

LAMPOR T AND HANGING HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
held via Skype
Wednesday 18 November 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: DDC Cllr K. Parker, Cllr M. Philpott

In attendance: None

Declarations of interest: none

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 16 September 2020 were approved and will be signed by the Chair.

3 MATTERS arising from the MINUTES

None

4 HIGHWAYS

4.1 Speeding and traffic issues: Lamport High Street

The Clerk read an update report from Tracey and Mark advising that a meeting was held with Mark Herrod at Lamport Hall earlier in the month. Mark has asked for background information and a further meeting will be arranged to take the matter forward and also complete the grant application form. Mark said that the meeting had been very positive and was hopeful of making progress.

4.2 Traffic along Manor Road and Brampton Valley Way

The Clerk referred to an email received from Tony Boulemier which had been circulated. He further updated the Parish Council stating that Highways would be prepared to erect signage drawing attention to other users – walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders. However the proposed location of the sign is not felt to be sufficiently visible attached to an existing pole. Tony recommends a new post 200m before the BVW. The Council were in agreement with this suggestion and the Clerk will progress this with Northamptonshire Highways.

5 PLANNING

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:

The Clerk contacted Planning for an update and the response stated that the application was pending further information from the applicants and if they wished to proceed with the plans in their present format.

6 FINANCE

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

Balances at bank 18 November 2020: current account £1,781.24 and £3,728.65 in reserve account. When payments totalling £1,140.17 are made at this meeting the true total balance will be £4,369.72. £503.80 of the credit balance is allocated for maintenance of the telephone box and the defibrillator. The clerk commented that since publication of the agenda and accounts, the NCC grass cutting grant of £605.54 has been received into the bank.

6.2 Items for payment:

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|--------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Chq. No. 561 | F.R. Allbury (paid 9 October 2020) | £639.98 |
| | Reimbursement Northants Computers | |
| Chq No. 562 | F.R. Allbury: | £431.48 |
| | Clerk's Wages/Expenses | |
| Chq No. 563 | HMRC: Clerk's PAYE | £90.00 |

| | | |
|-------------|--|---------|
| Chq No. 564 | Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd Village grass cutting September/October | £576.00 |
| Chq No. 565 | CPRE annual subscription | £36.00 |
| Chq No. 566 | P. May: laminator pockets | £6.69 |

6.3 Laptop Computer

The clerk confirmed that the new laptop was now in use.

6.4 Online Banking

The clerk said that paperwork was now in order and the process almost complete. Once everything is up and running, the Clerk will edit the Risk Management Policy and Standing Orders to cover online payments. She proposed that the Chairman logs onto the bank accounts from time to time and particularly after meetings, to verify that payments made were in accordance with invoices agreed at the meeting, and that final balances were correct. All other signatories could log onto the accounts at any time.

6.5 Precept 2021/2022

Discussion took place regarding setting a precept for the financial year 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022. It was unanimously agreed to maintain the precept at the current level of £5,800 and that any possible increase in costs over and above income would be covered from the brought forward figure from the previous year currently £4,540.64. Proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr Farr.

6.6 Proposed Budget 2021/2022

A proposed budget for the year was circulated with the agenda. The Clerk said that Countrywide Grounds Maintenance have confirmed that there will be no increase in costs for the 2021 growing season and that it would remain at £160 per cut plus VAT. It was agreed that the Parish Council places a new contract for 2021 with this supplier: proposed Cllr Ward, seconded Cllr May. The budgeted figure allows for 2 cuts per month for a total cost of £1920 against the cost this year of £2080. However, depending on the weather and the grass cutting season, it may be necessary to budget for two cuts per month April – October totalling 14. The Clerk will contact Neil Pearman to confirm and that his contact point for the Parish Council would again be Cllr Ward. The Clerk pointed out that the NCC grass cutting grant has not been included in income as there is no certainty that it will be paid next year. To date there is a sum of £534 VAT to reclaim which is done at the beginning of the next financial year. Included in the budget are two additional sums: £200 for miscellaneous expenditure and £200 to cover election expenses. However, having checked back through previous accounts the election costs in 2016 were £83 so the budgeted figure of £200 may be excessive.

Councils approved the draft budget: proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr Farr.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME

Cllr May said that almost all residents of Hanging Houghton had signed up to receive the newsletter electronically but far fewer in Lamport. With regard to crime, it was reported that there has been a spate of car related thefts in nearby Brixworth and all residents should be vigilant.

8 DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Cox reported that a new heated back pad would be fitted to the equipment on 24 November 2020.

9. CHURCHYARD GRASSCUTTING

The new arrangement has now been confirmed with Mary Parker, Church Warden and Mark Herrod at Lamport Hall. The Clerk read an email expressing thanks received from Mary.

10 CPRE/ACRE

10.1 Biodiversity meeting 28 July 2020

Cllr Cox reported on a very interesting and informative zoom meeting, the notes of which were circulated. Subjects covered would inevitably affect our parish as a rural community and it emphasized the need for everyone to be aware of the impact they have on the local environment.

10.2 Woodland Trust: email circulated 4 November 2020

Having contacted the Woodland Trust, they were unable to provide or recommend disease resistant ash trees, but recommended planting native trees such as oak or hornbeam. It was agreed that the Clerk would check paperwork to see the end date for bio diversity grant applications and pass the information to Cllr Cox who would speak to Mark Herrod at Lamport Hall.

10.3 Wild flower planting

Unfortunately, none of the wild flowers seeds planted by Cllr Ward in the spring germinated. Having asked for advice from the Rural Officer of ACRE Cllr Cox said that the ground needed to be low in nutrients, a different cutting regime and that cuttings from a local meadow would be preferable to seeds. Cllr Cox commented that it was a long process and the various sites would look worse before they benefited from the wild flowers possibly with as trial area first. It was agreed that this would be a topic for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2021 to receive comments from parishioners.

10.3 Planning White Paper: email circulated 4 November 2020.

Cllr Cox said that the White Paper had three objectives: to deregulate future planning, encourage economic growth and recovery and to build more dwellings. This will inevitably impact on information and input on planning at a local level. It was agreed that whilst the Parish Council could do very little to influence the White Paper, they would be vigilant when any new planning applications are received.

11 LITTER PICK: Sunday 18 October 2020

Cllr Ward said that five residents including himself took part. Hanging Houghton and the A508 to The Swan was cleared and tidied up.

12 CORRESPONDENCE

None

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 NCALC Local Council Document and Policies (version 7) – circulated 13 November 2020.

The Clerk said that having looked through the list there were a few that the Parish Council could consider adopting as recommended by Danny Moody. She would download them from the NCALC website and add them to her folder of policy documents.

13.2 WCAG 2.1 AA compliance

The Clerk said that this relates to the Parish Council website being compliant for use by those with a disability or impairment. Having taken advice from Cllr Flavell While, he suggested that the Council could claim a dispensation from upgrading the website as a Disproportionate Burden under the guidelines which he felt we would qualify for. Basically, this means that the burden of making changes would be disproportionate to the benefits taking the size of the Parish Council and the costs involved. The Clerk will discuss this with Cllr Flavell While and apply for the appropriate dispensation.

13.3 Promotional material for local elections May 2021

The Clerk circulated an email from NACL offering to provide promotional literature to advertise the event. Councillors felt generally that no flyers or leaflets were required.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20 January 2021 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.05 pm

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C. Harris, Chairman

Date:.....2021