chair a new working party consisting of Bruce Ward, Jonathan Farr plus Mark and Tracey Stocker and possibly a representative from Northamptonshire Highways. An application for a grant to cover the cost of the speeding equipment has been received for completion. The NCC Licence fee is £321 which also needs to be factored in. The Clerk will email Mark in order to get a meeting arranged.

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.
Planning Permission Refused. The Clerk read an email received from the Chairman of Scaldwell Parish Council thanking our Parish Council for their support.

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.
Still no further information from DDC Planning.

6 FINANCE

6.1 Balance at Bank: accounts and budget circulated by email.
Balances at bank 16 September 2020: current account £1,298.18 and £3,328.61 in reserve account.
When payments totalling £1,376.96 are made at this meeting the true total balance will be £3,249.83
£503.80 of the credit balance is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and the defibrillator.

6.2 Items for payment:

Chq No. 557	F.R. Allbury: Clerk's Wages/Expenses	£418.96
Chq No. 558	HMRC: Clerk's PAYE	£90.00
Chq No. 559	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd Village grass cutting July/August	£768.00
Chq. No 560	Community Heartbeat Trust Contribution towards cost of installing new BT line to defibrillator emergency telephone	£100.00

The Clerk said that the budget for the current financial year has been adjusted upwards to take account of proposed additional expenditure ie more village grass cutting taking the proposed cost for the season to £2020 and a laptop computer for the clerk's use on council work. If all items on the budget were approved there would be an overspend against income of £942 which could be taken from reserves brought forward of £4,540.64 on 1st April 2020.

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

It was unanimously agreed by all Councillors present that the Council should go ahead with the purchase of the equipment. Cllr Flavell While would make enquiries and recommendations on which computer would be most suitable. A maximum budget of £600 has been set. Cllr Parker suggested that the Clerk contacts Danny Moody at NcALC to ask if there were any grants available to cover this type of expenditure.

6.4 The Clerk requested that Councillors give consideration to changing the working arrangements of the Parish Council Bank Account from a chequing account requiring two authorised signatories to an online arrangements whereby future payments could be made via the computer. The Clerk assured Councillors that stringent security measures would be put in place to ensure that the integrity of the accounts were upheld for the benefit of the Parish Council and also the Clerk. Councillors unanimously approved the proposal. The Chairman said that existing current bank account signatories of Cllrs Harris, Philpott and Farr will have authority and access to online bank accounts together with the Clerk who will operate accounts as in the past.

The Clerk will contact NatWest Bank to obtain the required documentation to implement the change.

6.5 Grass cutting arrangements for Lamport Churchyard

The Chairman said that Mark Herrod, Director of Lamport Hall has offered to undertake all grass cutting and churchyard maintenance using his own staff at a total cost of £450 per annum thereby alleviating the need for many volunteer groups who currently undertake the general maintenance of the churchyard. This represents an increase in cost from current levels of £400.00. Councillors unanimously agreed to accept Mark's offer which would come into effect from April 2021 and the Clerk will contact him to confirm the new arrangement.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME

Report circulated with the agenda. Work on obtaining email addresses of parishioners in order to circulate publications in this way is well in hand. The full list of email addresses who have signed up would be passed to Cllr Flavell While so that he could provide a secure means of circulating emails from the Parish Council or the Neighbourhood Watch representative. Terms and Conditions need to be specified and the consent documents filed in a secure place.

8 DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Cox confirmed that the new BT line has now been installed and is working.

9. MEETING DATES 2021

The Clerk said that it is proposed to publish future meeting dates in the Brixworth Bulletin up to three months in advance and to facilitate this a list of meeting dates for 2021 has been prepared and circulated. Mark Herrod at Lamport Hall has confirmed that if the Old Laundry is not available on any specific date then he will find suitable accommodation within the Hall to hold meetings.

10 LITTER PICK

Sunday 18 October 2020: Cllr Ward would put a suitable flyer up on the village notice boards asking for volunteers.

11 CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 ANPR Consultation: expansion of investment in fixed cameras and technological support to fight, deter and investigate crime.

Having received no further information on this project the Clerk contacted the police who advised that they have identified no new sites in the area of either Lamport or Hanging Houghton and they were therefore not on the consultation list. However it was hoped that we could benefit from an expanded camera network encompassing the A14 at junctions 2 and 3.

11.2 NcALC AGM 3 October 2020

Invitation circulated by email. If anyone would like to attend remotely please advise the Clerk immediately.

11.3 Back to Basics mobile shop

Email circulated. It was suggested that the Clerk refer them to the Brixworth Bulletin asking that if they do decide to book a date/time for a visit to Hanging Houghton then a notice would be displayed to this effect to alert parishioners.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18 November 2020 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 7.45 pm

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C. Harris, Chairman

Date:.....2020